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Archive Documents
about the
Atrocities and
Genocide Inflicted
Upon Turks by Armenians

by

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the State Archives
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The information provided in the present work may be utilised
elsewhere by indicating its source.

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*"Dedicated to the dear memories of our martyrs killed
by Armenians before and after the First World War in
deep respect, wishing them God's compassion..."*

İsmet Binark

FOREWORD

The structure of the Ottoman State is like a mosaic made up of various ethnic groups, which successfully enabled so many people speaking different languages and belonging to different religions and races to live side by side in peace without quarrel for centuries. Every different element constituted a part of this mosaic. All these different elements lived together for centuries in harmony under the just and tolerant rule of the Ottoman state.

The Ottoman state governed all the minorities under its rule in peace and security for centuries and did never attempt to assimilate them for political reasons.

One of the pieces of the said mosaic were the Armenians. While no problems arose between Muslims and non-Muslims during the powerful periods of the Ottoman state, minority problems began to emerge following the weakening of the State, minorities being oriented by Western Powers in the direction of their own political, religious and economic interests. Just then, Western Powers started discussing the Question of Orient that was nothing but an endeavour to realise their political, military and economic aspirations towards the Ottoman state. Consequently, the ages old harmony was disrupted and the people who had been living together in peace took part in subversive activities aiming at the breaking of the State under the influence of the winds of political, religious and nationalistic secession blowing from the West.

In the 19th century, the non-Muslims in the Ottoman state were made both the object and the means of the Question of Orient.

For the imperialist policy could find common points between the interests of France, Britain, Russia and Germany, usually called the Great Powers, and those of non-Muslims. As soon as the non-Muslims became aware of this fact, they voluntarily agreed to become the dynamic actors and moving power of the Question of Orient. In brief, the Question of Orient meant to non-Muslims the break up of the Ottoman state, introduction of so called reforms in their favour and the obtention through such reforms of concessions and privileges that would lead eventually to some autonomy or independence.

The Armenian Question was part of the larger Question of Orient. The Armenian Question stemmed from Europe's economic, political, religious and cultural interests. Armenians were one of the elements engaged in subversive activities against the unity of the Ottoman State. The Armenians, who had founded a number of revolutionary associations and parties with a dream of establishing an Armenian state in Eastern Anatolia, rose up on various pretexts and killed a lot of innocent and helpless Turkish people, collaborated with the enemy taking advantage of the fact that Turkish troops were busy at the front during the First World War, betrayed their State and committed atrocities and genocide against the Turks.

Consequently, with the aim of restoring security in the areas just behind the front line and protecting innocent and defenceless Turkish people living there from Armenian atrocities and genocide, the Ottoman State removed the Armenians engaged in subversive activities against itself from the theatre of operations and relocated them in safe areas within the country in such a way as not to disturb local balances.

In spite of this fact, the Armenians still continue to maintain their unfounded claims through lobbies that they have formed in various countries that the Turkish State perpetrated genocide on them during the First World War.

The unfounded Armenian claims have been used and are still being used as a domestic or foreign policy material, as required by the circumstances of the day, by countries hostile or friendly to Turkey.

So we are compelled to demonstrate in the light of original archive documents that the Armenian claims are ungrounded, that

contrary to the claims the Turks were wronged and they acted in self-defence, that the Armenians were the perpetrators of atrocities and genocide. To disprove the Armenian allegations is, no doubt, a national duty imposed upon us. Scholars and objective history writers are called upon to contribute to the fulfilment of this duty.

Therefore, all the State institutions concerned, universities, non-governmental organisations, the Turkish press and intellectuals should never forget that they are under such an obligation.

As is known, true information that history is supposed to hand down should be based on first hand original sources that is archive documents. History cannot be written and historical truth lying behind incidents cannot be brought to daylight unless documents are available.

