

THE TIMES OF  
THE **ARMENIAN**  
**GENOCIDE**

REPORTS IN THE BRITISH PRESS  
Volume 1: 1914–1919

edited by Katia Minas Peltekian



**The Times**  
**of the Armenian Genocide**  
**Reports in the British Press**  
**Volume 1: 1914-1919**

**Compiled & Edited by**  
**Katia Minas Peltekian**

**Four Roads**  
**Beirut**  
**2013**

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SU0223341

**The Times of the Armenian Genocide: Reports in the British Press, 1914-1923**

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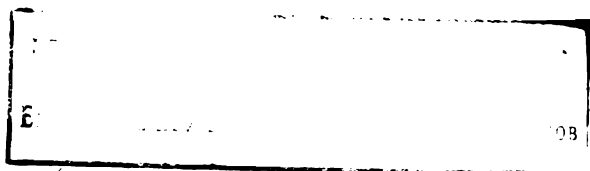
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ISBN 978-9953-0-2665-7



# ՅԵՐ ԴԵԴԻԿԱՏԻՆ ԵՆԸ

To My Parents

**Minas & Loucine Peltekian**

և

To My Grandparents  
Genocide Survivors

**Kevork & Toshkoun Peltekian  
of Chork Marzban (DörtYol)**

And

**Artin & Guluzar Malatjalian  
of Chork Marzban (DörtYol) & Hadjin**

ՅԵՐԵՆԸ



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## ❧ Preface ❧

The purpose of this book is not to analyze events that occurred in the Armenian provinces at the beginning of the Twentieth Century; that will be left to scholars and historians. The purpose of this book is to record events as they happened in the Ottoman Empire, specifically with the Armenian population, a short time before, during and after World War One until the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, when the Armenian people and their rights for an independent state were abandoned by Europe. The chronicled articles, placed in chronological order, provide the reader with a unique perspective of not only the atrocities as they happened, but also of the political and social perspective of the British Government and people. Through articles, reports, editorials, correspondence, letters to the editor, as well as the proceedings of the British parliament, history unfolds itself on the pages of British newspapers.

This book is comprised of over one thousand accounts from the British newspapers *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and *The Manchester Guardian* (currently known as *The Guardian*) for the period of 1914 & 1923. To give a more comprehensive context of the events, the editor of these volumes decided to include all articles that were located, rather than select what could be deemed as more important or descriptive. For anyone interested in the history of the region, the very short reports bear as much importance and details as do the very long articles describing the conditions in which the Armenians lived under Turkish rule. In addition, at different intervals, the headlines of a number of articles are inserted because, although the contents of the articles are not related directly with the Armenian people, they do provide some perspective of the events that occurred in the Armenian provinces or with the Armenian cause. The frequency of articles and reports printed in the British press only indicates the extent of British interest in Armenia, an interest which scholars have not given much attention to as to that given to the American reaction towards the ongoing events in the Armenian provinces and Armenia. In fact, the reader will note that the British press referred to those provinces in the Ottoman Empire inhabited by Armenians as 'Armenia' rather than Turkey.

*The Times* and its sister publication *The Sunday Times* were chosen for several reasons. First published in London in 1788, *The Times* is one of the oldest British newspapers with the widest distribution at the time, and was the first paper to send war correspondents to conflict zones, starting with the Crimean War in the 1850s. As an influential paper, and as indicated by many of the reports printed in the newspaper, *The Times* had correspondents throughout the Ottoman Empire and the region, and the British Foreign Office frequently approached *The Times* for intelligence. In fact, many newspapers around the world quoted *The Times* for foreign news and intelligence, while both the Houses of Lords and Commons, referred to it for confirmation of news and events that were debated in the British Parliament. Finally, microfilms of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are found in many university and reference libraries around the world, making it more accessible to researchers and historians. To collect *The Times* reports, the microfilm version was used to read each issue page by page, locating items that were relevant to the situation in Armenia. After crosschecking, the editor discovered that the online index of *The Times* identifies fewer items than what had been collected for this volume.



