

The Impact of the School of Oriental and African Studies on the British Orientalist Hugh Kennedy

Prof. Dr. Layth Shaker Mahmoud and Zainab Kazem Abdul Hassan*

Faculty of Arts, University of Baghdad, Iraq.

Zainab.Kazem1206e@coart.uobaghdad.edu.iq

Abstract.

This research aims to study the impact of modern British Orientalism on Orientalist Hugh Kennedy from his start at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in 2007 AD until the present. The research includes a brief definition of the school and its founding date, as well as its impact on contemporary British Orientalism and its impact on the Orientalist Hugh Kennedy through its graduates, the most important of which are the Orientalist Bernard Lewis with his students, some of whom Kennedy studied at the doctorate level, including Martin Hinds, Patricia Crone, and Michael Cook.

Introduction

My article deals with clarifying the impact of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) on the British Orientalist Hugh Kennedy, who is nowadays considered to be one of the most influential British Orientalist and historian. It can be said that in the twentieth century and the twenty-first century AD, the study of British Orientalism was only linked to British culture, which led to the contemporary Orientalist studies differing from previous centuries and affected by the results of the 2nd World War, whose results were not limited to variables in the political map, but also had economic, social consequences, the diminishing of Britain and Germany and the emergence of the American star, as well as the school (SOAS) on Orientalist studies in Britain from the 1930s onwards have been significantly shifting from studies on heritage issues and topics related to the history of intermediate Arabs to the study of Islam. This is what the Orientalist Hugh Kennedy distinguished by, where the emergence of objective and purposeful studies and this gradual development about Islamic history is in fact represented in the progressive development of European and American policy in the Arab region and the nature of its relationship with the Arabs. Nevertheless, the old trend of Orientalism continued to play an important role in Orientalist studies, especially in the titles of Hugh Kennedy's (Caliphate) writings, (Great Arab Conquests).

First/ Biography

Hugh Nigel Kennedy was born on October 22, 1947, in the city of Heath (1), in the province of Kent (2). He lived in this city, which was characterized by tourist activity, and in which he spent his life and learned his first education in the primary and secondary stages until he joined university (3).

His scientific career and interest in the Arabic language and Islamic history have begun since he was awarded a scholarship by the British Foreign Office for a study at the Middle East Center for Arab Studies in Shamlan (4) in Lebanon in 1965. This center for teaching the Arabic language to the British political corps and various elements of British government employees in the Middle East. In 1966, he returned to Britain to complete his studies, as he joined the Pembroke College of Cambridge University, which is the third oldest college at Cambridge University, founded in 1347. Cambridge University is the second university in the world after Oxford University, founded in 1257, to specialize in Arabic and Persian. In 1969, he graduated from Cambridge University with a bachelor's degree in literature (5).

After joining this university, he was clearly influenced by the professors who studied on their hands and took a lot of the culture and knowledge that helped him towards guidance for graduate studies, from 1969 to 1972, he was a graduate student at the Faculty of Oriental Studies at the University of Cambridge, completed the PhD study in philosophy in 1978 and the title of the doctoral thesis (Politics and Political Elite in the Early Abbasid Caliphate) (6).

As for his academic career and his administrative and scientific position, Hugh Kennedy's academic career constitutes an important aspect in the development of contemporary Orientalist studies in Britain and his achievements in the scope of Islamic history, Hugh began his academic life after

* Faculty of Arts, University of Baghdad, Iraq.

completing his PhD study in 1972, and we should point to the fact that his academic work began in 1972, where Hugh Kennedy joined the University of (St-Andrews) as a lecturer in the history of the Middle Ages, and this university is one of the oldest universities in Scotland, founded in 1411, and in 1990, he was promoted to (Associate Professor), a similar academic position Professor, but without a professor's chair at the University of (St-Andrews), in 1997, he was appointed a professor of Middle Eastern history in the Department of Oriental Studies at the University of (St-Andrews) and he continued to work as a professor at the university until 2007, as Kennedy spent thirty-five years in this university from a lecturer to an associate professor and then a professor⁽⁷⁾, and then he moved in 2007 to the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) professor to the present, we note that Kennedy studied Islamic history and did not study Arabic in departments other than the Orientalists, most of whom they study Arabic language and literature, starting in terms of his competence as a historian⁽⁸⁾.

