

Defending the Khazar Thesis of the Origin of Modern Jewry

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The Khazar Khanate was one of the most violent, unpredictable and wealthy of the early medieval empires. They filled the power vacuum left by the death of Attila the Hun. It is rarely mentioned in history books unless they are on Russia specifically. It is impossible to defend the empire, so gentile authors, living in fear of the Jews, will often avoid the issue entirely.

This empire converted to Judaism, that is, the teaching of the Talmud, in the 9th century. JD Bury writes:

There can be no question that the ruler [Bulan] was actuated by political motives in adopting Judaism. To embrace Mohammedanism would have made him the spiritual dependent of the Caliphs, who attempted to press their faith on the Khazars, and in Christianity lay the danger of his becoming an ecclesiastical vassal of the Roman Empire. Judaism was a reputable religion with sacred books which both Christian and Mohammedan respected; it elevated him above the heathen barbarians, and secured him against the interference of Caliph or Emperor.

Of course, to speak of the forcible conversion of the population to Judaism is an anachronism as is all talk of “force” in that regard. The population instinctively followed the religion of their rulers, it was not a “private” affair. Further, Hebrew became the official script of the empire, and a strong shift in burial patters could be seen at the time, marking a serious move to Jewish rites. Ahmad ibn Fadlan, in his travelogue, written about 922, we read, “The Khazars and their king are all Jews.” Additionally, Ibn al-Faqih, around the same time (c. 930) writes, “All of the Khazars are Jews. But they have been Judaized recently.” The Karay Turks also converted to Judaism, but they were too small to make a historical difference.

The economy was a mix of nomad pastoral life as well as their staple, taxing trade on the lower Volga and Dnieper coming into the Black Sea. Fishing and agriculture should not be underestimated, but mercantile trade – or its taxation – was the mainstay of the economy.¹

The Khazars were the main slave dealers to the Islamic market. Raids into Slavic territories were meant to capture slaves to see farther south. Even after the destruction of the empire, their system lived on in the Volga Bulgars and the Turkic tribes used by Jews to continually raid into Russia.²

In his *History of the Jews*, Solomon Grayzel writes,

One type of business carried on in the early Middle Ages by the Jews of Europe, namely the slave trade, requires a special word of explanation. The Jews were among the most important slave-dealers. As inhabitants of western Germany

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- 1 Noonan, Thomas S. “The Economy of the Khazar Khaganate.” In Golden, Peter B.; Ben-Shammai,, Haggai; Róna-Tas, András. *The World of the Khazars:New Perspectives*. *Handbuch der Orientalistik: Handbook of Uralic Studies*. 17 (2007). Brill, 207–244
 - 2 Brook, Kevin Alan, *The Jews of Khazaria*. Jason Aronson, Inc, 1999 and Dunlop, Douglas M. *The History of the Jewish Khazars*. Princeton University Press are used for most of the general background information on the Khazars.

pushed their way deeper and deeper into Central Europe, driving the Slavic inhabitants farther eastward and taking away their land, they brought back captives whom they sold to Jewish traders. The Jews, in turn, transported these slaves to other lands to be sold to Christian and Mohammedan masters.³

Khazaria minted its own coin by the 830s, proving its economic dominance. The Turkic tribes in the Caucasus such as the Merja and Chud were approached by both the Jews and the Russians. When the pagan Rus' raided Byzantium, the Khazars became the ally of the Greeks. The Pechenegs, the strongest of the Caucasian tribes, was exerting pressure on It'll in the same way the Russians were to the north.

Dr. Stephen Jones, a scholar within the Christian Identity school, has shed great light on the identity of Gog and Magog. The British church insisted in was "Russia" during the Crimean conflict, but before that, it was the Khazars. In addition, the anonymous Gog, Magog and the Kingdom of the Khazars is also important (2001). Finally, my late friend Harell Rhone's work is also central to research in this field.

Rabbi Petakhiah of Regensburg, in his travelogue *Sibbu ha-Olam* (12th century), states that the kingdom of Khazaria was that of Meshech. The Talmud itself makes reference to Ashkenaz as a town near the Black Sea (it is a village in Turkey). It was used more broadly to refer to the Khazar empire in general. The Talmud also argues that the Ashkenaz are descended not from Shem, but rather from Japheth through Gomer. This would make their uncles Magog and Tubal.⁴ Benjamin of Tudela is another traveler who met with the Khazar nobility negotiating trade deals from Iraq. He is emphatic that Khazaria was a Jewish state.