Writing of history, passing a judgement about the events in a certain period of time or evaluating certain events on the basis of mere hypotheses, without any documents is not compatible with the impartial attitude and scientific objectivity imposed upon history writing.

As regards the Armenian Question, the right thing to do, right in respect of righteousness, justice and humanitarian law is to put forth historical facts on the basis of archive documents, and to demonstrate in the light of archive documents that the Armenian claims are unfounded, that history may not be exploited for political purposes, that it were the Armenians that perpetrated atrocities and genocide, that the Turks have been unjustly accused of genocide and to put an end to the one-sidedness prevailing in this matter. One should know that it is in no way possible to cover up and distort historical facts. Such a thing has never been successfully carried out in the past.

One should know that the present work has been prepared without any ulterior motive on the basis of the documents available in the Ottoman Archives entrusted to the Prime Ministry, in the General Staff Archives of Military History and Strategical Studies, in the Russian, British, French, German and American archives as well as referring to various works in this field available in the libraries of various countries.

We do not intend at all to attribute the crimes committed by the Armenian armed bands who rebelled against and betrayed their

State and perpetrated atrocities and genocide to the innocent and defenceless Turkish people to today's Armenian nation.

The present work has been published by the Turkish Parliament in order to give an opportunity to the world public opinion and distinguished Parliamentarians of various countries to see and correctly evaluate the naked historical facts which are far from supporting the unfounded Armenian claims of genocide. Using history for political exploitation constitutes no doubt a very serious responsibility.

I sincerely hope that the present work would help shed light on historical truth with a view to humanitarian law and constitute a source for those who work in this field.

Ömer İZGİ

President of the Grand National
Assembly of Turkey

Libraries and Archives Benefited From

I- Libraries:

Turkey

- Bilkent University Library, Ankara
- Boğaziçi University Library, İstanbul
- French Library for Anatolian Researches, İstanbul
- Hacettepe University Central Library, Ankara
- İstanbul University Central Library, İstanbul
- The National Library, Ankara
- Middle East Technical University Library, Ankara
- Library of the Turkish Society for History, Ankara
- Library of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Ankara

Foreign Countries

- National Library of Bulgaria, Sophia
- National Library of France (Bibliothèque Nationale), Paris
- British Library, London
- Lenin Library, Moscow
- Library of Congress, Washington
- McGill University Library, Montreal
- School of Oriental and African Studies Library, University of London, London
- University of California Los Angeles Library / UCLA Serials Department, University Research Library, Los Angeles

II. Archives:

Turkey

- Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives (BOA), İstanbul

Foreign Countries

- Directorate General of Archives with the Council of Ministers, Sophia
- Archives of the French Foreign Ministry, Paris
- Public Record Office, London
- Foreign Office, London
- Federal Archival Service of Russia, Moscow
- State Archives of the Russian Federation, Moscow

Abbreviations

ATASE	.....	Military History and Strategical Study
BOA	.....	Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives
c.	.....	volume
dos.	.....	file
fih.	.....	index
HR. SYS. HU,	.....	(BOA) Foreign Office/Political/ World War
HR. SYS. MÜ,	(BOA) Foreign Office/Political/Armistice
kls.	file
kr.	carton
No., Nu., nr.,	number
s.	page (p.)
ss.	pages (pp.)
vol.	volume

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Introduction

With the help of some lobbies that they formed in various countries all over the world, the Armenians have been able to keep on the world agenda their unfounded claims and calumnies to the effect that the Turkish state perpetrated genocide against themselves. They have been seeking support to their claims from the world public opinion.

Some Armenian and pro-Armenian historians and writers, cherishing a dream of establishing an Armenian homeland on the Anatolian soil, published a number of so-called scientific works in this century, works embellished with imaginary accounts of massacres, not based on documents, incompatible with the truth and repeating one another with the aim of keeping alive the history and culture of Armenians and, in the mean time, carrying the unfounded Armenian claims to the world agenda.

