

# **HISTORICAL FACTS IN TURKISH-ARMENIAN RELATIONS**



**TALAAT PASHA COMMITTEE**

## **Historical Facts in Turkish Armenian Relations**

### **Talaat Pasha Committee Publication -2**

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## THE LIVES OF ARMENIANS DURING SELJUK AND OTTOMAN RULE

Contact between the Turks and Armenians began in the year 1026 with the arrival of Çağrı Bey into Anatolia. Until the Seljuks defeated the Byzantines and gained control of Anatolia, Armenians had been living in principalities as vassals of the Byzantine Empire. Once Turks started to rule over these lands, Armenians then became dependent on the Seljuks.

It can be seen that Armenian Medieval writers of history used language that ridiculed the Byzantine Empire and the Crusaders, but praised the Turkish rulers. Armenian historian Mateos of Urfa's following words in reference to Melik Shah are an example: *"The (Turkish) Sultan's heart was filled with compassion for Christians. He gazed upon the people of the countries he passed through with the affection of a father. Thus, he gained dominance over many states and cities without any battle."*<sup>1</sup>

After the establishment of the Ottoman Empire, the Armenians became an integral part of the Ottoman Empire. The Armenian religious headquarters were first moved to Kütahya, then to Bursa in 1324 and after the conquest of Istanbul it was transferred to Istanbul by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror in 1461.

During the rise of the Ottoman Empire, Armenians were loyal subjects of the state. But during the downfall period, driven by provocations from imperialist countries, they started to dream of establishing an independent Armenia on territory that they could grab from the fragments of a disintegrated Ottoman Empire.

The Ottoman Empire, at all times, gave the Armenians freedom in dealing with their own internal affairs and religion, the right to be educated in their own schools, the right to solve any issues amongst themselves and exemption from military service and in this context adopted the Armenian Peoples Constitution in 1863.



<sup>1</sup> Mateos of Urfa, *"Vekayiname (952-1136) and Father Grigor's Zeyli (1131-1162)"*, Translated by: Hrant D. Andreasyan, Ankara, 1987, p. 171

In the Ottoman Government there were 22 Armenian ministers, 33 members of parliament, 29 generals, 7 ambassadors, 11 consul generals, 11 academicians and 41 senior government officers<sup>2</sup>. In this context, 10 Armenians served as members of parliament in the First Assembly and 11 served in the Second one<sup>3</sup>.

NUMBERS OF ARMENIAN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT	
<u>1ST OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT</u>	<u>2ND OTTOMAN PARLIAMENT</u>
12 OUT OF 48 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE NON-MUSLIMS	49 OUT OF 276 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE NON-MUSLIMS
10 OF THEM WERE ARMENIANS.	11 OF THEM WERE ARMENIANS.
REFERENCE : AIDE-MEMOIRE SUR LES DROITS DES MINORITES	

Before the 1877-1878 Russo-Turkish War, Armenians initially wanted autonomy from the Ottoman Empire and had started a movement to gain independence in the long term. This situation was clearly evident in the report by Britain's ambassador to Istanbul Henry Elliot:<sup>4</sup>

**PATRIARCH NERSES VARJEBATYAN**


**REPORT BY BRITAIN'S AMBASSADOR TO ISTANBUL HENRY ELLIOT (1876):**

«YESTERDAY THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCH CAME TO SEE ME. HE TOLD ME THAT IT WAS NOT AT ALL DIFFICULT TO START AN UPRISING, A REBELLION, TO GET THE ATTENTION OF THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.»

REFERENCE: BLUE BOOK

<sup>2</sup> Salih Yılmaz, "Statements against Turks and supposed Armenian genocide in a 10th grade history school book taught in the Armenian Republic", *Research on the Turkish World*, Number: 177, December 2008, p. 112

<sup>3</sup> *Aide –Mémoire on the rights of minorities in Turkey*, Presented to the Representatives of the Members of The League of Nations, National Association for The Ottoman Society of Nations, Istanbul, 1922, p. 13-14

<sup>4</sup> *Livre Bleu du Gouvernement Britannique Concernant le Traitement des Arméniens Dans L'empire Ottoman 1915-1916* (Blue Book ).

## ARMENIAN REVOLTS

During WW-I, while the Ottoman Empire was fighting on 8 different fronts, Armenian riots weakened the government. The Ottoman army on the one hand was fighting on all these fronts, and on the other hand had to leave army forces behind to secure public order at home.



Osmanlı Devleti'nin I. Dünya Savaşı'nda Savaşıldığı Cepheeler

During this period most of the Armenians who were conscripted in the Ottoman army fled with their weapons and joined the Russian army, others set up armed gangs and began to commit massacres in Turkish villages. Directives<sup>5</sup> issued by the Armenian Committees immediately before the start of World War I are below:

### INSTRUCTIONS OF ARMENIAN COMMITTEES

1. Every Armenian person is to be armed.
2. You are not to obey the Ottoman government's call to arms
3. Any Armenian serving in the Ottoman Army must desert and join Armenian gangs
4. As soon as the Russian Army passes through the border, the gangs and the deserters are to join them and attack the Ottoman army, the Ottoman army's supply roads and intelligence is to be severed by destroying provisions and telegraph lines.
5. Beyond the frontline all civilian Muslims over the age of 2 are to be massacred, their food, goods and property are to be seized and burned down.
6. Houses, churches and charity institutions are to be set on fire and propaganda is to be spread to blame Muslims for the attacks.
7. Official government departments are to be set alight and Ottoman police and gendarme are to be ambushed and massacred.
8. Wounded Ottoman soldiers returning from the frontline are to be murdered.
9. Revolts and riots are to be instigated in cities, towns and villages.
10. Muslim soldiers and civilian population are to be forced to migrate by demoralization.
11. All Armenians are to be armed through production and importation of bombs and weapons.
12. Massacres committed by Armenians are to be blamed on the Muslims, and publication is to be ensured both nationally and especially internationally.
13. Spying and guidance is to be carried out on behalf of the Allied governments and armies

REFERENCES: GNKUR. ATASE ARCHIVE, NO: ½, KLS:528, DOS:2061, FİH: 21-18, NO: 4/3671  
ARAM TURABIAN, THE ARMENIAN VOLUNTEERS UNDER THE DRAPAUX FRENCH, MARCEILLES, 1917, PAGE 6

<sup>5</sup> Gnkur.Atase Arşivi, No: ½,Kls:528, Dos:2061,Fih:21-18,No: 4/3671; Aram Turabian, *Les Volontaires Arméniens Sous Les Drapaux Français*, Marceilles,1917, p. 6



From 1890 onwards Ottoman Armenians started rebellions in all corners of Anatolia. The map below shows all of the areas where riots were instigated by Armenians during World War I.



#### **MASSACRE OF TURKS BY ARMENIANS STARTED LONG BEFORE THEIR FORCED MIGRATION**

Armenians formed gangs in areas where they instigated riots and horrifically tortured and massacred women whose men were away in the army, the elderly and the children. Numerous mass graves of Turks were found in areas where the massacres took place. As well as committing massacres, Armenians made many attempts to harm the Ottoman Army. Armenians conscripted to the Ottoman Army fled with their weapons and joined the ranks of the enemy, their civilians and even their religious leaders spied on behalf of the enemy armies and Armenian bakers poisoned Ottoman troops with the bread they made.<sup>6</sup>



Turkish children and women slaughtered by Armenians and unborn babies cut out of their mothers' bellies, in the Subatan district of Kars

<sup>6</sup> *Ermeni Komitelerinin Amaçları ve İhtilal Hareketleri*, Genelkurmay Askeri Tarih ve Stratejik Etütler Başkanlığı Yayınları, Ankara 2003, p. 164.





Mass grave with the remains of about 20,000 Turks was found in the Kavakbaşı Village at the Mutki town of Bitlis.

As the slaughtering of innocent civilians by Armenian gangs continued, despite all the warnings from the Ottoman government, a decision on April 24 1915 was made to shut down Armenian Central Committees, to seize their documents and to arrest committee leaders. In this context 235 Armenian committee leaders in Istanbul were arrested along with the seizure of 19 Mauser guns, 74 Martini rifles, 111 Winchester guns, 96 mannlicher, 78 gira, 358 filovir, 3.591 pistols and 45.221 pistol bullets.

#### **THE DECISION OF FORCED MIGRATION AND THOSE EXEMPTED FROM IT**

Upon the continuance of betrayal and slaughter by Armenians, in spite of the decision to arrest the committee leaders, the Ottoman government came up with a decision on May 27, 1915 to remove those Armenians who were slaughtering civilians by forming gangs in an uproar, from the areas they were in rebellion and to transport them to places (like Damascus and Mosul), which were provinces within the borders of the Ottoman Empire.