As for the academic administrative positions held by Hugh Kennedy, he held a number of positions at the University of (St-Andrews), he served as Vice President of the School of History in charge of library affairs and information technology in (1992-2000AD), and the second position was Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of (St-Andrews) in (1992-1998 AD), and in 2002 Member of the University's Court (the governing body) until the present, and administrative positions outside the university (St-Andrews) Senior Editor in the Braille series in the Middle Mediterranean eras 1998 until the present. Member of the British Research Council in the Committee for the Management of British Schools of Antiquities and History in the Levant, Jerusalem and Amman (1998-2003), and in 2004 until the present, he became the Vice President of the Historians of the Middle East (the main international gathering of pre-modern Islamic Middle Eastern historians), and he is the only non-American member of the Council, and a member of the British Historical Association for Middle East Studies, a fellow of the Royal Asian Society, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Academy of Edinburgh 2002 (), and by tracking his academic career, we note that he presides over several academic and administrative jobs indicating his good career and efficiency in holding academic joint positions in the Faculty of Arts, University of (St-Andrews), as well as his academic efficiency as it supports his passage in stabilizing his scientific and administrative status (10)

Second/School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS): It is considered one of the most important scientific institutes from which specialists in the fields of knowledge, especially Islamic history, and this school was established after the backwardness of Oriental and African studies in Britain, as Orientalism in the first decade of the twentieth century witnessed the establishment of a school for Oriental studies in 1916⁽⁹⁾, after the issuance of (Lord Ray Committee¹⁰⁾ in 1907, which was formed by the British Treasury Department, which confirmed Oriental studies in Britain lag behind compared to other European countries. This lag is not in line with British policy in the east. The report was discussed in the House of Lords, and the British government charged Lord Cromer, High Commissioner of Egypt, to follow up this institution and to take executive steps to establish. All its requirements for buildings and teaching staff were already completed. In June 1916, in the midst of World War I, a royal decree was issued to establish a school for Oriental studies, and it was opened in a solemn ceremony attended by King George V himself on February 23, 1917. The school played an important role in teaching a generation of students to use the Arabic language and Assign the Arabic chair to the English Orientalist Thomas Arnold⁽¹¹⁾(1864-1930)⁽¹²⁾.

The school provides opportunities for the British in India and Egypt to practice good management and will also qualify British traders and industrialists to maintain the status of British trade. It provided lessons in the languages of the Asian and African peoples, old and new, along with their literature, history, religions and customs. The school was divided into seven departments according to the linguistic groups⁽¹³⁾. The study in this school was divided on the basis of the languages of the East, as well as the study of customs, traditions and the Eastern family. In 1932, the term (African¹⁴) was added and became : (School of Oriental and African Studies) (SOAS), affiliated with the University of London, from which the Arabic Language Chair was transferred to the school, and replaced it with jobs related to Eastern Studies. The university is still concerned with the Middle East and the lowest language and civilization and has established the Department of Audio Languages¹⁵, as well as the University (Voices¹⁶) (1960).

The school played a political role in directing the British discourse in the two World Wars, as one of the main paragraphs that the school followed in political thought is the emphasis on the separation between religion and politics in Islam and the lack of the essence of the institution of the Caliphate in it and the denial of any connection of the Ottomans to the concept of the Caliphate. These ideas are of serious importance at the time during the British-Ottoman conflict during the First World War and Britain's fear of provoking the Ottomans to the slogan of jihad in the British colonies in defense of the

Islamic Caliphate⁽¹⁷⁾. As for the Second World War, many of its teachers joined the war effort in the East, including the Orientalist Bernard Lewis⁽¹⁸⁾.

