

The Recovery of the Muslims' Past and the Others

Islamic Perspective of History

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CHAPTER 7

The political myth and origins of Anglo-American *Israelitism*

ATAULLAH BOGDAN KOPANSKI

Synopsis

British *Israelism*, or Anglo-American *Israelitism*, is an amorphous ethnic mythology invented in the United Kingdom and the United States by poorly educated Christian clerics from Protestant sects who brain-washed their followers into the belief that people of Anglo-Saxon and Celtic descent are direct lineal descendants of the biblical *Ten Lost Tribes of Israel*, and it is often accompanied by the belief that the British royal dynasties descended from the Davidian House. Such pseudo-ethnologic belief contradicts genetic, linguistic and historical evidence. The theory of British “Israelism” (I prefer term “Israelitism”, because the Anglo-American inventors of this pseudo-historical doctrine call themselves descendants of the “Israelites”, i.e., biblical tribesmen described in Qur’an as Banu Israil or the “children of Israil”) was constructed in England, from where it spread to North America. *The Rights of the Kingdom* by John Sadler (published in 1649 CE) initiated the preaching of “Israelitism” and inspired Richard Brothers and John Wilson, two semi-literate Protestant missionaries of the eighteenth century. Brothers was mentally ill. Wilson adopted and promoted the idea that the Anglo-Saxons were the ancient Scythian tribe identified in very crude linguistic research as one of the ten Lost Tribes of Israel. Wilson's israelification of the Eurasian Kimmerians had been refined in the second half of the nineteenth century. The myths of Euro-Israelites were transplanted to America by Ezra Stiles, author of *The United States Elevated to Glory and Honor*, published in 1783, and Richard Brothers' *A Revealed Knowledge of the Prophecies and Times*, published in 1794. John Wilson's *Our Israelitish Origins*, published during the 1840s, also influenced American “Israelites”. British Israelism was further developed in the nineteenth century by Edward Hine and Edward Wheeler Bird. Edward Hine departed England for the United States in 1884, where he propagated his belief that Native