Ibn Fadlan, a well-known Arab merchant and traveler in the 8th century, stated that "the Khazars and their king are all Jews. The Bulgars and their neighbors are subject to him. They treat him with worshipful obedience. Some are of the opinion that Gog and Magog are the Khazars."

The tradition of Aquitaine equated Khazaria with Gog and Magog because their own far-flung commercial enterprises led to regular contact with them in the eastern Mediterranean. Aquitaine was a Greek enclave, though very Roman in their tradition. The cardinal work concerning the view of the Khazars is Druthmar's *Expositio in Matthaem Evangelistam*. His name might well have been Christian of Stavelot, a Benedictine.

One of the Jews undertook the conversion of the Khazars, who are composed of many peoples, and they were converted by him and joined his religion. This happened recently in the days of the Abbasids. . . For this was a man who came single-handedly to a king of great rank and to a very spirited people, and they were converted by him without any recourse to violence and the sword. And they took upon themselves the difficult obligations enjoined by the law of the Torah, such as circumcision, the ritual ablutions, washing after a discharge of the semen, the prohibition of work on the Sabbath and during the feasts, the prohibition of eating the flesh of forbidden animals according to this religion, and so on.⁵

3 Grayzel, S. *A History of the Jews: From the Babylonian Exile to the Establishment of Israel*. Jewish Publication Society of America, 1962: 195

4 Gog, Magog and the Kingdom of the Khazars. APFN, 2001
http://www.apfn.org/thewinds/library/khazars_2.html

5 Abd al-Jabbar ibn Muhammad al-Hamdani, in his early 11th century work *The Establishment of Proofs for the Prophethood of Our Master Muhammad*. Quoted from Brook, DA. *The Jews of Khazaria*. Rowman & Littlefield

The economic benefits of the conversion are plain, since usury for Jews is forbidden, but against gentiles, it is encouraged. This is in addition to the political benefits of the independence that a Jewish conversion would provide. The Sephardic text, *The Kuzari: The Book of Proof and Argument in Defense of the Despised Faith* by Yehuda HaLevi says in addition:

The king and his vizier traveled to the deserted mountains on the seashore, and arrived one night at the cave in which some Jews used to celebrate the Sabbath. They disclosed their identity to them, embraced their religion, were circumcized in the cave, and then returned to their country, eager to learn the Jewish law. They kept their conversion secret, however, until they found an opportunity of disclosing the fact gradually to a few of their special friends. When the number had increased, they made the affair public, and induced the rest of the Khazars to embrace the Jewish faith. They sent to various countries for scholars and books, and studied the Torah. Their chronicles also tell of their prosperity, how they beat their foes, conquered their lands, secured great treasures, how their army swelled to hundreds of thousands, how they loved their faith, and fostered such love for the Holy House that they erected a tabernacle in the shape of that built by Moses. They also honored and cherished the Israelites who lived among them.⁶

This is powerful evidence of several things. First, that the people of Khazaria, en masse gradually became Jewish and that this was a large population. Second, that the explosion of the Jewish population in Europe can only be understood this way.

By the 880s, Khazar control over the Dnieper from Kiev, where they collected tribute from the Slavs, began to weaken substantially. Oleg of Novgorod took control from Askold and Dir and hence laid the foundation for our modern idea of “Kievan-Rus.” Southern raiding of the Rus was even permitted by the Khazars only if they turned over 50% of the take with their Jewish betters. It served both their interests because it permitted the Muslim Arabs and the Rus to fight each other, leaving the Khazars as well-off middlemen now safe from attack.

As Kiev grew in strength, its leadership attacked the Khanate more than once. Oleg was defeated in 941. Soon after, the Khazars shut down passage through the Volga to the Sea. The reasons for this are that the Byzantines and Rus were finding common ground against the Khazars, they knew all out war was coming. Even local tribes such as the Pechenegs were slowly being brought into the Byzantine orbit. It might have been that the system of extortion was finally catching up with these predators. Oleg's successor, Svyatoslav I (d. 972), took It'll in 968 and the city was razed to the ground.

Up until the Crimean War, “Gog and Magog” were associated with the Khazar empire, or the “Red Jews.” St. Abo of Tbilisi claimed that the Khazars were wild “sons of Magog” who did not have any religion, although they “recognized the existence of a single God.” Gog and Magog, in the eschatology of the Apocalypse, were a warlike people, enemies of the “people of God,” who, in the last days, would unleash a universal war.