This school has a role in the scientific life of the Orientalist Kennedy, who studied in it from 2007 to the present, where its scientific production has increased, and this school has a clear impact on the contemporary British Orientalism, but Kennedy has influenced him through the professors and pioneers of this school, and one of its most important pioneers, who was influenced by the orientalist Kennedy Sir Thomas Walker Arnold(1864-1930 AD), who is the first person to sit on the professor's chair in the Department of Arab Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, and he is the owner of the book (Caliphate: its emergence and fall), and this influence is evident through the writings of Kennedy, who has relied on him as a primary source in his writings, he is the owner of a series of books that dealt with succession¹⁹, the first of which is: (Caliphate)⁽²⁰⁾. (Prophet and the era of the Caliphate),⁽²¹⁾ the armies of Caliphate), (and^(the Early Abbasian Caliphate22), and he has many articles related to the Caliphate.

Kennedy also referred to his professor, who has a role in his scientific composition, Martin Hinds (1941-1988)⁽²³⁾, who is a contemporary British orientalist specialized in the history of Islam and Arab conquests, which impressed him and he is one of the most prominent professors of Hugh Kennedy. He obtained a PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies about his thesis, which is marked by (The Early History of the Islamic Divide in Iraq), and he obtained in the School of Oriental and African Studies the first rank of honor in the modern Arab and Arab literary classics, and studied in the School of Oriental and African Studies 1963⁽²⁴⁾. He was influenced by him and relied on his writings in his writings and referred to him in the introduction of his thesis (The Early Abbasic Caliphate)⁽²⁵⁾:

"I would like to acknowledge my debt to my teachers at Cambridge, especially, Martin Hinds..."

Through reading the writings of Hugh Kennedy, I have noticed the influence of this school indirectly through the students of the Oriental Bernard Lewis (1916-2018AD), who is one of the most prominent contemporary orientalists, who is a graduate of the School of²⁶Oriental and African Studies, as well as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of the School of Oriental and African Studies⁽²⁷⁾, and emerged during the mid-1960s as a commentator and expert on the modern affairs of the Middle East region and his analysis of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the spread of²⁸ the phenomenon of jihadist Islam, which made him famous and caused him a lot of controversy⁽²⁹⁾, and the most prominent students of Bernard Lewis who influenced Kennedy and relied on their writings in his writings are the Oriental and African School of Studies, and under the supervision of Bernard Lewis, the Orientalist Patricia Crohn (). These orientalists have views that are lagogic from the group of Islamic sources of contemporary migration (the first history of migration represents a testimony³⁰).

Kennedy relied on the writings of Patricia Crowne and Michael Cook and his professor (Martin Hindus), who shared the same point of view in Islamic sources. For example, Kennedy relied on sources in his book (The Great Arab Conquests) on a historical document dating back to a medieval Syriac source composed of the Islamic conquests called Hanna Barbenkaya⁽³¹⁾. The book is a summary of the history of the world. The time of writing the book is the 1980s/ first Hijri, that is, less than half a century after the start of the Islamic conquests, meaning that it is written from the point of view of an eyewitness who provides evidence as an isolated Christian monk in his monastery and within the region where the conquest wars took place, which reached Armenia and Anatolia a few years after the conquest of the Levant and Iraq⁽³²⁾.

Today, Hugh Kennedy is teaching at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), which is prepared by Dr. Jaziel Abdul-Jabbar Al-Jomard: ((Hugh Kennedy nowadays is one of the largest British orientalists and their historians))⁽³³⁾ and the most influential contemporary orientalists in the school and under it a thousand books and articles that dealt with Islamic history, but it differed from the rest of the orientalists who focused on the divisions in the body of the Islamic Arab State and the cases of rupture and neglect of many bright aspects, we see him focused on political, military and various topics, including: (armies of the caliphs: army and society in the early Islamic State), (when Baghdad ruled the Islamic world), (Mongols, Huns and Vikings: nomads in war), (Islamic Spain and Portugal the political history of Andalus).

