

As is usual, the first article of the Review of Armenian Studies journal, **“Facts and Comments”** contains main events up until the end of 2013 and related comments about Turkey-Armenia relations, genocide claims, developments in the Armenian diaspora and Armenia’s internal situation. During this period, Turkey’s efforts at revitalizing its relations with Armenia were not accepted by Armenia. On the one hand, as a part of the activities for the centenary of 1915, Armenia has decided to conduct a juridical inquiry on claims (including land) that maybe made upon Turkey, which could lead to a crisis between the two countries if Armenia officially makes these claims. On the other hand, Armenia’s sudden decision to give up on being an associate member to the European Union and to agree to join the Customs Union that Russia is trying to establish means that Armenia’s vision of Europe is ending, and as such can result in important outcomes in the future. Lastly, this article gives detailed information about efforts at gaining recognition for the genocide claims from certain countries and international organizations with the help of Armenia’s diaspora.

In his authoritative article titled **“Armenians and Syria, 1915-2013”**, Jeremy Salt discusses - alongside the Syria topic - the Armenian genocide claims; and within this context makes very pertinent remarks about controversial issues such as numbers, military necessity, conflation, the missing Muslims, trials, Greeks and Assyrians.

Ata Atun and Şükrü Server Aya’s article titled **“Different Opinions on Ottoman and German Political Military and Economic Relations”** provides a better understanding of Turkey-Germany relations. The authors evaluate the political, social, juridical and military relations between the Ottoman Empire and Germany during period up until the end of World War I; and reach certain conclusions through this evaluation.

The article titled **“The Armenian Report of British War Office General Staff: Historical and Ethological Notes on the Armenians” (5th April 1918)** by Tolga Başak contains the original English version of the report of the same name, and supplies extensive information amongst which the ones about Armenian population are especially noteworthy.

Hazel Çağan, in her article titled **“Approach of the Turkish Press to the Armenian Terrorism Between 1973-1984”**, maintains that the Turkish press

during this period did not inform the public about Armenian terror in a necessary and sufficient manner.

In our journal's "**Archival Documents**" section, Dr. Ahmet Tetik and Mehmet Şükrü Güzel have published some documents about the 11.5 million Ottoman liras deposited to German banks by some Ottoman state officials during World War I, which were confiscated by the Allies after the war.

There are two book reviews in our journal. The first one, penned by Şükrü Server Aya, is titled "**Twisted Law and Documented History - Geoffrey Roberson's Opinion on Genocide Against Proven Facts**". In his book, Aya responds to Geoffrey Robertson's observations in a detailed manner.

The second book that has been reviewed is titled "**Neither to Laugh nor To Weep – A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide**", which was published by an Armenian Protestant priest Abraham H. Hartunian. Although he defends the well-known Armenian stance, Hartunian complains about European countries' policies towards the Armenian question, and in the end concludes, "Moslem Turks dealt us better than these European Christians".

Sincerely,

The Editor