However not all Armenians in Anatolia were subjected to migration and those that had to migrate were later allowed to return back to Anatolia. The Armenian Patriarch has himself made the following statement in regards to this issue on: "Istanbul Armenians and Armenians from the Kütahya and Aydın provinces were not forced to migrate. Armenians from İzmit and Bursa, Kastamonu, Ankara and Konya provinces were forced to migrate but have currently returned back. There are many Armenians in Kayseri and Sivas, Harput, Diyarbakir and especially in Kilikya and İstanbul who have returned but cannot make their way back to their villages. The remainder of all Erzurum and Bitlis Armenians are in Kilikya."<sup>7</sup>

In addition to the provinces mentioned above, rebellious Armenians in the eastern provinces of Kars and Van were also not a part of the forced migration as these regions were under Russian occupation, however, both during the occupation and after the withdrawal of the Russian army, Armenians of Kars and Van committed the biggest massacres in these two provinces.

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<sup>7</sup> Azmi Süslü, *Ermeniler ve 1915 Tehcir Olayı*, Yüzüncü Yıl Üniversitesi Yayını, Ankara, 1990, p.149-150 ; Yusuf Halaçoğlu, *Ermeni Tehciri ve Gerçekler(1914-1918)*, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları Sayı 90, Ankara, p. 62-63

Those who did not breach government orders in the defense of the country and who did not violate public order, those who were not spies, those who were Catholics and Protestants, soldiers, officers, deputies, military doctors, employees in the battalions, railway civil servants, laborers, servants and their families who were employed by Muslim families, whose loyalty was not in question, Muslims, and those in similar situations were not subjected to forced migration.<sup>8</sup>

## MEASURES TAKEN TO INSURE SAFETY OF THE DISPLACED ARMENIANS

The Interior Ministry of the Ottoman Government had taken various measures to protect the security of displaced Armenians and to ensure they reached their destination safely. Some of these measures included: Before the implementation of the forced migration policy, the Ottoman government sent a written order to all provinces, asking them to take all required precautions to meet the needs of the convoys passing through their areas and ordered food to be stocked for them.<sup>9</sup> Housing and Refugee Director Şükrü Bey was assigned in person for identifying and procuring all required necessities as well as allocating funds to the provinces to meet the needs of the convoys during transportation.<sup>10</sup>

Local administrations were to be responsible for the safety of the Armenians and their goods while they were being transported, the government was held responsible for allocating funds for their sustenance. All movable and non-movable possessions left behind by the deported Armenians were officially recorded and protected. A government delegation was formed to conduct auctions to sell movable goods that could be damaged. The proceeds were placed in a government trust on behalf of the owner for safekeeping. Specific information about the goods sold, such as the type, quantity, value, details of the purchaser was recorded in a special manuscript and once it was confirmed by the government delegation, records were prepared. The original documents were given to the government and an official copy was given to the 'Commission for the Goods Left Behind'. The Armenians who returned had received back the ownership of 98% of their movable and immovable properties.<sup>11</sup>

The Ministry of Interior also took measures to ensure that the deported Armenians reached their destinations safely. The main method of transportation used was trains and river boats. Almost all deportees from Western Anatolia were transported by train to their new location of settlement. Those who left via the city of Cizre were transported by trains and river boats called "shahtur". In regions where there were no trains or river transportation vehicles, the convoys were transported, with animals and carts, to certain centers and put on trains from there.

It has been confirmed by officials of foreign missions that the government, despite the difficult conditions and the lack of resources, transported the Armenians subjected to forced migration to their new settlements in an orderly manner. Edward I. Nathan, the US Consul in Mersin, sent the following report to Ambassador Henry Morgenthau on August 30, 1915: *"The whole route between Tarsus and Adana is filled with Armenians. From Adana onwards they purchase tickets and travel by train. Despite the misery and suffering caused as a result of the big crowds, the government is handling this situation in an extremely orderly manner; violence and*

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<sup>8</sup> Süslü, *ibid*, p.149-150; Yusuf Halaçoğlu, *Ermeni Tehciri ve Gerçekler (1914-1918)*, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları, Vol. 90, Ankara, 2001, p. 62-63

<sup>9</sup> Yusuf Halaçoğlu, *Ermeni Tehciri ve Gerçekler(1914-1918)*, Türk Tarih Kurumu Yayınları, Vol. 90, Ankara, 2001, p. 66; Dahiliye Nezareti Şifre Kalemi: No: 55-291, 55-341, 55-A/17, 55-A/77, 55-A/135, 57/110

<sup>10</sup> Halaçoğlu, *ibid*, p.66-67; Dahiliye Nezareti Şifre Kalemi: No: 55-A/17, 53/305

<sup>11</sup> Bülent Bakar, *Ermeni Tehciri*, Atatürk Araştırma Merkezi, Ankara, 2009, p. 200-212

disorder is not allowed. The migrants are provided with enough tickets, and help is provided for those in need."<sup>12</sup>

Edward I. Nathan's report dated September 11, 1915 is as follows:

*"Since the time I sent report number 478 (dated 30 August 1915) hundreds of thousands of more Armenians have reached here and are being sent to Aleppo. In the Damascus camp a hospital was set up for the sick. During my visit 50 patients were being treated there. According to the information I have received nobody has died in the camp, and the government is distributing food to all the exiles."*<sup>13</sup>

In their new settlements, Armenians were given homes with title deeds, cultivable land as well as tools to perform their professions and places to store their seeds. Additionally, debts owed to the government or to individuals by those Armenians subjected to forced migration were deferred or completely wiped off as well as prosecution of criminals and suspects were also postponed.<sup>14</sup>



<sup>12</sup> Halaçoğlu, *ibid*, p.58; Dahiliye Nezareti, Emniyet Umum Müdürlüğü 2.Şube, No: 2D/13

<sup>13</sup> US Archives NARA 867.4016/193, Copy No: 484

<sup>14</sup> Dahiliye Nezareti Şifre Kalemi: No. 54-A/226; Halaçoğlu, *ibid*, p. 67-68

## THE POPULATION OF ARMENIANS IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND THE NUMBER OF ARMENIANS RELOCATED

The number of all Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire, living in Anatolia<sup>15</sup> and those exempt from migration and those who were resettled<sup>16</sup> are shown below:

<b>NUMBER OF RELOCATED AND RESETTLED ARMENIANS</b>	
<b>Population of Armenians in Anatolia:</b>	<b>736,000</b>
<b>Population of Armenians who were relocated:</b>	<b>438,758</b>
<b>Population that reached the new settlements:</b>	<b>382,148</b>
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>56,610 *</b>
<b>*Those who died from typhoid fever and dysentery:25,000-30,000**</b>	
<b>Armenians killed by gangs in Aleppo, Diyarbakır, Erzurum, Mardin and Dersim:</b>	<b>9,500-10,000</b>
<b>Armenians who died and fled en route :</b>	<b>16,500</b>
<b>** The number of Ottoman soldiers who died as a result of illness during the same period:</b>	
	<b>466,759</b>
<b>REFERENCE: Ministry of Interior of The Ottoman Empire, Cipher No: 57/110</b>	

Jackson, the American Consul in Aleppo, has reported that there were 486,000 exiled Armenians recorded in a list dated February 3<sup>rd</sup>, later in his report dated February 8, 1916 he has stated that 500,000 exiled Armenians were in the migration region.<sup>17</sup> The report in question indicates that the majority of relocated Armenians reached their destination.

Court marshalls were established to investigate the allegations that some people attacked or mistreated the Armenians during migration. Of those judged, 1,397 people were prosecuted, and were sentenced to various penalties including the death penalty.<sup>18</sup> The proceedings were followed by Talat Pasha himself. However, although there were people who were genuinely guilty among those punished, as a result of the increase in the influence of the Armenian Church following the invasion of Istanbul by the British, the possibility that many innocent people were also punished must not be overlooked.