Conclusion

It appears from the above that the school (SOAS) influenced the Orientalist Hugh Kennedy through the disciples of the Orientalist Bernard Lewis, some of whom studied Kennedy and some of whom Kennedy relied on as a reference in his writings. In short, he presented an arbitrary hypothesis, very briefly, that early Arab-Islamic sources should not be relied upon in the study of the origins and composition of Islam and its history, because from the point of view of the authors they represent an angle of Islamic vision that is favourable to themselves, so the truest thing they have is the study of early Islam through Hebrew, Syriac and Aramaic sources, it is contemporary and neutral. This is due to the fact that the Orientalist, in terms of its scientific composition, remains in the end the son of the

environment and the intellectual, civilizational and political incubators that contributed to shaping his mentality, that is, he remains faithful to his subjective orientations and his religious or political backgrounds, and perhaps he chose to study Islam intentionally to have a career in his scientific life in (Soas). This may be especially true for him and the younger generation, and it lies in the fact that his description in a word the quality of the trajectory he obtained in this field is from a generation most of whom received training in language and literature regardless of the theological background in some cases, but few of them He was trained to process history.

Footnotes :

1) Heath is an ancient city and tourist resort on the south coast in Kent County. This city includes medieval and Georgian buildings, a Norman Saxon church on the hill, a waterfront walkway, Victor J, and the famous Sink Harbour, as well as the oldest school Small Arms School Corps, an article on the National Heritage List for England:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1068981>.

2) Kent County is a county in the southeast of England on the English Channel (and one of the main counties in England is bordered by London to the northwest and the town of Maidstone is the county seat, and has the oldest Cathedral of Canterbury in England, it has been home to the Bishops of Canterbury since the conversion of England to Christianity which began in the 6th century AD Kent lies between London and the Dover Strait, which separates England from the mainland of Europe, and has been a place of conflict and diplomacy, including the Battle of Britain in World War II and the Leeds Castle Peace Talks of 1978 and 2003. An article on the National Heritage List of England.

<https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D9%83%D9%86%D8%AA>

3) Kennedy, CV, p 1-2; Kennedy | Staff | SOAS, University of London

4) Middle East Center for Arab Studies: or MECAS, or Shamlan Institute or Shamlan School is an institute established by the British army during the Second World War in Jerusalem in 1944, and was later transferred to Lebanon as a civil institute in the village of Shamlan, 25 km from Beirut, where it existed between 1947 and 1978 from the British Mandate. Agiqi, *Orientalists*, i3, c2/ p438; McLoughlin, *Shamlan: A History of the Middle East Centre for Arab Studies*, pp. 242-243.

5) Kennedy, *The Great Arab Conquests*, II, p. 565; Al-Aqeeqi, *The Orientalists*, C2/p.432;

Kennedy | Staff | SOAS, University of London.

6) Kennedy, *The Tiles of the Caliphs*, 1st Edition, p. 13;

Kennedy, *Who's Who* 2015.

7) Kennedy, *The Palace of Caliphate*, pp. 8-7;

Kennedy, C.V., p. 1-2.

8) *The New Cambridge history of Islam*, Volume 1, *The Formation of the Islamic World Sixth to Eleventh Centuries*, P xvii; Kennedy, CV, p. 1-2)

9) Al-Aqeeq, *Orientalists*, 2/p. 433; Teacher, *The Historical and Functional Development of Orientalism*, II, p. 142; Mullah Jassim, *British Orientalism in the Twentieth Century*, p. 54; Shaker, *British Universities and Arab and Islamic Studies*, Mug 1, p. 289.

10) Lord Ray Committee: The well-known committee was formed in 1907 by the Ministry of Treasury under the chairmanship of Lord Ray. In 1908, this committee issued a report in which it emphasized the backwardness of Orientalist studies in Britain compared to other countries such as France and Germany, and the colonial rivalry between European powers. Britain felt an urgent need for academic support to guide and support its policy. This backwardness is not in line with British interests in the east. The committee considered it necessary to establish a school for Oriental studies. Mullah Jassim, *ibid.*, pp. 55-54; Shaker, *ibid.*, p. 289.