After much research into other British newspapers at the British Library in Colindale, north London, *The Guardian* was chosen to supplement *The Times* with additional perspective on the situation in the Armenian provinces. Founded in 1821 as *The Manchester Guardian*, it was published in the city of Manchester where a significant number of Armenians lived and worked. Perhaps that is the reason why at different intervals of time, *The Guardian* provided news that *The Times* had failed to report. The old handwritten index prepared by *The Manchester Guardian* was used to locate the articles, and the microfilm at the British Library was used to make copies of these articles. However, as a manually-prepared index, it is expected to be incomplete; hence, the collection from *The Guardian* is in no way as comprehensive as *The Times* collection.

In both cases, the vintage microfilms have been overused rendering most of them not very legible to the untrained eye. Most often the microfilms were scratched with overuse, creating vertical lines on the films, and in some cases, the images were not focused well. Sometimes, those articles that appeared on either side of the margins were too distorted; thus, the originals were sought to make up the words that could not be copied. (See a few samples in Appendix B)

Therefore, to help the reader of this volume peruse the reports with ease, all the articles were typeset and reproduced exactly as they appeared originally, including the different spelling of many words as well as proper nouns of people and places; no attempt was made to correct or change spelling, punctuation, grammar or linguistic style of the texts.

The newspaper articles are placed in chronological order and include the page (p.) and column (c.) numbers. Nevertheless, since different editions of the newspapers were published daily, sometimes these pages and columns would change between the morning and the evening editions, and other times the article would appear in one edition only. In few instances, paragraphs not pertaining to the Armenian situation were removed by the editor; in these cases, the number of the Paragraph (¶) number is indicated.

Finally, the reader of this volume could be interested in not only the frequency of the reports that were printed in the British press, but whether the news on Armenia was printed on the first page, the page deemed the most important to attract a newspaper reader's attention. However, British newspapers of the time did not print 'news' on their first page, not even those regarding British politics or the Great War. Instead, the British press used to print its classified ads on the first few pages, while foreign intelligence appeared beyond page 5 or 6. In very rare instances, only a large headline on the cover page would declare an important episode during the War, while the details of that event would appear inside.

This compilation includes reports written by the correspondents and journalists of these newspapers, in addition to other items that make up the mosaic of events and reactions during and after the Great War. Many of the correspondents reported from the war zone or from the surrounding environs which the Allied armies controlled. Some even bore witness to the plight of the deported Armenians and the state in which they arrived in Allied controlled zones. In some instances, there are reports by correspondents who were embedded with the Russian army on the Caucasian front.

*The Times* was also quite extensive in printing the proceedings of both Houses of the British Parliament. The frequency of these records from the Parliament shows the magnitude of the interest of the British Government towards the Armenians and the predicament in which the Christians in general, and the Armenians in particular, were placed during the War. Between 1914 and 1923, the House of Commons raised the issue of the massacres and deportations of the Armenian people, the status and relief of the refugees, and the peace treaties related to Armenia over 65 times; whereas, the House of Lords had 7 very long debates pertaining to Armenia and the Armenian Question.

In addition, there are over 80 letters to the editors written by British government officials, diplomats, members of parliament and citizens, some of whom had lived in Turkey; there are also letters written by Armenian notables and delegates (such as Nubar Pasha) or those living in England; there are some letters from notables and citizens of other nationalities who deemed it important to convey events and facts as they saw it. Among these letters, there are those that called for a just solution to the Armenian cause and those who would defend the Turks; there are letters by British committees for the relief of refugees as well as reports from those who traveled to the stricken areas to help the survivors. In fact, this volume also reproduces some of the announcements and advertisements from relief committees (such as the Lord Mayor of London's Fund) asking for donations to help the Armenian refugees and orphans scattered in different regions. Some of these announcements covered half a page or even a whole page. (The large announcements that covered the length of the newspaper page are reproduced as posters and presented with these volumes)

The extent of the British interest in the Armenian people can also be seen in the number of editorials printed in these newspapers. In this volume, there are 16 editorials from *The Times* and 20 editorials from *The Manchester Guardian*. These editorials sometimes interpreted events or parliament debates, and other times called for a just solution to the Armenian Question because the editor believed it was the ethical and honorable obligation of Great Britain towards the Armenian people.

