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TURKISH-ARMENIAN CONFLICT: ARTICLES (TÜRK-ERMENİ İHTILAFI: MAKALELER)

Prof. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir

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Prepared by Turkish Grand National Assembly Culture, Art and Publication Committee and edited by Prof. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir, this edition includes 30 articles focusing on different aspects of the Armenian question. Majority of these articles analyses the historical reasons leading to Armenian relocation, its execution as well as Armenian rebellions before the relocation and developments after it. Thus, it tries to put forward what had exactly happened in Eastern Anatolia between the years 1915 and 1916. Besides historical dimension, legal and international relations aspects of the Armenian question are examined in this edition.

In the first article penned by Prof. Dr. Sabahattin Özel and entitled 'In the Eyes of Westerners', the author tries to answer why a community being a privileged component of the Ottoman Empire rebelled against the state. Within this framework it summarizes the developments starting from 19th century till the end of World War I with special reference to the role of Great Powers.

The second article written by Dr. Recep Karacakaya carries the title 'Election Alliances' and examines alliance strategies developed by Armenians in the parliamentary elections of 1908, 1912 and 1914 and reveals the cooperation and conflict among Armenian political parties. Dr. Zekeriya Türkmen, on the other hand, focuses in his article entitled 'Forgotten Scenario', on the anti-Turkish atmosphere

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in Europe since 1913 and the work of some inspectors sent by European Powers to Eastern Anatolia for controlling the reform process in the region. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haluk Selvi examines the Armenian-Russian collaboration on the eve of World War I in his article entitled 'When the War Begins'

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muammer Demirel focuses on the processes of volunteer gathering and other military preparations of Armenians in order to wage a war against the Ottoman Empire. Dr. Erdal İltir, on the other hand, examined the activities and congresses of Taşnaksutyun party. The seventh article carries the title 'Armenian Administration in Van' written by Assist. Prof. Dr. Şenol Kantarcı, in which the author examines the Great Van Rebellion of 1915 and the subsequent Russian occupation and Armenian administration. Two following articles written by Dr. Hasan Oktay and Dr. Ahmet Tetik focuses on two significant Armenian figures having significant roles in this rebellion, namely Aram Manukyan and Viramyan Onnik Dersakyan.

Prof. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir examines the activities of Armenian bands between the years 1914 and 1916 and Ottoman reaction towards these rebellious activities. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yusuf Sarıınay, on the other hand, focuses on the Armenian relocation and answers how the decision of relocation had been taken and how it had been implemented.

The next article written by Prof. Dr. Yusuf Halaçođlu examines the costs of Armenian relocation in financial terms while Davut Kılıç focuses on those Armenians held exempted from relocation. The fourteenth article written by Prof. Dr. Kemal Çiçek analyzes the daily lives of the relocated Armenians, some problems of relocation such as security, hygiene and nutrition. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Celalettin Yavuz examines the role of the Commander of Ottoman Fourth Army, Cemal Pasha, in the attempts to eliminate the problems of relocation.

The article written by Assoc. Prof. Dr. İbrahim Ethem Atnur on the situation

of Armenian women and children as well as Armenian marriages in the years of relocation is followed by another article written by Bülent Bakar on the return of Armenian properties after the end of the relocation.

In his article entitled 'The Situation of the Church', Dr. Ali Güler emphasizes the role of Armenian church on the Armenian question. Prof. Dr. Servet Mutlu, on the other hand, tries to reach a sound number of Armenian population in that era through scientific statistical examination of Ottoman population censuses. Assist. Prof. Dr. Erdal Aydoğan examines another controversial issue, namely the activities of the Special Organization (Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa) in the Eastern Anatolia.

Written years ago by Ord. Prof. Dr. Yusuf Hikmet Bayur, the article entitled 'The Great Game' and the following article with the same title written by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaya Çağlayan refute Armenian allegations by referring to English, French and Russian archival documents.

The article by Prof. Dr. Selami Kılıç entitled 'History and Testimony' includes full-text translation of another article written by Felix Guse, a German soldier serving in the Ottoman Third Army during the period of relocation. A speech presented in 1984 by former Minister of National Education, Şinasi Orel, also included in the edition and reveals that the telegraphs associated to Talat Pasha are completely fake and produced by Armenians. Prof. Dr. Nuri Bilgin, on the other hand, takes the Armenian 'genocide' as a myth and emphasizes how this myth makes the Turks 'other' in the eyes of the Armenians. Prof. Dr. Hasan Dilan evaluates the sources on Armenian question through a general literature analysis while Prof. Dr. Esat Arslan tries to examine Armenian rebellions and Ottoman precautions developed against it.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sadi Çaycı contributes to the edition with an article examining the legal aspect of the Armenian genocide allegations and focuses on why Armenian relocation can not be considered as a genocide. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sedat La-

çiner, on the Other hand focuses on the international relations dimension of the Armenian question in his article entitled 'Why Are They Wrong?'. Gürbüz Evren focuses on Armenian-French relations before, during and after World War I.

As a result, this edition is very important since it evaluates different aspects of the Armenian question. The articles in the edition mainly focus on historical dimension and utilize archival documents to refute Armenian allegations. In sum, this edition provides the reader with a holistic vision with which different dimensions of the Armenian question could be understood.