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**Introduction**

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This first chapter defines the methodological concept of “convergence,” analyzes the fundamentals of Judeo-Muslim coexistence from the days of the Prophet Muhammad until the early modern period, and discusses the main literature in the field. Added to the clearly defined periodization, it then outlines the basic contents of rest of the book. It shows to what degree this work is unique and more diverse than most studies focusing on Jewish-Muslim ties. It briefly compares and contrasts between this work and earlier work, which highlights the significant albeit gradual departure after 1800 from the more harmonious relationships of the medieval and early modern periods.