



THE
ARMENIAN
MASSACRES
1894 – 1896
U.S. Media Testimony



Edited and with an Introduction by
ARMAN J. KIRAKOSSIAN

Foreword by BOB DOLE

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**"Americans have . . . a special reason, over and above
their quick responsiveness to sentiments of humanity,
for feeling a warm interest in the condition
of the Armenian Christians."**

—JAMES BRYCE, 1895



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FOREWORD

The articles in this excellent compilation present a chilling picture of a ruthless, inhumane campaign to exterminate many thousands of Armenians and drive the remainder from their ancestral lands. Sadly, this brutality is not unique in modern history. While the preceding century will be remembered as the one that gave our civilization its most monumental democratic, economic, and technological advances, it is also the century of the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, and, more recently, the genocides of Bosnia, Cambodia, and Rwanda.

The subject of this book is close to my heart, as it is for many people in the United States. Our country is home to hundreds of thousands of Armenian Americans, many of whom fought for our country's freedom and made significant contributions to its economic and cultural development. The Armenian-American community is largely comprised of descendants of the survivors of the Armenian massacres in the 1890s and the subsequent genocide.

As this volume demonstrates, the plight of the Armenians during this period was reported widely in the press in the United States and other Western democracies. The missionaries, public figures, and concerned journalists who authored these reports clearly cared for and sympathized deeply with the Armenian people. In the nineteenth century hundreds of American missionaries lived in the Ottoman Empire, where they provided social, educational, and moral support to all citizens, without regard to race or religion. Indeed, the Armenian population came to see the American presence in the Empire as one of the few rays of light in an otherwise increasingly hostile environment.

After the massacres of the 1890s, American Red Cross officials, civic-minded citizens, and missionaries made contributions to Armenian charities, conducted field work, and asked the Ottoman authorities to address the problem. Today, this spirit of aid and charitable giving continues as the U.S. government and other