The Qur'an says that the people of Gog and Magog has are belligerent and ruthless,

Publishers, 2006: 94

6 Dorff, EN and L. Zoloth, eds. *Jews and Genes: The Genetic Future in Contemporary Jewish Thought*. The University of Nebraska Press, 2015: 184

attacking other countries and destroying all life. The Georgian and Armenian chronicles of the time universally see the Khazars as Gog and Magog, “wild men with horrible faces and the manners of wild beasts, feeding on blood.”

Heinrich von Neustadt (1300), which refers to Koestler wrote about the Khazars as terrifying the people of Gog and Magog. BN Zakhoder writes in his Caspian Collection on Eastern Europe that the early medieval church universally considered the Khazars Gog and Magog.⁷

The identity of Gog and Magog are of the utmost importance for Christians in these times, if in fact, these are the final days. Gog and Magog, the nations which Satan will gather together to battle, are scattered all over “to the four corners of the earth.” In the Old Testament, these peoples are mentioned in Ezekiel 38. Gog is the ancient Semitic word for the “Mountain of Darkness.” It refers to a people, a militant force rather than a person. “Prince” is also not necessarily a person but can also be the ideology of a group. It is the “leader” and the “molder” of a group of people and is hence its prince. Magog also refers to a “mountain” or a militant camp. The term “maghoph” is a pejorative referring to the worshipers of Asthreth. The “worshipers of the moon.”

Ezekiel says about them:

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. You will say, “I will invade a land of unwallled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars. I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land (38:10).

Jewish elites certainly have looted a trusting people. In the US, the Jews have prospered like at no other time, and Americans refuse to believe the predatory nature of this prosperity that the Talmud emphasizes. The puerile belief that Jews are connected to the Israelites of the Old Testament leads Protestants to argue that this refers to a Russian invasion of “Israel.” Ezekiel refers to Gog as “Prince of Rosh,” which is anachronistically connected to Rus. The Khazar theory suggests there is no connection between Israelites and Jews. Yet even if there were, the religion of the modern Jew bears no relationship whatsoever to the Israelite faith, which is vehemently condemned in the Talmud. Israel is the Orthodox world. “New Israel” was the common nickname for the Byzantine Empire.

Recently, there has been some controversy on the “Koestler Thesis” concerning the origin of the world's Jews. The charge is led by David Duke, a man from which this author has learned quite a bit. He is not an academic as he claims, but his research into this area has been substantial. He is not a historian, linguist nor an anthropologist and does not read any of the Slavic languages. This does not mean his work should be ignored. However, it does need to be answered. His claim seems to be that since the intellectual leaders of the “Khazar Thesis” were secular, often Marxist, Jews, they should be ignored. Part of his argument reads:

One thing that I did not know then was that Koestler, the communist Jew who

⁷ Hundreds of historical proofs about the Khazar origin of today's Jews can be read here:
<http://www.khazaria.com/khazar-diaspora.html>

popularized the Khazar Theory bragged in a Jewish magazine that he advanced the theory as way to fight against anti-Semitism. His theory was that since the Gospels and Europeans blamed Jews for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, if he could make Europeans believe that they are not related by blood to the Christkiller Jews talked about in the New Testament that he could lessen hatred against Jews.

This is a non-sequitur. In adopting the ethic of the Talmud, they adopt the mentality of the Pharisees, whose arrogance served as the early foundation of the Talmud. "Christkiller" was not an issue. Jews were kicked out of nation after nation due to a remarkably similar set of accusations: usury, pornography and fraud.

Regardless, he cites quite a number of genetic articles neither of us have the expertise to fully digest. The problem is that there are far more than argue the opposite. A few include the Bray study of (2010)⁸, which argues that DNA evidence places Ashkenazi Jews squarely in southeastern Europe.⁹ Almut Nebel¹⁰ writes in his study, "In comparison with data available from other relevant populations in the region, Jews were found to be more closely related to groups in the north of the Fertile Crescent (Kurds, Turks, and Armenians) than to their Arab neighbors."¹¹

Just this year Anatole A. Klyosov and Tatiana Faleeva's wrote an article called "Excavated DNA from Two Khazar Burials" in *Advances in Anthropology* 7 (2017). They conclude that the "R1a-Z93 is very common in present-day Turkic-speaking peoples such as Caucasian Karachaevo-Balkars, also Tatars, Bashkirs, Kirgiz, and other populations who apparently descended from Scythians, and have their common ancestors in the R1a-Z93 subclade dated back to 1500-2500 years ago." The real issue is the definition of a "Khazar." Their identity, after the adoption of the Talmud, was religious, not ethnic. They used mercenary soldiers. They were an ethnic mix.