<sup>15</sup> Esat Uras, *Tarihte Ermeniler ve Ermeni Meselesi*, Türkiye Matbaacılık ve Gazetecilik A.O., Belge Yayınları, İstanbul, 1987, p.136-143

<sup>16</sup> Halaçoğlu, *ibid*, p. 72-77; Dahiliye Nezareti Emniyet Umum Müdürlüğü 2. Şube Arşivi 68/71, 68/80-83-84, 68/101, 57/110

<sup>17</sup> Hikmet Özdemir, Kemal Çiçek, Ömer Turan, Ramazan Çalık, Yusuf Halaçoğlu, *Ermeniler: Sürgün ve Göç*, Türk Tarih Kurumu yayınları, Ankara, 2004, p.75; US Archives NARA 867.48/271: Ek 310

<sup>18</sup> Süslü, *Ermeniler ve 1915 Tehcir Olayı*, *ibid*, p.147; Dışişleri Bakanlığı Arşivi, Hazine-i Evrak, Karton 178, Dosya:23

## THE DECREE TO STOP MIGRATION AND COMMENCE THE RETURN OF THOSE WILLING

From time to time, during the migration, there had also been instances where the transportation of exiles was stopped before they reached their intended final destinations and authorities instructed to resettle the Armenians in the provinces where they were currently at. In official documents it appears as if these Armenians did not reach their resettlement areas.<sup>19</sup>

An order to temporarily stop the migration due to winter, starting from November 25, 1915, was sent to the provinces<sup>20</sup> and on February 21, 1916 all the provinces were notified of the order to end the forced migration policy.<sup>21</sup> Twenty days after the initial order - to be specific on March 15, 1916, the Ottoman government issued a second general order to the provinces and districts, stating that the relocation of Armenians is to be halted and from then on there should be no migration of Armenians for any reason at all.<sup>22</sup>



Ministry of Interior's cypher telegram, dated 15 March 1916, in relation to put an end to the exile of Armenians.

<sup>19</sup> Halacoğlu, *Ermeni Tehciri ve Gerçekler...* *ibid.*, p. 81-82

<sup>20</sup> Dahiliye Nezareti Şifre kalemi, Şifre No: 57/273, 58/124, 58/161, 59/123, 60/190

<sup>21</sup> Halacoğlu, *Ermeni Tehciri ve Gerçekler...*, *ibid*, p.81

<sup>22</sup> Dahiliye Nezareti Şifre kalemi, Şifre No:62/21(EK-30)



After the end of World War-I, on January 4, 1919-the Ottoman government issued a decree allowing those Armenians who were subjected to migration to return back to their original settlements, should they wish to so. Necessary instructions were given to the relevant departments in relation to transferring the displaced Armenians and necessary precautions were taken for their return.<sup>23</sup>



Ministry of Interior's cypher telegram, dated January 4, 1919  
in relation to the return of exiled Armenians.

### ARMENIAN COOPERATION WITH ENEMY FORCES

After the decree of the Ottoman government, most of the Armenians who returned back to Anatolia collaborated with the French occupying forces, this time in order to fulfill their dream of establishing an independent Armenia in the East and South-East Anatolia. During the Turkish War of Independence a significant number of Armenians in Antep, Maraş and Adana were especially accommodated by the French. Young Armenians who had gone to Egypt from Musa Dagħ were gathered up and trained at "the Armenian Legion camp in Cyprus Monarga" and were

<sup>23</sup> Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi, Bab-ı âli Evrak Odası, Şifre No:341055

later sent back to Anatolia in French uniforms.<sup>24</sup> The support provided to the occupying French forces was expressed by Boghos Nubar Pasha with the following words:

*"... In 1919 and 1920, when the Kemalists carried out an offensive against the French troops, the Armenians fought for France. This was also the case in Maras, Haçin, Pozantı and Sis (Kozan). The French were able to take over Antep thanks to the Armenians. That is the reason why Armenians are France's ally in Cilicia."*<sup>25</sup>



Legion-Volunteers-from-Tomarza/Kayseri-fighting-in-the-Armenian-Legion-picture-taken-in-Cyprus

Russian historian İrandust in his work "Driving Forces of the Kemalist Revolution" expresses that during the war, Armenians under French authority, were focused on the goal of eradicating the Turkish population in Anatolia, with the following words:

*"Gendarme units composed of Dashnaks, which were formed by the French, embarked on mass murder campaign against the Turkish population... Armenian gangs, one by one slaughtered the entire population of villages. The exercise for the physical eradication of the Turkish population was carried out completely consciously under the governance of the occupiers."*<sup>26</sup>

Armenians also fought in the British army, against the Ottoman Empire, same as they did in the French army. In this regard, British Field Marshal Allenby, has mentioned that in the war he had with the Turks, in the south of Damascus, there were 8,000 Armenian fighters under his command.<sup>27</sup>

Essentially, during the collapse of the empire whenever there was war against Turks, Armenians joined the ranks of the enemy forces and fought against Turks and massacred civilian Turks: During the Balkan Wars, under the command of Antranik Ozanyan, as the Advance Guard Regiment of the Bulgarian Army,<sup>28</sup> in World War I as the Advance Guard Regiment of the Russian and British troops, and in the Turkish War of Independence as the Advance Guard Regiment of the

<sup>24</sup> Özdemir "et.al", *ibid*, p. 141

<sup>25</sup> US Archives, NARA; T1192, Roll 4, 860J.01/431; Özdemir "et. al", *ibid*, p. 137

<sup>26</sup> Mehmet Perinçek, *Rus Devlet Arşivlerinden 150 Belgede Ermeni Meselesi*, Kırmızı Kedi Yayınevi, İstanbul, 2012, p. 228, Belge No:100; İrandust, *Dvijuşie Silı Kemalistskoy Revolyutsii, Gosudarstvenoe İzdatelstvo*, Moskova,-Leningrad, 1928, p. 67,69

<sup>27</sup> Özdemir "et.al", *ibid*, p. 140 ; The New Near East, Volume 6, No 7, January 31, 1920, p. 28

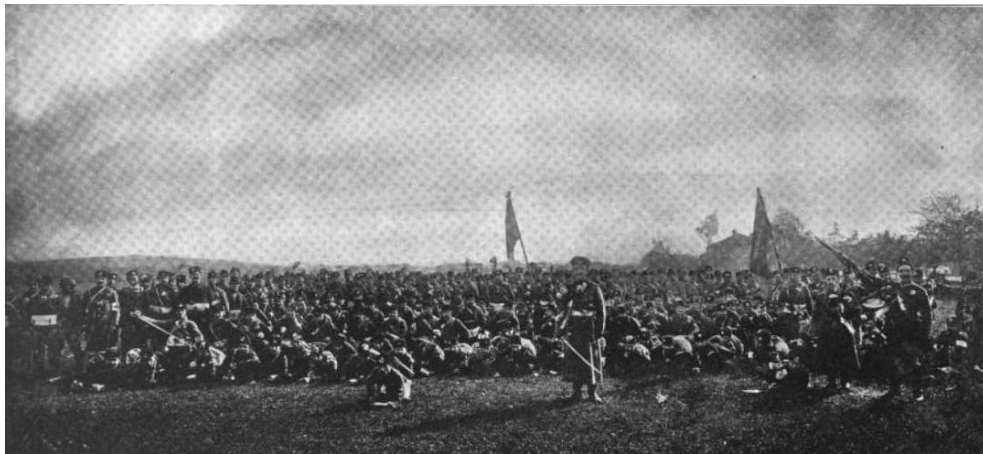
<sup>28</sup> Suzan Ertürk, I. Balkan Savaşı'nda Bulgar Ordusundaki Anadolu Ermenileri, *Türk Dünyası İncelemeleri Dergisi / Journal of Turkish World Studies*, XII/2 (Winter 2012), p.121-140



French troops. After the Mondros Armistice Treaty, they sought to destroy the Turkish population by collaborating with Greeks who were rebelling to establish a Greek Pontus State in the Black Sea Region, with the backing of England and Greece.<sup>29</sup>



Armenian Advance Guard Regiment Leading in front of the Russian army in the Caucasus Front



Volunteers of Antranik Ozanyan in the Bulgarian Army during the Balkan War

#### STATEMENTS MADE BY RUSSIAN AND ARMENIAN STATESMEN

Turks are not alone in the thought that the Ottoman Empire had justification to pass the decree of relocating the Anatolian Armenians. There are hundreds of official records in relation to Armenians joining enemy armies to fight against their own State. The official report dated February 6, 1915, which was sent to the Russian Foreign Ministry by Russia's Caucasus Governor Earl Varontsov Dashkov, excerpted below, is a remarkable example of demonstrating the level of Armenian betrayal: *"Armenian Representative of Zeitun Rebellion came to the Caucasian army*

<sup>29</sup> Zafer Çakmak, Mondros Mütarekesi Sonrası Ermeni-Rum-Yunan İşbirliği, *Fırat Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, Vol: 16, Issue: 2, , Elazığ-2006, p. 403-412

headquarters and informed us that approximately 15,000 Armenians were ready to attack the supply routes of the Turkish army.”<sup>30</sup>