Authors of Armenian origin as well as those who support the unfounded Armenian claims have been endeavouring to keep alive some undocumented and ungrounded claims to the effect that Eastern Anatolia was the fatherland of Armenians, that the Turks took away this land from its original proprietors by force and forced them to depart through systematic massacres and carried out a planned genocide in 1915 in order to achieve their final objective.

This claim of genocide, which the Armenians cling to so tightly, is but a whopping lie. These claims are all solely politically motivated. A genocide has never taken place. Yet it

has been observed that some countries hostile to or even friendly with Turkey have occasionally lent support to these unfounded Armenian claims with the intention of using them for their own domestic or foreign policy ends as required by the necessities of the day. There is no doubt that this issue will continue to be kept in hand to be used in accordance with the general state of affairs and the state of Turkey's relations with others.

It is commonly believed that we have now faced this situation just because we have remained quiet and insensitive to the unfounded Armenian claims for too long a time.

The Turkish Republic has failed to explain her right cause to the world. The truth is that contrary to the Armenian claims it is the Turks that were the victims of a genocide, yet we could not bring it to the knowledge of the world public opinion. The aim of the Armenians is today, as it was yesterday, to have Turkey condemned first in international community and then to demand reparations and soil. Armenians' dream for blood and soil will continue.

Today it is necessary to view the Turkish policy from a larger angle. Turkey ought to make use in her foreign policy of ample possibilities offered by its strategical and privileged geographic position to the greatest extent possible and follow an active and multidimensional foreign policy.

The Armenian claims have been based on a distorted view of history. The ungrounded and inconsistent Armenian claims must be refuted and this must be made known to the world public opinion. Until and unless this has been done, one should know that the lies would continue.

So, what is to be done is to demonstrate very seriously in the light of documents in various circles that the perpetrators of atrocities and genocide are not the Turks but the Armenians on the contrary.

As a response to the unfounded Armenian claims which have been propagated for decades, we must show in the light of documents and in front of history which is detached from lies that it was the Armenians that committed genocide and must tell

the historic truth to the world public opinion, Parliaments, statesmen and intellectuals of the countries supporting the Armenian claims. It will never be an appropriate and valid act before history to overlook the issue, to remain silent and not to reply to the publications bringing forth those one-sided, ulterior motivated, unfounded claims.

The silence displayed by the Turkish nation in the dignity peculiar to right people was misrepresented and confounded with that of wrongdoers.

It is a national as well as scientific and historic duty on the part of all state institutions concerned, universities, non-governmental organisations, the Turkish press and Turkish intellectuals to disprove the unfounded allegations and set all the historical facts in front of the world public opinion.

When I was once in charge of the Directorate General of the State Archives, I published original archive documents kept in the Ottoman Archives relating to this question and thus informed the world public opinion of the massacres atrocities and genocide committed by the Armenian revolutionaries and armed bands in Anatolia and the Caucasus and so contributed to the refutation of the unfounded Armenian allegations in front of history. In view of the fact that at the present time some politicians, sharing Armenians' animosity and grudge, who lend support to Armenian claims with the intention of using them as a domestic policy material and strive to revive the Treaty of Sevres, have been trying to distort historical facts, it has become again a national and scientific duty for me to reiterate the truth in the light of authentic documents and photographs concerning the genocide of the Turks by Armenians.

Armenian nation and the Armenian diaspora in particular are not to gain anything from using history as a means of political exploitation by distorting the past events and from conducting bargains over corpses under the poster of genocide. For policies based on grudge and avenging is doomed to bankruptcy. It should not be forgotten that seeds of grudge and hatred do not bring peace, friendship and human virtues to communities and nations.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Ömer İzgi, President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, to the Chairman and members of the Board of Culture, Arts and Publication, to Mr. Vahit Erdem, Secretary General of the National Assembly, to Mr. İbrahim Birler, Director of the said Board for their valuable assistance extended for getting the present work published.

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