11) Sir Thomas Arnold (1864-1930) (Sir Thomas Walker Arnold): From the English orientalist media he studied in Cambridge in 1882, attracted by Oriental studies under the influence of the Orientalist William Robertson Asmith, he was chosen to teach philosophy at the Faculty of Islamic Karrah in India and spent ten years in the college (1888-1898), and an assistant to the librarian of the Diwan of India, and he is the first person to sit in the chair in the Department of Arabic Studies in the School of Oriental Languages 1904 AD He visited Egypt in early 1930, lectured in Egyptian universities and knew half of Islam, and in this spirit he wrote his first important books, which is a book: *Islamic Dawa*, and he has many articles in the Department of Islamic Knowledge, so he is a reference in Islamic Studies.

Al-Aqeeq, *Orientalists*, C2/p.504; Hamdan, *Orientalists*, II, p.120

12) Al-Aqeeq, *ibid.*, c 2/p. 433; Mullah Jassim, *British Orientalism in the Twentieth Century*, pp. 59-60.

13) Mullah Jassim, *British Orientalism in the Twentieth Century*, pp.55-57; Shaker, *British Universities and Arab and Islamic Studies*, pp. 289-290.

14) Al-Aqeeq, *ibid.*, c 2/p. 433; Mullah Jassim, *ibid.*, pp. 57-58; Teacher, *The Historical and Functional Evolution of Orientalism*, p.143

¹⁵⁾ Department of Audio Languages: This department was established at the University of London in 1916, and this department studies linguistic sounds in terms of their output, qualities and how they are issued, and it was supervised by Professor Firth, Professor of Voices at the University of London, and specialized in teaching students to speak Chinese and Japanese. Al-Aqeeq, *Orientalists*, c. 2/p. 433; Al-Mousa, *Alphabets of Language, Phonology and Linguistics*, i1, p. 151.

¹⁶⁾ *Voices*: a quarterly cultural journal of the University of London, appears in Arabic four times a year and is edited by Dennis Johnson Davis. Al-Aqeeq, *ibid.*, c. 2/p. 433.

¹⁷⁾ Teacher, *The Historical and Functional Development of Orientalism*, p. 229; Matbahani, *The Orientalist Bernard Lewis Approach to the Study of Islamic Political Thought*, p. 4; Shaker, *British Universities and Arab and Islamic Studies*, pp. 292-293

¹⁸⁾ Bernard Lewis, B (1916-2018): an orientalist of Jewish origin, British nationality and American after his departure from Britain to the United States in 1974, graduated from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in 1936, and joined graduate studies at the University of Paris Sorbonne, where he studied with Louis Macinon and obtained a diploma in Semitic Studies in 1937, returned to SOAS in 1938 as an assistant lecturer in the history of Islam 1938, and a professor of the history of the Near and Middle East at the University of London 1949 and a professor of history at the University of California 1955, Bernard Lewis moved to the United States where he became a professor of lecturers at Princeton University in the 1970s, obtained American citizenship in 1982, emerged during the mid-1960s as a commentator and an expert on the modern affairs of the Middle East region and his analysis of the Palestinian conflict and the spread of the phenomenon of Jihadist Islam, which made him famous and influenced by many controversies and his origins (Ismist, Islamist, and Arab diplomacy).

Al-Aqeeq, *Orientalists*, c. 2/p. 561; Naji, *Orientalism in History*, p. 252; Mutabbagani, *Orientalist Bernard Lewis's Approach to the Study of Islamic Political Thought*, pp.4-5.

¹⁹⁾ Kennedy, *Caliphate the History of an Idea*.