As well as many foreign historians, some Armenian statesmen who lived in that period also accepted the legitimacy of the decisions taken by the Ottoman Empire in relation to forced migration. The report, of which a summary is given below, presented by Hovhannes Katchaznoui, the first Prime Minister of the Armenian State which was established in July 1918, during a Dashnaksuthiun Party meeting held in Bucharest in 1923<sup>31</sup>, also emphasizes that the Ottoman government was justified in its action<sup>31</sup>:

*"The winter of 1914 and first months of 1915, were a period of excitement and hope for the Russian Armenians including the Dashnaksutyun. We had embraced Russia wholeheartedly. Without any grounds to do so, we were caught up in an atmosphere of victory; in return for our loyalty, efforts and assistance, we were sure that the Russian Tsarist government was going to gift us an independent Armenia encompassing South Caucasus and Armenian vilayets to be liberated from Turkey. Our minds were foggy. By imposing our own desires onto others, giving great importance to empty promises of irresponsible people and with the impact of self-hypnosis we did not comprehend reality and got swept away in illusions.....but the Turks knew what they were doing, and today there is no reason for them to have any regrets."*<sup>32</sup>

A book named "The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksoution) Has Nothing to Do Any More" of which some parts were printed by the Armenian Intelligence Service in 1955, which also contained Hovhannes Katchaznoui's report, was banned in Armenia for revealing the truth. Copies printed in various languages, were also confiscated from European libraries by the Dashnaks in an attempt to hide the truth and facts about the incidents of 1915 from the world proving that they are trying to deceive the public with a fabricated lie of "genocide".

#### **MALTA EXILES AND THE EFFORTS OF THE BRITISH TO FIND DOCUMENTS AGAINST THE OTTOMAN GOVERNMENT**

After the occupation of Istanbul, the Allied Powers exiled the leaders of the 'Committee of Union and Progress' to the island of Malta. Then they mobilized Armenian translators working in their embassies and consulates, as well as British, French and American historians and lawyers to seek evidence to prove the Armenian claims. In spite of searching the Ottoman archives which were under the Allied Powers' control at the time, and their research conducted in the United States, Britain, France, Egypt, Iraq and the Caucasus, they could not come up with even the smallest document that could condemn the Ottoman Empire.

Indeed, this situation was reported to the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the British Embassy in Washington on July 13, 1921. The summary of that document is as follows:

*".....in the face of this situation and in the reports held by the American Foreign Ministry, I regret to inform your majesty that no evidence was found, in any nature, which can be used against the*

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<sup>30</sup> Perinçek, *Rus Devlet Arşivlerinden 150 Belgede Ermeni Meselesi*, *ibid*, p.141, Belge No: 55; RGVIA Fond 2100, liste 1, file 558, sheet 172

<sup>31</sup> Türkaya Ataöv, *An Armenian Source: Hovannes Katchaznoui*, *Ankara University Faculty of Political Science*, Ankara, 1985, p. 3-13

<sup>32</sup> Ovanes Kaçaznuni, *Taşnak Partisi'nin Yapacağı Bir Şey Yok*, Kaynak Yayınları, İstanbul, 2005, p. 4-5; *The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksoution) Has Nothing To Do Any More*, Armenian Information Service", New York, 1955

*Turks, there is no hope of obtaining anything in relation to this issue as a result of applying to the American government for a new investigation either.*<sup>33</sup> Ambassador R. C. Craigie

British Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested from the Royal Chief Prosecutor "if there was no grounds for a judicial trial, then could they conduct a political trial?" against the exiled Turks in Malta, but was unable to persuade the Attorney General. In a letter dated July 21, 1921, Royal Prosecutor General's Office informed the British Government flatly that with "the evidence in hand" none of the exiled Turks in Malta can be punished for any Armenian massacres. As a result of this, the British Government was forced to release the Turks imprisoned in Malta.<sup>34</sup>

### AMERICAN RESEARCH COMMITTEES

Under the orders of the US President Woodrow Wilson, a committee was formed on April 15, 1919 with the aim of conducting investigations inside the Ottoman Empire. The committee comprised of Hencry C. King and Charles R. Crane. Without waiting for the results of the King-Crane committee, President Wilson had sent another 12 person committee to Anatolia under the leadership of General James G. Harbord.<sup>35</sup>

As a result of their investigations, the US committee concluded that the events which took place in the region were completely different than the accounts of the Armenians. Harbord had specifically met with Armenians in the Erzurum province and questioned whether a massacre had been committed towards them. The Armenians responded via the translators in Harbord's committee that no such event had taken place.

During Harbord's analysis in the region, he personally witnessed the remnants of a massacre committed against Muslims at the hands of the Armenians. It was determined that in Hasankale alone, 43 villages were decimated by Armenians.<sup>36</sup>

Harbord's report concluded that a massacre of the Armenians by the Turks had not taken place. In fact, it was observed that it was the Turkish people who had been massacred. The King-Crane report contained similar observations. However, these reports were never presented to the US public and they still remain undercover.<sup>37</sup>

### THE PROPOSED INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE BY THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

The Ottoman Empire proposed on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1919 the creation of an independent commission to investigate the forced migration of Armenians. The proposed commission was to comprise of two people from each of Sweden, Holland, Spain and Denmark. But these states refused the Ottoman Empire's proposal on May 6, 1919.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> British Foreign Office Papers, Public Record Office No: 371/6504/E.8515: Craigie, British Chargé d'Affaires et Washington, to Lord Curzon, No:722 of July 13, 1921

<sup>34</sup> Uluç Gürkan, *Malta Yargılaması, Özgün İngiliz Belgeleriyle*, Kaynak Yayınları, İstanbul, 2014

<sup>35</sup> Nurşen Mazıcı, *ABD'nin Güney Kafkasya Politikası Olarak Ermenistan Sorunu*, Pozitif Yayınları, İstanbul, 2005, p. 54

<sup>36</sup> Şenol Kantarcı, *Amerika Birleşik Devletlerinde Ermeniler ve Ermeni Lobisi*, Aktüel yayınları, İstanbul, 2004, p. 149-150

<sup>37</sup> Mazıcı, *ibid*, p. 56-57

<sup>38</sup> Osmanlı Arşivi, Hariciye Nezareti, Mütareke, No: 43/17(EK-XX)

## THE TURKISH-ARMENIAN RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE AND THE EFFORTS OF THE TURKISH-ARMENIAN PLATFORM

The Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Committee (TARC) was formed on July 9, 2001 as part of the reconciliation efforts of the US, Russia and the European Union.

The committee was disbanded on November 11, 2001 after the Armenian representatives collectively withdrew from the committee<sup>39</sup>. Subsequently the committee was formed once again to continue its efforts. However, due to the lack of progress the committee ceased its work in 2003.

In the following period the Viennese Armenian-Turkish Platform was formed and in July of 2004, the Turkish and Armenian representatives began exchanging documents with the aim of conducting research. As part of this exchange, the Turkish representatives provided the Armenians with 99 documents which were obtained from the American, German, French and Austrian archives. When the Armenian representatives did not attend the meeting, their documents were presented to the Turkish representatives by Prof. Dr. Artem Ohandjanian the member from Vienna until Aug 3, 2004.<sup>40</sup>

By December 31, 2004, The Turkish representatives proposed the exchange of an additional 80 documents. A meeting was agreed to take place in the first half of 2005. In October of 2005, the Armenian representatives had requested additional time as the “documents in Ottoman language had not been translated yet”. After the Turkish representatives proposed for the translation of the documents<sup>41</sup> the Armenian representatives did not even respond to this proposal. Due to the negative attitude of the Armenians, these efforts also ended unsuccessfully.

### FRAUDEULENT DOCUMENTS AND PICTURES MANUFACTURED BY THE ARMENIANS

In order to prove the allegations of genocide, Armenians have often resorted to manufacturing of fraudulent documents and pictures.

