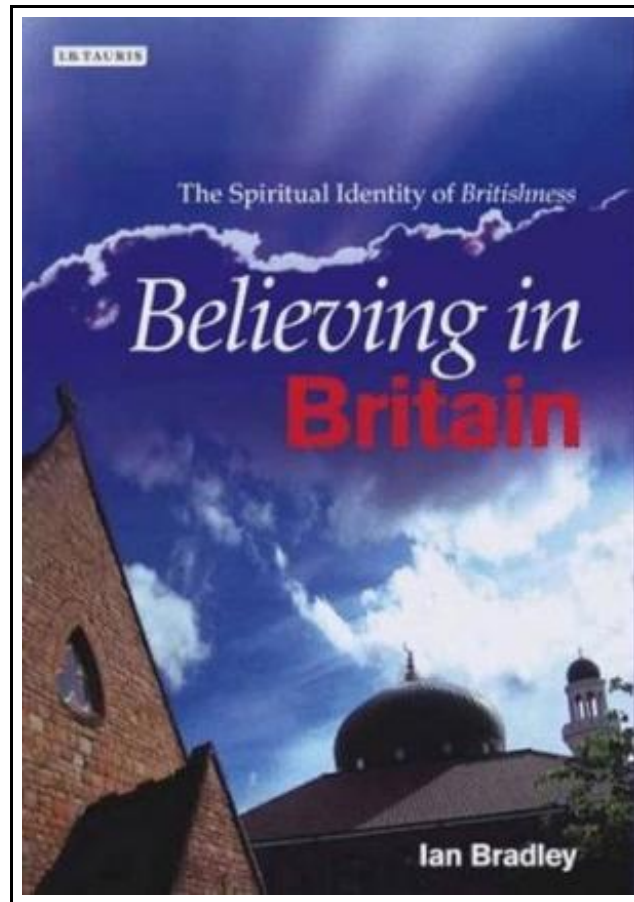


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BELIEVING IN BRITAIN: THE SPIRITUAL IDENTITY OF BRITISHNESS (HARDBACK)



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I.B.Tauris Co Ltd, United Kingdom, 2007. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 234 x 160 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Why is there such intense interest today in the idea of Britishness ? Does it really matter, and what is Britishness anyway? Why does the notion of being British seem to have most resonance amongst recent immigrant - especially Asian and Afro-Caribbean - communities? And why is that traditional British values now seem to be most widely practised and cherished by newcomers, not by the dominant majority? This book answers these vital questions by making a unique contribution to the current debate about British identity. It investigates why Liverpool is the most British of UK cities, with a regional accent representing a medley of Welsh, Scots, Irish and English; how a small village off the M6 motorway is arguably Britain's spiritual heart; and what theme parks, airport shops and eating habits have to tell us about the contemporary national character. It is often claimed that Great Britain is one of the most secular nations on earth. But - controversially - Ian Bradley argues that Britishness is best envisaged as a series of overlapping identities which are at root religious. He views the 400 year-old Union Jack, with its overlaid crosses of three of the nation's four patron saints, as symbolising the United Kingdom's unparalleled combination of unity in diversity, the diversity of a society which now embodies Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and many other - including secular - traditions. He goes on to argue that Britishness has special value as a broad church measure of spiritual and cultural inclusiveness - and as a positive alternative to fundamentalism, narrow nationalism and jingoism. The author explores in separate chapters the distinctive contributions to Britishness made over the centuries by...



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