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23 Krieger - Biography

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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, where 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, ^{ad}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.