The first such attempts were committed by Arsak Simavonyan, the interpreter to the US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau as well as Agop Andonyan, the clerk of the Ambassador. The duo created false reports about imaginary events and present them to the Ambassador. Despite not having even travelled via land outside of Istanbul during his term in office, Morgenthau followed the events relating to the Anotolian Armenians via the reports of this interpreter and clerk and forwarded them to the US Foreign Affairs department. The reports were subsequently published with the title of “Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story” and are used to this day by the Armenians as if they were real evidence of the “genocide”. In actual fact, the book was not even written by Morgenthau but by Burton J. Hendrick for a fee of \$15,000.<sup>42</sup> When the contents of the book are compared to Morgenthau’s personal journal, the misinformation and fraud becomes apparent. Heath Lowry’s book “The Story Behind Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story” provides details about the misinformation in Morgenthau’s book.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Kamer Kasım, Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Commission: Missed Opportunity, *Ermeni Araştırmaları Enstitüsü Dergisi*, Vol. 4, Aralık 2001, January-February 2002

<sup>40</sup> İnanç Atılğan - Garabet Moumdjian, *Archival Documents of the Viennese Armenian-Turkish Platform*, **Bentley University Academic CENTER**, Los Angeles, California, 2009, p. 22-23

<sup>41</sup> Diplomatik Gözlem: <http://www.diplomatikgozlem.com/TR/belge/1-6082>, Erişim: 2 Şubat 2010

<sup>42</sup> Şükrü Server Aya, *Preposterous Paradoxes of Ambassador Morgenthau*, Belfast, 2013, p. 11-15-182

<sup>43</sup> Heath Lowry, *The story Behind Ambassador Morgenthau's Story*, The Isis Press, İstanbul, 1990

Another example of fraud is found in the book titled “Naim Bey’in Hatıraları” (The Memoirs of Naim Bey) written by Aram Andonyan about Naim Bey who allegedly lived in Aleppo. The telegraphs in the book that are claimed to be from Talat Pasha have been proven to be forgeries.<sup>44</sup>

The signatures on documents that are claimed to belong to the mayor of Aleppo, Mustafa Abdulhalik were also found to be forgeries. Furthermore, the actual mayor of Aleppo during that period was not Mustafa Abdulhalik but actually Bekir Sami Bey.

The document manufactured by the Armenians did not take into consideration the differences between the Gregorian and Rumi calendars and do not correspond to the numbering system used in the Ottoman archives. As an example, based on a date in one of the documents, its number should have been allocated a number after 502. Instead the documents received the number 1181. This number actually coincides with a real document in relation to the construction of a well in the Sinai desert. Furthermore, formal communications of the Ottoman state would use papers with official letterheads. However, the documents of Andonyan were written on normal paper (used by French schools at the time). They also reference to a government officer by the name of Naim Bey who allegedly lived in Aleppo at the time.<sup>45</sup> When you search the Archives of the Ottoman Empire it is easily realized that there is no evidence of the appointment of a man named Naim Bey to Aleppo. It is quite possible that no Naim Bey ever existed. The documents which were manufactured by the Armenians also contained incorrect language and grammar that would be impossible for Ottoman officials to have used.<sup>46</sup>

Foreigners such as the Dutch historian Erik Zürcher, Michael M. Gunter and Andrew Mango also believe that the Andonyan documents are fraudulent.<sup>47</sup>

The Armenians committed other acts of manufacturing fraudulent documents. In a speech given by Hitler in Germany to his generals in Obersalzberg, a week prior to his attack on Poland on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1939, the addition of some words supposedly in relation to the Armenians was made; but in reality no such words were uttered by Hitler.

During that speech, Hitler had stated “I have given orders to my death units to exterminate without mercy or pity men, women and children, belonging to the Polish-speaking race”. According to the Armenians, Hitler had also used a phrase: “Who after all, remembers today the extermination of the Armenians”. In actual fact there is no reference to such words in the minutes of the meeting<sup>48</sup>. In the post war Nuremberg trials, Hitler’s speeches were categorised as USA-29 and USA-30, but none of these versions contain the alleged words in relation to the Armenians.<sup>49</sup>

The Armenians also tried to use Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in their efforts to manufacture fraudulent documents. They referenced a book by the French author Paul du Veou and claimed that Mustafa Kemal Atatürk had testified as a witness in the Divan-ı Harb-i Örfi (Post War Courts) in Istanbul and had said that the Turks had massacred the Armenians.

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<sup>44</sup> Guenter Lewy, “Ermeni Sorununu Yeniden Tartışmak”, *Ermeni Araştırmaları*, Vol 18, Ankara, Summer 2005

<sup>45</sup> Şinasi Orel and Süreyya Yuca, *The Talat Pasha Telegrams, Historical Fact or Armenian Fiction?*, Nicosia, 1983

<sup>46</sup> Orly Saldırısı Davası (19 Şubat-2 Mart 1985), Şahit ve Avukat beyanları, Ankara Üniversitesi, *Siyasal Bilgiler Fakültesi*, Ankara, 1985, p. 42

<sup>47</sup> Erick Jan Zürcher, *Turkey: A Modern History*, London, 1997, p. 121

<sup>48</sup> Türkkaya Ataöv, “Hitler and the Armenian Question”, *Ankara University Faculty of Political Science*, Ankara, 1984, p. 3-11

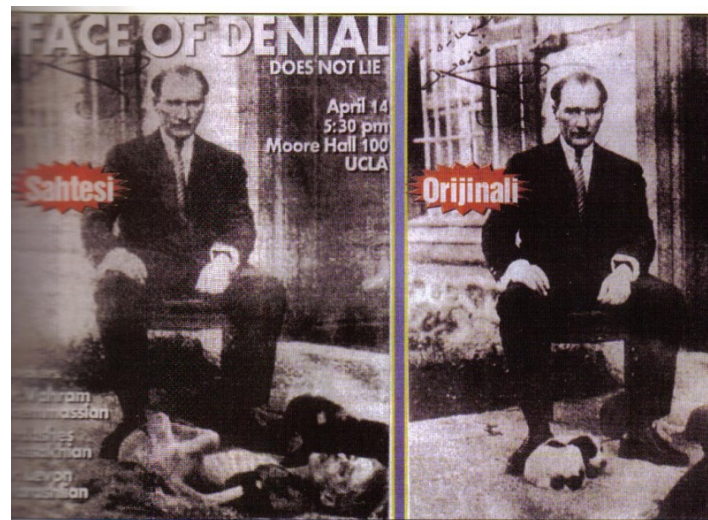
<sup>49</sup> Orly Saldırısı Davası (19 Şubat-2 Mart 1985), Şahit ve Avukat beyanları, Ankara Üniversitesi, *Siyasal Bilgiler Fakültesi*, Ankara, 1985, p. 46

It is probable that the French author Paul du Veou was influenced by a false article in the *Le Bosphore* and *La Renaissance* newspapers which were publications under the control of the triple entente powers during 1919-1920 when Istanbul was under their occupation. The article was titled “Declaration de Mustafa Kemal” and contained false information which influenced the author leading him to use it as a footnote without attaining its veracity. This information was subsequently used by the Armenian priest Jean Nasliyan.

The Armenian priest Nasliyan had in fact made the mistake of mixing up Mustafa Kemal with “Suleymaniyeli Mustafa Pasa” (Mustafa Pasha from Suleymaniye). Prior to his book’s publication, the Armenian author Guerguerian became aware of the mistake and informed Nasliyan. Despite his tip off, the mistake was not removed from the book.<sup>50</sup>

Furthermore, “The Armenian Review” a Boston based Armenian publication was forced to accept that Atatürk had not made such a testimony in response to an article by James Tashjian in the autumn of 1982. The article was titled “Atatürk’e Yanlışlıkla Atfedilen Beyan”, (translates to “The testimony that was wrongfully attributed to Atatürk”).<sup>51</sup> However, the Armenians continued to propagate this misinformation in circles where accurate knowledge of the real events is scarce even to this day.

The Armenians who attributed this false testimony to Atatürk committed a further act of fraud in 2005. During a massacre focused panel at the UCLA (University of California in Los Angeles), Armenian Americans displayed a picture of Atatürk in front of a dead body. This photo was originally of Atatürk with puppies around his feet and was sent to his wife Latife Hanım. The photo was altered to replace the puppy with the image of a dead child in order to paint Atatürk as the perpetrator of a “genocide”. The original and the fake versions of the photograph are below:



Another example of photos being manipulated was a photo published in the book titled “The Great Game of Genocide, Imperialism, Nationalism and the Destruction of the Ottoman Armenians” by the author Donald Bloxham, published by Oxford University Press in 2005.

The below photo that is presented in the Yerevan Genocide Museum as part of the St Lazar Mkhitarian exhibition has the caption “Turkish official teases starving Armenian kids with a loaf of

<sup>50</sup> Şenol Kantarcı, “Ermenilerce Atatürk’e Atfedilen Sözler ve Divan-ı Harb-i Örfi ile Ermeni Teröristleri Tarafından Şehit Edilenlere Atatürk’ün Gösterdiği İlgi”, *Ermeni Araştırmaları Dergisi*, Vol. 4, p. 92-121, Ankara, 2002

<sup>51</sup> Orly Saldırısı Davası, *ibid*, p. 47



bread". The Australian historian Professor Jeremy Salt became suspicious of the alleged Ottoman official's outfit. Instead of wearing a shirt without a collar and the fez, he was depicted as wearing a jacket and tie. He also became suspicious of the disproportionality of people's arms and legs. Consequently, he instructed that the photos be investigated by experts.