²⁰⁾ Kennedy, *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates*

²¹⁾ Kennedy, *The Armies of the Caliphs*

²²⁾ Kennedy, Hugh, 2016, *The Early Abbasid Caliphate*

²³⁾ Martin Hinds (1941-1988): A contemporary British orientalist specialized in the history of Islam, he obtained a PhD from the University of London, the school of Oriental and African Studies, and obtained in the School of Oriental and African Studies the first honors in the classics Arabic and Arabic Literary and studied in the School of Oriental and African Studies, and studied at the University of Cambridge 1966, spent a long time in Cairo as a director of the Center for the Study of Arabic Language Abroad (CASA) and then a director of the Arabic Language Unit at the American University in Cairo 1970, and took the position of Director of the Arab Lexicons Program there, a position that he combined with his normal teaching duties at Cambridge, and the Orientalist Edmund Bosworth (1928-2015) refers to the sanctuary of Islamic studies in Britain after his death from one of its prominent historians who accumulated his knowledge and experience in Islamic history and Middle Ages in particular.

Bosworth, Martin Hinds 1941-1988, *British Society for Middle Eastern Studies*, p. 118.

²⁴⁾ Bosworth, *op. cit.*

²⁵⁾ Kennedy, *The Early Abbasid Caliphate*, p. 9

²⁶⁾ Tibawi, *English speakers*, p. 129.

²⁷⁾ Al-Aqeeqi, *Orientalists*, c. 2/p. 561; Naji, *Orientalism in History*, p. 252; Mutabbagani, *Orientalist Bernard Lewis's Approach to the Study of Islamic Political Thought*, pp.4-5.

²⁸⁾ Orientalist Michael Cook (born in 1940): A contemporary British orientalist who studied history and Oriental studies at King's College, Cambridge 1959-1963, and completed postgraduate studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London under the supervision of Orientalist Bernard Lewis, was appointed Professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, and his most important work was the general editor of Cambridge's new history of Islam, and his most important works: *Hajri: The Islamic World Industry*, with Patricia Crohn. Quoting Hussein, (The Holy Quran in the writings of Michael Cook, *The Book of Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam as a model*) Presentation and Analysis, Volume 1, p. 38.

The New Cambridge History of Islam, volume 1, *The Formation of The Islamic World Sixth to Eleventh Centuries*, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

²⁹⁾ Patricia Crone (1945-2015 AD) is a Danish orientalist and historian of Islamic history. Cron became a university lecturer in Islamic history in 1977 and a fellow of the College of Jesus at the University of Oxford. She became an assistant professor at the Caius College at the University of Cambridge in 1990. She also held several positions at the University of Cambridge. She served as a university lecturer in Islamic studies. She worked in the same period until her retirement in 2014 at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Princeton, New Jersey. She was a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Social Development and History*, and the most important book (Hijri).

<https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%86>

³⁰⁾ Jeblawi, Early Islam^{The} New Anglo-Saxon Orientalism (Patricia Crohn and Michael Cook, a model, p. 22.

³¹⁾ Hanna Barbenkaya; Also known as (John Ibn al-Fenki) was a writer and a Syriac monk in the monastery of Mar Yohannan of Kamul), and later in the monastery of Mar Ananias, or (Deir al-Zafran) near the island of Ibn Omar, he was a member of the Church of the Mashreq, Caliph Abdul-Malik Ibn Marwan, the fifth Umayyad, and his title indicates that the home of his parents is from the castle of (Art K), which is an independent fortified fortress near the island of Ibn Omar located on the Tigris River east of Tor Abdeen, and we have many writings written in the late seventh century AD/first AH, the most important of which is (Summary of the history of the world) and ends in 686AD, the fourteenth volume covers the Arab conquest, and is considered an eye-witness about the early Islamic conquests in his era, and his work is still a number of manuscripts that have not been published for the most of them.

Oh, look. Ruby of Hamoui, Lexicon of Countries, C4/ p. 278;

Brock, North Mesopotamia in the Late Seventh Century: Book XV of John Bar Penkaye's Riš Melle, p. 51

³²⁾ Kennedy, Al-Fotouh, p. 15;

Brock, Studies in Syriac Christianity: History, p. 26.

³³⁾ Abdel Ghafour, historian Gazelle Abdel Jabbar Al Jomard for (Time Orientalist Mistakes Lighted My Way to Study History), p. 4541.

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