In the final decades of the nineteenth century, as European competition for imperial expansion in North Africa intensified, the United States participated in conferences organized by European nations in 1880 and 1906 to determine the fate of Morocco. Before these conferences, French, British and American Jewish groups pressured their respective governments to bring up the issue of religious toleration. Responding to these concerns, the U.S. became an active participant in efforts to reform Moroccan treatment of its religious minorities. A way of asserting their own place in American society, Jews in the U.S. differentiated Moroccan Jews from the allegedly savage Moroccan Muslims, claiming that despite being “Oriental,” Moroccan Jews were the civilizational link between Muslim barbarity and “Occidental civilization.” Many American policy makers agreed with French claims that the country needed the protection of an imperial power and that France was the ideal power to take on this role. Indeed, American beliefs in Muslim misrule of local Jews became a reason to support the benevolent hand of French imperial rule. A French colonial presence would protect not only Jews who were allegedly at the mercy of the uncivilized, fanatical Muslims, but also the Muslims themselves who, Americans believed, needed the civilizing hand of a colonial power that would show them the way to religious, political and moral enlightenment. This paper analyzes American discourse surrounding the expansion of French imperial rule into Morocco. It also analyzes the transnational organizations that helped in shaping these discourses. This paper considers the ways in which policy makers and religious groups reshaped the borders of empire, moving beyond just national discourses to examine the transnational conversations that emerged in justifying imperial expansion.