When the photo was analysed and its pixels were enlarged by a factor of 2.400, it was determined that it was made up of numerous other photos and was in fact fake.

When Professor Salt took the matter to the Federation of Turkish Associations in the UK, the General Coordinator of the federation and the head of the committee for dealing with unsubstantiated claims, Ms. Servet Hassan sent a letter of complaint dated October 19, 2009 to Mr. Christopher Wheeler, the Editor of Oxford Publications. Wheeler responded on the 2nd of November and indicated that they had made a mistake. They had determined that the photo was in fact made up of a montage of other photos and consequently a fake. He also indicated that the remaining copies of the book in stock were destroyed. However, the book had already been distributed to numerous libraries around the world and continues to be presented to readers.



The Armenians continue to fabricate fake photos in published books. The book displayed below, titled "Der Völkermord an den Armeniern vor Gericht" depicts a heap of skulls and a picture of Talat Pasha on the top left hand corner of the cover. The implication is that Talat Pasha was responsible for the massacre of these innocent people. Inside the cover of the book is an inscription stating "It is without any doubt that the photo of a pyramid of skulls was taken circa 1916/1917 in West Anatolia and depicts the brutality of the Turks".

In actual fact, the photo has no relation to Armenians. It is not even a photograph. It is an oil on canvas painting, still exhibited in the Tretyakov National Gallery in Moscow<sup>52</sup>. It was painted by Russian painter Vasili Vasilyevic Verescagin in 1871, 44 years prior to the Armenians' relocation.

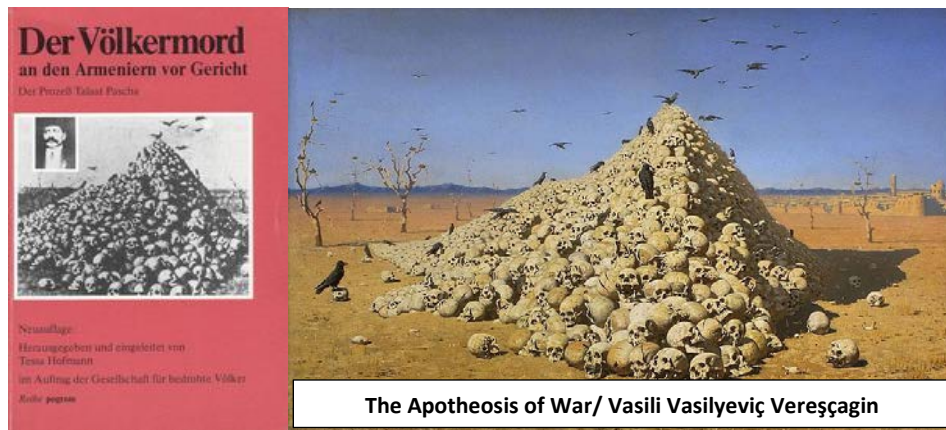
The same picture was used by Tessa Hofmann in her book "Der Prozess Talaat Pascha" which references court records relating to Talat Pasha. Obviously, fraudulent documents and images are being utilised to bolster the Armenian claims either knowingly or without investigating the veracity of such artefacts.

**Why would they revert to such tactics if they themselves did not know, deep down in their hearts that their claims were untrue?**

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<sup>52</sup> Türkkiye Ataöv, An Armenian Falsification, Sevinç Matbaası, 1985, p. 16-19





Another example of the fraudulent behaviour involves presenting the photographs of Turks that the Armenians themselves massacred in 1991 as if they were photographs of Armenians massacred by the Turks in 1915. Eduar Pariyants portrayed Turkish children who were massacred by the Armenians during the “Khojaly genocide” in 1991 as if they were photos of Armenian victims from 1915 in “V Novom Svete”, a New York based publication in Russian. According to a news item from the APA Agency, this fact was discovered by Felix Tzertvadze, a Florida resident who has written books about the Armenian acts of terror. Upon seeing the photos of the “Khojaly genocide” victims, Mr. Tzertvadze contacted and notified the Azerbaijani government authorities.<sup>53</sup> A similar event took place in an exhibition in Germany. But the genocide museum in Yerevan continues to exhibit images of this nature.

#### THE NUMBERS OF TURKS WHO WERE MASSACRED IN 4 PROVINCES OF EASTERN ANATOLIA DURING 1912-1922

According to History Professor Justin McCarthy, 18% (2.5 million) of the Muslim population of Anatolia had lost their lives during 1912-1922. The number of Turks who were killed in the eastern provinces alone was 1,189,132. The spread of the number of massacred people across the provinces is listed below:<sup>54</sup>

PROVINCE*	POPULATION MASSACRED	PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE MASSACRED
VAN	194,167	% 62
BİTLİS	169,248	% 42
ERZURUM	248,695	% 31
DİYARBAKIR	158,043	% 26
MAMURAT-İL AZİZ	89,310	% 16
SİVAS	186,413	% 15
HALEP	50.838	% 9
ADANA	42,511	% 7
TRABZON	49,907	% 4
TOTAL	1,189,132	% 24

\* The provinces in the table span across 19 provinces of Turkey based on its current borders.

<sup>53</sup> T.C. Başbakanlık Basın yayın ve Enformasyon Genel Müdürlüğü ; “Bir Ermeni Sahtekârlığı Daha”, Gün Seher Gazetesi, Bakü, 30 Ekim 2007.

<sup>54</sup> Justin McCarthy, *Ölüm ve Sürgün*, Çeviren: Bilge Umar, İnkılap Yayınları, Ankara, 1995, p. 273; Haluk Selvi, *Geçmişten Günümüze Ermeni Sorunu ve Avrupa*, Sakarya Üniversitesi Türk-Ermeni İlişkileri Araştırma Merkezi Yayını, Sakarya, 2006, p.102.

Upon the examination of the numbers provided by Prof. McCarthy, it can be seen that 31% of the Muslim population in the province of Erzurum, 42% of Bitlis and 62% of Van were massacred. In order to avoid criticisms which may suggest that he overstated the numbers, McCarthy opted to use numbers that would oppose his thesis. As such, it can be assumed that the numbers presented above are in actual fact lower than the actual number of Muslim deaths.”<sup>55</sup>

Aside from the massacres that took place in Turkey, another 413,000 Turks and Muslims were massacred in the Trans Caucasus region covering Tiflis, Kutaisi, Kars and Yerevan. Upon adding the 1,189,132 Turks and Muslims who were massacred in Anatolia during 1912-1922 to the 413,000 massacred in the Trans Caucasus region, the total number of Turks and Muslims massacred reaches 1,602,132.<sup>56</sup>

Furthermore, the situation faced by the Turks was quite different from that which was faced by the Armenians. A vast number of the Armenian deaths were attributed to diseases and the general war conditions faced during their relocation. In contrast, the Turks were the targets of racially motivated, torture and attacks by the Armenians who massacred them.<sup>57</sup>



Kars'ta Ermeni'ler tarafından ayakları başlarına bağlanarak katledilen Türk'ler  
Turks, killed by the Armenians in Kars by having their legs tied to their heads.

