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17 Krieger

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K r i e g e r

Embarking on a scholarly research career in Rome during the year 1937, Krieger seriously pursued his endeavours for the past quarter of a century. As a native Middle-Easterner, he has had the opportunity almost each year, to travel to many countries, including Turkey, although he never had access to their Archives. However, he met many Turks of all classes and discussed with them. He travelled to Rome many times as well as to most of the large cities in Italy, and in France he went to Paris and other major French cities; he went to London, England; travelled throughout Switzerland, to Vienna, Austria; and to Germany, Belgium and finally the United States, wher he has at last completed the extensive research on the Armenocide, making an in-depth study of all the documents available to him.

Since 1937, Krieger began to establish contacts with some of the best known authorities, acknowledged writers, and linguistic experts--historians and university professors in a number of academic disciplines --who previously published volumes on the subject. Proficient in European and Middle Eastern languages, he has been able to establish and sustain a continuing friendship with people from a variety of ethnic origins and to develop an intellectual relationship with scholars who imbued him with the inspirations to undertake the arduous and difficult task, and continued the endless years of research necessary, so that he can now present

the succeeding volumes on the Armenocide.

Krieger's scientifically researched volumes in this heretofore clouded subject of the Armenocide is the only objective and therefore invaluable document in book form ever to be published on such a controversial subject, presenting both political and social insights. It emerges as a complete and valid study presented as impartially as possible, always striving to present a true picture of all the actual events.

One of the primary reasons to motivate Krieger to begin this vast study of such an unpopular subject, was that too many incomplete, and therefore unsatisfactory, wholly subjective studies have previously been published with annotations that they were the final word in dealing with the whole scope of the incidents. Even some of the most prominent writers and internationally acclaimed authors treating questions of the humanity of the politically corrupt administration of the Ottoman Empire, presented their views without access to primary source materials to substantiate their claims. Unable to find satisfaction with this kind of material, Krieger set out to discover for himself and for the scholarly, academic reading community, as much of the facts, objective and impartial, that he could find. In the final analysis, even an unrelenting investigation and constant comparison to existing materials cannot serve as a final proof for any official document, but must be verified by questioning the authenticity of the documents. This challenge to amass assurances of proof and evidence

from many experts residing in various parts of Europe and the Middle East, was assumed by Krieger. For this approach, alone, Krieger's work stands out as the most significant of its kind. He attempts to present the events in their proper historical and social contexts. This is the critical evaluation the entire world has been anxiously awaiting.

In order to undertake this gigantic effort, Krieger decisively sacrificed his time. He was hounded by heavy expenditure and physical exhaustion as he continued his endless trips from one place to another gathering documents from dusty and sometimes almost hidden archives. He worked with a sense of self-dedication, hoping to shed a light on the entire matter so that everyone, who is interested, can know and appreciate all the incidents that occurred in the early part of the twentieth century, as well as their reasons. It is obvious that after these facts have been clearly reviewed, all previous publications on this subject will have to be re-evaluated and seen from a totally different perspective. Most of the earlier presentations have been purely subjective reports, some utilized by the government to propagate their own interest, or by various political or social groups, purely as propaganda, once again, to espouse their own cause.

All those documents should now be tested against the documents culled from the archives and reproduced here in their entirety in their original language. By reading further, one may find that the documents appear in their original handwriting; there are several transliterations and English translations. Any and all errors that might

have been made can be detected by those scholars who have a mastery of the various languages and who can read them and note the various interpretations that might have been effected--correct or incorrect.

In general, Krieger does not include any of the reasons given by the military or political authorities justifying the deportation and massacre of the Armenians, for no government, regardless how powerful the ruling body may be, has the right to order mass deportation and massacre of any of its subjects. Governments were created to insure the welfare of all peoples and protect the innocent. Laws were created as guidelines of behavior so that those guilty of infringing upon the rights of others could be punished. These laws developed from the simple mores of previous eras to the more sophisticated constitutional laws of our present day. The governing body of Turkey, aside from its constitutional laws, was also supposed to be guided by both the military and civilian penal codes. No statement or declaration made either for or against the Turks, regardless of what their position or rank might have been, can be considered a basis for totalitarian action unless supported by authentic documents.

Krieger has done the young academic community, in particular, a splendid service. At long last there is a factual foundation, written in a language easily read, that our students can utilize as primary reference sources from which they can continue to do research projects concerning the Armenians and their plight. For too long this material has lain in obscurity hidden in the furthest dust-laden recesses of the Archives.

Expertise

Whether the Sultan actually did or did not sign the originals of these official documents, is not the question.

The fact remains that these official documents were published in the official journal of the Turkish Government, and therefore must be considered officially authorized by the signature of the Sultan and the respective Ministers which appear at the bottom of the published document.

The question of authenticity cannot be raised unless there has been a forgery. ^{proved by positive argument and} if there really was a forgery, ^{documentary evidence.} then the perpetrators of the fraudulent releases would be the official Turkish Government.

The question of translation ^{iter} from Turkish Osmanli, written in Arabic characters, to Modern Turkish, written in latin characters, as well as the question of translation from Turkish Osmanli to any language, especially English, had been posed a long time ago, since 1940- when the ^{compiler} authors first began to collect Osmanli documents concerning the Armenocide.

First Expert.

The question of transliteration was resolved as follows: A photocopy of the Turkish Osmanli document was given to the first expert in the Osmanli language in Arabic characters. This first expert read the Osmanli text and only made the transliteration.

Second Expert.

The photocopy of the Osmanli text with its translite-

ration was given to a second expert in Osmanli language, who read them both and made corrections if necessary, if the first expert had made errors either in the reading or transliteration. Besides these corrections, he also translated directly from the Osmanli text into the French, English or other language.

Third Expert.

The photocopy of the Osmanli text with its transliteration corrected by the second expert, as well as the French, English or other language translations, were given to a third expert of the Osmanli language.

The latter read and compared the Osmanli text with the ^{ed} ⁱ correct~~ion~~ transliteration and the other language translation making necessary corrections in either the transliteration or other language translation, if needed.

Fourth Expert.

Selected photocopies of Osmanli documents, modern Turkish transliterations and the translations, were submitted to a fourth expert, an official Osmanli Court expert, who read, compared the Osmanli text, its transliteration and translations and made corrections if necessary and prepared a new translation. Upon completion the Official ~~expert~~ Court expert duly signed and sealed the photocopy of the Osmanli text, its trasl~~ay~~iteration and its translation.

The first three experts and the author jointly read not only the Turkish Osmanli texts, their transliterations and translations, but also very carefully and painstakingly

made respective comparisons adding necessary corrections only if needed, without affecting the text which had been officially signed and sealed by the fourth official Court expert.

More than three experts in the American English language read, separately and independently, the English translation made from the Turkish Osmanli text, but as recommended, paid more attention to maintain the original significance of the Turkish rather than to perfect the English language.

The present partial publication of documents, in Arabic Osmanli, modern Turkish, in Latin characters, and English translation will bring historical, psychological and critical evidence to bring out the truth of the Armenocide.

The author is very happy to invite historians and experts, who have taken neither a pro-nor position in the Turkish Armenocide, to offer comments and remarks only with respect to the historical evidence and revealed truth.