Political agendas on either side should not color this debate. Many studies supporting the Khazar thesis have been published in Russian, a language Mr. Duke cannot read. They include work by Igor Semyonov, D. Sobolev and D. Kudryavtsev.

There are many others that can be mentioned. How can this be? How can there be totally opposing conclusions on the same question using essentially the same methods? Political considerations play a role, but not a comprehensive one. The Behar study gives a clue:

It has been claimed, however, through a reanalysis of some of our data, that a large part of the ancestry of the Ashkenazi population originates with the Khazars, a Turkic-speaking group that lived to the north of the Caucasus region ~1,000

8 Steven M. Bray, Jennifer G. Mulle, Anne F. Dodd, Ann E. Pulver, Stephen Wooding, and Stephen T. Warren. "Signatures of founder effects, admixture, and selection in the Ashkenazi Jewish population." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)* 107:37 (September 14, 2010): pages 16222-16227

9 Naama M. Kopelman, Lewi Stone, Chaolong Wang, Dov Gefel, Marcus W. Feldman, Jossi Hillel, and Noah A. Rosenberg. "Genomic microsatellites identify shared Jewish ancestry intermediate between Middle Eastern and European populations." *BMC Genetics* 10:80, which strangely enough, is cited as being anti-Khazar when it states quite the opposite.

10 Almut Nebel, Dvora Filon, Bernd Brinkmann, Partha P. Majumder, Marina Faerman, and Ariella Oppenheim. "The Y Chromosome Pool of Jews as Part of the Genetic Landscape of the Middle East." *The American Journal of Human Genetics* 69:5 (November 2001): 1095-1112

11 Almut Nebel, Ariella Oppenheim, Dvora Filon, Mark G. Thomas, D. A. Weiss, M. Weale, Marina Faerman. "High-resolution Y chromosome haplotypes of Israeli and Palestinian Arabs reveal geographic substructure and substantial overlap with haplotypes of Jews." *Human Genetics* 107(6) (December 2000): 630-641

years ago. Because the Khazar population has left no obvious modern descendants that could enable a clear test for a contribution to Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry, the Khazar hypothesis has been difficult to examine using genetics. Furthermore, because only limited genetic data have been available from the Caucasus region, and because these data have been concentrated in populations that are genetically close to populations from the Middle East, the attribution of any signal of Ashkenazi-Caucasus genetic similarity to Khazar ancestry rather than shared ancestral Middle Eastern ancestry has been problematic (from the abstract).¹²

In simple terms, what the opponents of the Khazar theory have not considered is that minimal genetic data has been taken from those presently living in the Caucasus. The studies of Eran Elhaik are some of the few who bother to compare the genetics of the Ashkenazim to Georgians and Armenians. When these populations are used, 70% of his sample show a match.

The other important statement is “only limited genetic data have been available from the Caucasus region, and because these data have been concentrated in populations that are genetically close to populations from the Middle East. . .” In other words, the conclusions are present in the premise. They define “Near East” as actually including the Caucasus Mountains and the Black Sea region. Of course, then, most Jews will match to this new definition of “Middle Eastern.” When genetic material is matched to southeastern Hungarian, Georgian or Armenian, then the Khazar theory is vindicated.

The Geographic Population Structure (GPS), which converts DNA data into its ancestral location, has pinpointed origin of Yiddish speakers to four villages in Turkey. This would be expected if the Khazars, largely a Turkic people, were their original foundation. The research, published in the journal *Genome Biology and Evolution*, shows Yiddish was an economic invention of Jews trading along the Silk Road.

“Our findings imply that Yiddish was created by Slavo-Iranian Jewish merchants plying the Silk Roads between Germany, North Africa, and China” says the study's authors.¹³ The ancient villages, identified by the GPS method, are close to the convergence of the Silk Roads and are named, strangely enough, Iskenaz, Eskenaz, Ashanaz, and Ashkuz. The connection to the term Ashkenazi is unmistakable.