<sup>55</sup> McCarthy, *ibid*, p. 380

<sup>56</sup> McCarthy, *ibid*, p. 265

<sup>57</sup> Enver Konukçu, *Ermenilerin Yeşilyayla'daki Türk Soykırımı (11-12 Mart 1918)*, Atatürk Üniversitesi Rektörlüğü Yayını No: 674, Ankara, 1990, p.18-26- 54-57-68-91-93

## TURKS FORCED TO MIGRATE IN ORDER TO ESCAPE FROM ARMENIAN MASSACRES

Besides those who were murdered, a significant proportion of the Turkish population who were subjected to Armenian cruelty was forced to flee their land and thus they became refugees. The following table shows the number by region of Turks who were forced to migrate as per Prof. Dr. Justin McCarthy who is also a demographics expert:<sup>58</sup>

RESIDING REGION	MIGRATION PLACE	POPULATION MIGRATED
TRABZON- EAST OF ERZURUM	SAMSUN	79,100
ERZURUM	SİVAS	300,000
EAST AND SOUTH OF ERZURUM – VAN	MAMURAT-ÜL AZİZ	80,000
VAN-BİTLİS	DİYARBAKIR	200,000
TOTAL OF 4 CITIES		659,100
SEVERAL REGIONS	DİĞER İLLERE	43,800
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>702,900</b>

A document obtained from the archives of the Directorate General of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic, dated June 7, 1919 states that: “More than a million Turks and Muslims from the provinces of Erzurum, Trabzon, Bitlis, Van and the county of Erzincan were forced to migrate towards the hinterlands, without basic human needs or government support. During this exodus, due to Armenians’ attacks which grew vicious with each passing day 701.166 of the refugees died”. When the estimated 300.000 Muslim population which is not listed in the official records is added to the above numbers from the four provinces listed above, the death toll would reach one million people”.<sup>59</sup>

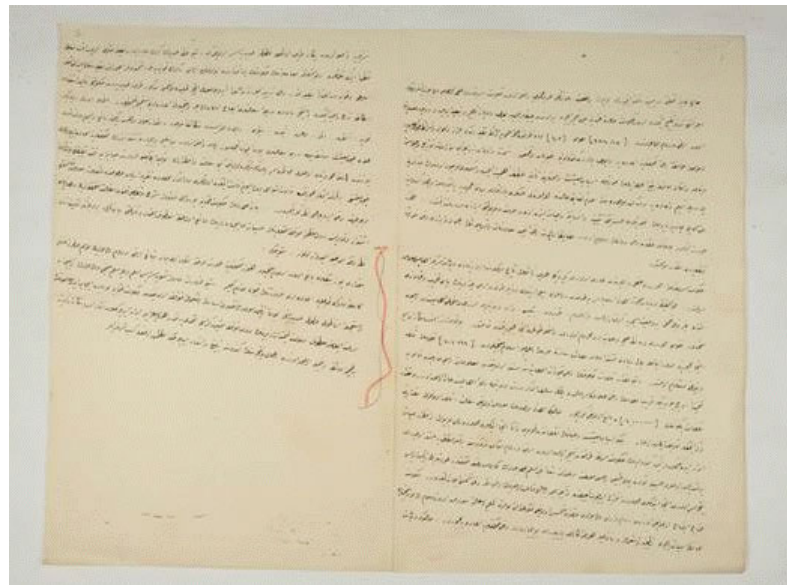
It’s worth noting the document only gives information from the four provinces and one county. Once the migration figures from the other eastern provinces are also added, the total migration figure exceeds 1.5 million. In its edition dated May 11, 1919, the ‘Tasvir-i Efkâr’ Newspaper reported the number of Turks to have migrated as a result of the Armenian-led Russian invasion on Turkish provinces to be 1,604.031<sup>60</sup> and out of this, the number of Turks who died fleeing Armenian cruelty and Russian invasion to be 701,166.

The deaths listed in this document matches identically to the earlier-mentioned document obtained from the archives of the Directorate General of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Turkish Republic, dated June 7, 1919 and confirms that 69.5% of the Muslim population has been forced to flee the region. However, this figure only represents the Turks who died during migration. Once the 518,105 Turks and Muslims who were murdered by Armenians in their regions – of which the identity of the murderers and the victims and the nature of the killings have been noted in Ottoman documents – as well as the 413.000 Turks and Muslims murdered in Caucasia, the total Turks and Muslims killed by Armenians reaches 1,931,105.

<sup>58</sup> McCarthy, *ibid*, p. 265

<sup>59</sup> Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi Hariciye Nezareti Siyasi Kısmı: 2487/10, 8 N.1337 (June 7, 1919)

<sup>60</sup> Ömer Lütfi Taşcıoğlu, “Belgelere Göre Türk-Ermeni İlişkilerinde Katliam ve Soykırım İddiaları”, Gazi Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü PhD. thesis, June 24, 2014, p. 276-277; Tuncay Öğün, *Unutulmuş Bir Göç Trajedisi Vilayat-ı Şarkîye Mültecileri (1915-1923)*, Babil Yayıncılık, Ankara, 2004, p. 37”; Müslüman Muhacirler”, Tasvir-i Efkâr, 11 May 1919, p. 2



Ottoman Archives in the Office of the Prime Minister, dated June 7, 1919

In view of the findings mentioned above, Bruce Fein, the legal advisor to former US President Ronald Reagan made the following statement in support of the notion that the number of Turks who were murdered by Armenians during the World War-I, far exceeds the figures presented above: *“The White House conducted an investigation in 1981, which found Armenians murdered more than two million Turks. Once we add the Turks who were forced to flee from invasion and the massacre, the total loss of Turks in the First World War reaches 2,400,000. The most important matter here is the betrayal of the Armenians. The Ottomans defended themselves. In the US particularly, Armenians are benefiting from the genocide lie. And because of the financial interests, the US politicians do not reject the desires of their Armenian constituents. The Armenians are insisting on not releasing their own archives located in Boston. Because they don’t want to give up the return they’ve gained from the genocide lie for years. When all archives are released, the truth will be revealed...”*<sup>61</sup>

#### A COMPARISON BETWEEN DEATHS OF TURKS AND ARMENIANS AND THE ARMENIAN DESIRES FOR MORE LAND

A comparison between the Armenians who were forced to migrate during World War-I and the Turks and Muslims who were forced to migrate in the same time frame as a result of the Armenian massacre and Russian invasion reveals the following table:

ARMENIAN DEATHS	
ACCORDING TO POPE VAHAN VARDAPET	280,000
ACCORDING TO KARA SCHEMSI	250,000
ACCORDING TO OTTOMAN EMPIRE ARCHIVES	56,610
TURKISH AND MUSLIM DEATHS	
ACCORDING TO BRUCE FEIN	2,400,000
ACCORDING TO KARA SCHEMSI	2,000,000
ACCORDING TO PROF. JUSTIN McCARTHY	1,602,132*
ACCORDING TO OTTOMAN EMPIRE ARCHIVES	1,931,105**

<sup>61</sup> Bruce Fein , “Lies, Damn Lies And Armenian Deaths”, Huffpost World, June 4, 2009

\* 413.000 of this amount belongs to the Turks and Muslims who were killed in Caucasia

What can be seen from the figures presented above, which are based on real evidence, is that during the years of World War-I and its aftermath, the number of Turks and Muslims who were killed during war, migration and the Armenian massacre, far exceeds the number of Armenians who were killed while being forced to migrate. However, Armenians have been successful in playing the victim role, and increased the number of their deaths from an exaggerated figure of 600,000 as claimed in their billboards of 1965 to 1.5 million, and in some places to 2.0 or 2.5 million nowadays. The parliaments of various countries which pass resolutions on the Armenian allegations take the Armenian figures as reference.

Prof. Dr. Justin McCarthy has stated that; *“during this period in history, the number of Armenians living in Anatolia was 750,000 and that most had migrated to other countries before the war. He further states that if the assumption that Turks massacred all Armenians living in Anatolia at the time – which is asserted to be 1,500,000 – then each Armenian would have had to be killed twice, and this is impossible”*.<sup>62</sup>

Armenians continued the massacre of Turks following the World War-1. Taking advantage of the Armistice of Mondros dated October 30, 1918, and the Turkish military’s withdrawal back to the 1914 borders, the Armenians destroyed 38 villages in Kars and the surrounding areas, massacring 14,620 people. Following the massacre of 11,000 Turks in Sarıkamış, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey declared the country was at war. The Turkish military, led by Kâzım Karabekir Pasha, captured Sarıkamış, Kars and then on November 7<sup>th</sup> Gyumri. Following the ceasefire request from the Armenians, the Gyumri Agreement was signed with Armenia on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1920.

Following the Sakarya victory, and with the mediation of Soviet Russia, the Soviet Union’s states of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia signed the Treaty of Kars with the newly established Turkish Grand National Assembly of Mustafa Kemal, on 13 October 1921. It was also stated that the previously signed Treaty of Moscow dated March 16, 1921 between the Turkish Government and Soviet Russia would also be in effect for the three Soviet Union states. However, the Armenian parliament passed a resolution on December 6, 1989 terminating the Treaty of Moscow, which had set up the existing border between Turkey and Armenia, and illegally voiding the border agreement between the two countries.

The Republic of Armenia still refuses to recognise its border with Turkey. The Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Armenia refers to 19 provinces in Turkey as Western Armenia and lists them as if they belong to Armenia. The Armenian constitution states in section 13, that *“the coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia includes . . . Mount Ararat . . .”* (which has been within the boundaries of Turkey for centuries).

### **ASSASSINATION OF TURKISH DIPLOMATS BY ARMENIANS**

Ten years prior to the forced migration of 1915, the assassination of Abdülhamit II marked the start of the Armenian attempts to kill Turkish statesmen, which later included the murders of Talat Pasha, Sait Halim Pasha, Bahattin Sakir, Cemal Azmi, Cemal Pasha and Enver Pasha, as well as an attempted assassination on Atatürk. In modern times, Armenians additionally carried out 110 terrorist acts, aiming to kill Turkish government officials serving in Turkish Diplomatic Missions Abroad.

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<sup>\*\*</sup> One million of this amount belongs to the Turks and Muslims who lost their lives while escaping from the Russian occupation and Armenian massacres, 518,105 of this amount belongs to the Turks and Muslims who were killed by Armenians in their quarters and 413,000 of this amount belongs to the Turks and Muslims who were killed in the Caucasia.

<sup>62</sup> Justin McCarthy, “ Turkish-Armenian Relations”, TASAM 3. Dünya Türk Forumu, Trakya Üniversitesi, Edirne, May 29, 2014



Following the assassination of Turkey's Consul-General in Los Angeles Mehmet Baydar, as well as Consul Bahadır Demir on January 27, 1973 in Santa Barbara (California) by an elderly Armenian named Gourgen Yanikian. A total of 42 Turks and 4 non-Turks were murdered, as well as 15 Turks and 66 non-Turks were injured across 38 cities in 21 countries, between 1973 and 1984, in the hands of Armenians.



**Turkish diplomats and relatives killed by Armenians**

## **ARMENIAN THREATS AND TERROR DIRECTED TOWARDS FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARIANS AND HISTORIANS**

In addition to assassinating Turkish diplomats all over the world capitals, Armenians have also been pressuring and threatening foreign parliamentarians and academicians. Despite the rejection of the Vandemeulebroucke report claiming that a supposed genocide occurred, it was added illegally to the agenda of the European Union General Assembly following threats and pressure by the Armenians. The resolution was approved as a result of Armenians making their way into the Parliament and intimidating parliamentarians who had opposed the report and the draft of the resolution. Speaking during the debate, German parliamentarian Wedekind outlined he had been threatened at gunpoint, and couldn't continue with the meeting under the circumstances.<sup>63</sup> Armenians have carried out similar intimidations and illicit activities at all parliaments where the Armenian issue has been debated.

Another group of intellectuals who have been subjected to Armenian pressure and threats are foreign academicians - especially historians. In 1984, following a declaration by 69 foreign historians that the genocide claims are without basis and untrue, the signatories were threatened by Armenians. Other academicians who were researching the Armenian case were silenced through dubious means. A media campaign was started against Prof. Heath Lowry who was doing advisory work for a Turkish Embassy; Professor Bernard Lewis was sued in court for stating (based on his research) that the Armenian genocide claim was untrue; and attempts were made for the sacking

<sup>63</sup> Pulat TACAR, Avrupa Parlamentosunun 1987 Yılında Aldığı, *Ermeni Araştırmaları*, Vol.18, Summer 2005

of Prof. Dr. Justin McCarthy from the university where he worked.<sup>64</sup> Following Prof. Dr. Stanford J. Shaw's claims that no genocide took place against the Armenians, he was subjected to threats, his classroom was raided by Armenians and his house in Los Angeles was bombed. Fearing his life, Professor Shaw was forced to seek asylum in Turkey.<sup>65</sup> Above mentioned examples prove that Armenians do not have the maturity level even to face realities.

### **ARMENIANS RAISING THEIR NEW GENERATION AS HATERS OF TURKS AND TURKEY**

Armenians are not only distorting the truth but are also raising their younger generations to be anti-Turkish. Children as young as 5 are taken to the Armenian Genocide memorial complex in Yerevan, and are brainwashed by a bombardment of fake documents, photos as well as visual and audio - effects.

Turkey has been compliant with the United Nations' "Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's Convention to eliminate hate speech" and UNESCO's criteria to eliminate racial prejudice, and has even taken out of its educational curriculum expressions that could offend other countries and races. The Armenian educational curriculum is full of baseless claims against Turks, as well as coarse language, accusations and hate speech.<sup>66</sup> It is beyond belief how countries who claim to be friends with Turkey have adopted the baseless claims and accusations in Armenia's educational curriculum into their own.

The fact that primary school children in Armenia are subjected to step on the Turkish flag – as illustrated by the photograph below – is evidence of their approach.



<sup>64</sup> Justin McCarthy, Bırakın Tarihçiler Karar Versin, *Ermeni Araştırmaları*, Vol.1, March-April-May, 2001

<sup>65</sup> Vefat Eden Bilim Adamları, *Ermeni Araştırmaları*, Vol. 23-24, 2006

<sup>66</sup> Yılmaz, "Ermenistan Cumhuriyeti'nde Okutulan 10. Sınıf Tarih Ders Kitabında Türkler Aleyhine İfadeler ...", *ibid*, p.116-129



## CONCLUSION

Prior to and during World War-I (1914-1918), Armenian Ottomans joined enemy forces in rebellion, fought against the Turkish army as the advance guard of the Bulgarian, Russian, English and French militaries. Some of them subsequently formed armed gangs and massacred civilians. Such acts amount to treason in the Criminal Law of the aforementioned states – both in the time they were committed and today. In all of these states, this offence according to law is punishable by the death penalty, but the Turks chose to relocate them from the war zone instead.

In spite of all, the Ottoman Government forgave the Armenian rebels. However, those who were forgiven rebelled again, and provided assistance to the enemy forces and continued to massacre civilians. Once the Armenian rebellion reached a point that it would affect the outcome of the war, and the number of civilian deaths was beginning to shape the structure of the local population, the Ottomans were forced to evacuate those rebellious Armenians to lands away from the war zone but within its boundaries.

We constantly see references in the news, in books and in films how the perishing of some Armenians due to the relocation decision of the Ottoman Government constituted genocide, however, **there is never any reference to the genocide-like mass killings committed by the Armenians, and the number of Turks who died in the hands of the Armenians at the same time frame in the same place.**

**According to reports prepared by foreign diplomats, of the 438,758 Armenians who were forced to migrate, 386,148 of them (82%) reached their intended destination. The ones who could not reach to their destinations were 56,610. If you compare Armenian loss figures with the Turkish losses, nine times as much Turks (518,105) were massacred by Armenians in Anatolia, and seven times as much Turks and Muslims (413,000) were massacred in Transcaucasia.**

**The number of the Turks subjected to forced migration (1.604.038) to flee Armenian cruelty is more than three and a half times compared to that of the relocated Armenians (438,758). And two-thirds of Turks (1,000,000) lost their lives during migration.** Once this figure is added to the Turks who were massacred by Armenians in the regions in which they lived, **the total number of Turks killed reaches two million.**

However, as Armenians have distorted the truth, they have convinced some in the international community to believe the Turkish actions against Armenians constituted genocide. Armenians have also inflated the number of their kins' deaths and are injecting anti-Turkish hatred into their new generations.

Foreign countries' parliamentarians have willingly accepted these lies, and while discussing the case of "genocide" they have ignored historical truth and that the Armenians in reality were in treason of their own government, during that time.

The Armenian government also places in their national curriculum baseless Armenian claims and passes legislation forbidding "the denial of genocide". This approach is largely unfair to the Turkish people, who, throughout history, have been known even by their enemies as brave, honest, and compassionate. The countries that have supported baseless Armenian accusations and have supported Armenian theories should not remain privy to the historical events which took place in Anatolia during 1912-1922, and their unfair stance should cease to a fair end.

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## **SUMMARY FOR BACK COVER PAGE**

World War-I was a land grabbing effort among the imperialist powers of the time. The main prize was the vast lands belonging to the Ottoman Empire. Ottoman Empire's defense in the Eastern Front is no different than its defense of the Gallipoli Peninsula in terms of security of all the peoples of the country.

The Ottoman Empire put into force the relocation practice in order to prevent the Armenian rebellion , which in our time is symbolized by the date of April 24, 1915, which also happens to be one day prior to the British landing in Gallipoli. The Ottoman Government's relocation decree intended to stop the local residents from aiding and abetting the Armenian volunteers who were fighting in the Russian army against their country and while armed Armenian bands were killing defenseless Turkish/Muslim people of the area. The Relocation decision also solved the problems of logistic army communication lines and supply lines being cut-off from behind.

Also, the Armenian gangs stabbed the Ottoman army in the back, disconnected the linkage between the eastern and western fronts, railway transportation and communication lines. The mutinous Armenians also instigated riots and horrifically tortured and massacred the Muslim women, elderly and children – similar to what would be considered ethnic cleansing in our day - while their young men were busy fighting ferocious battles in the front lines of the Ottoman Army. In these circumstances the decision of relocation was a compulsory war precaution.