The authors continue: “North east Turkey is the only place in the world where these place names exist – which strongly implies that Yiddish was established around the first millennium at a time when Jewish traders who were plying the Silk Road moved goods from Asia to Europe wanted to keep their monopoly on trade.” The point was to maintain their economic power. This might explain the vehement denunciation of this from a recent article of the Jewish Forward. The authors further state: “Our findings are in agreement with an alternative theory that suggests Yiddish has Iranian, Turkish, and Slavic origins and explains why Yiddish contains 251 words for the terms buy and sell.” The book seems to be closed on this issue from the linguistic

12 Behar, Doron M.; Metspalu, Mait; Baran, Yael; Kopelman, Naama M.; Yunusbayev, Bayazit; Gladstein, Ariella; Tzur, Shay; Sahakyan, Havhannes; Bahmanimehr, Ardeshir; Yepiskoposyan, Levon; Tambets, Kristiina; Khusnutdinova, Elza K.; Kusniarevich, Aljona; Balanovsky, Oleg; Balanovsky, Elena; Kovacevic, Lejla; Marjanovic, Damir; Mihailov, Evelin; Kouvatsi, Anastasia; Traintaphyllidis, Costas; King, Roy J.; Semino, Ornella; Torrioni, Antonio; Hammer, Michael F.; Metspalu, Ene; Skorecki, Karl; Rosset, Saharon; Halperin, Eran; Villems, Richard; and Rosenberg, Noah A., "No Evidence from Genome-Wide Data of a Khazar Origin for the Ashkenazi Jews" (2013). Human Biology Open Access Pre-Prints. Paper 41.

http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/humbiol_preprints/41

13 Ranajit Das Paul Wexler Mehdi Pirooznia Eran Elhaik. Localizing Ashkenazic Jews to Primeval Villages in the Ancient Iranian Lands of Ashkenaz. *Genome Biol Evol* (2016) 8 (4): 1132-1149

standpoint.

A recent article by M. Kyrill on the webjournal of the Institute of Russian Communitarianism says a “new Khazaria” has been built on the Dnieper. When the violent coup was completed in 2014, the revolution there defended itself precisely on the model of the IDF. Genday Korban, oligarch Igor Kolomoisky and the Jewish head of the “Right Sector” Dmitri Karosh took full control of the military apparatus. Baruch Filatov, in exile in Israel, was paying huge amounts for the military operation against the Donbass and for the riots themselves.

As far as Khazaria proper, he states that the final penetration of Rabbinic Judaism into the divided ruling elite did not occur until the beginning of the 9th century. Obadiah, Bulan's son, forced Talmudism on the elite. All local schools were teaching basic Jewish beliefs. A dual government was created where the Kagan was overshadowed by the Bulan clan, that is, the Jews. It had already penetrated the elite well by 740 once the Muslims were driven out. The failed Jewish revolution in Iran sent a small army of Jews to the Khazaria, where they were granted welcome by Bulan and his clan. This mass exodus easily plugged into the Jewish trading elites, serving as bodyguards.

Judaism emerged triumphant there due to the tolls extracted not only on Dnieper and lower Volga trade, but the caravan routes of the Great Silk Road as well. Today in Ukraine, the top 15 most affluent oligarchs in the country are Jews. Kyrill reports that they have formed an association among themselves, with their leader called a “Kagan.” Jews now have a semi-secret government in control in Ukraine.

It includes the head of the Zionist Committee of Ukraine, Iosif Zisels, Leonid Finberg, financed by the US and the director for Jewish studies at the Kiev Mohyla Academy (which is bizarre in itself that there's “Jewish studies” there at all). The heads of the street thugs are Shimon Briman and Mark Ostromogilsky. The Kiev Rabbi Moshe-Reuven Asman is training Israeli special forces in Ukraine and it was V. Kapustin who demands a massive American invasion of Russia. The main financiers of Euro-Maidan, Tyahnybok-Frotman, Etinzon Klitschko and Yatsenyuk Bak, not to mention the normal run of oligarchs in the country such as Pinchuk, Surkis or Yaroslavsky.

Like the secret mercantile clans that ruled alongside the Kagan in Khazaria, these oligarchs, with the same source of their wealth, rule from the sidelines. It's amazing how the Khanate is being restored in its former glory with the same ruthlessness as before.