A careful examination of these reports will reveal sources that can be described as the best kind since they originate from eyewitnesses, such as missionaries, diplomatic missions, teachers, travelers, the victims themselves and, in some instances, the perpetrator of the crime (Turkish officials) and his accomplice (German officers). Correspondents referred to their sources as "reliable" or "credible." Many of the reports were received in letters, formal reports of missions, transcribed accounts of survivors, and official dispatches of diplomatic missions. The credibility of these reports and articles will be left to the reader to decide and to the scholar to study.

The plethora of material printed in these two volumes unfolds the pages of history for the ten-year period between 1914 and 1923. This volume only demonstrates that the massacres occurred not only during the Great War, but before the War had started and long after the War had ended. Although hundreds of articles on the on-going massacres and deportations were printed in *The Times* for this period, it is even more overwhelming that over 3,000 articles describing massacres, mass-killings, wiping out of villages and unjust treatment of the Armenians were printed during the forty years prior to the Great War. The compilation for the period of 1875 to 1913 will be published soon.

Simple, yet agonizing, the one thousand and some articles in this volume tell the story of a people; they tell the story of a genocide and how it was swept under the rug when the West regarded its interests to be more important than granting the persecuted people their basic human rights. The events are unfolded to the reader who is transported to those times, re-living the events on an almost daily basis.

Katia M. Peltekian  
Toronto, Canada  
December 2012



# 🎨 Dates in History 🎨

- 883 BC                   🎨 Kingdom of Urartu is founded
- 785 BC                   🎨 The first Armenian Empire is established by Argishti
- 782 BC                   🎨 The fortress of Erebuni, modern day Yerevan, is built
- 512 BC                   🎨 Urartu is officially called Armenia for the first time in the Behistun inscription
- 83 BC                     🎨 King Tigranes (Dickran) the Great of Armenia invades Cilicia & Phoenicia
- 301AD                    🎨 Armenia becomes the first official Christian state in the world; King Tiridates III proclaims Christianity as the official state religion of Armenia
- 406 AD                   🎨 St. Mesrop Mashtots invents the Armenian alphabet
- 451 AD                   🎨 The Battle of Avarayr, led by Vartan Mamikonian, secures the Christian religion in Armenia
- 642 AD                   🎨 Arabs storm the city of Dvin, killing 12,000 of its inhabitants and taking 35,000 into slavery
- 1064 AD                  🎨 Byzantine Ani, once the capital of Bagratid (Pakradouni) Armenia, is conquered and destroyed by the Seljuk Turks.
- 1071 AD                  🎨 The Seljuks dominate Anatolia and a large number of Turkish tribes migrate to the region
- 1078 AD                  🎨 The Armenian Principality of Cilicia is established by the Rubenid (Rupinian) Dynasty
- 1241 AD                  🎨 Mongols invade Anatolia; much of the Armenian population is slaughtered
- 1400 AD                  🎨 Tamerlane invades Georgia, Armenia and Central Anatolia, slaughtering the population of Armenia and enslaving over 60,000 people from Anatolia and the Caucasus
- 1512 AD                  🎨 The first Armenian book is printed
- 1514 AD                  🎨 The Ottoman Safavids conquer Western Armenia
- 1827 AD                  🎨 Russian forces occupy Yerevan
- 1894-1896 AD            🎨 Around quarter of a million Armenians are killed under Sultan Abdul Hamid II (aka the Bloody Sultan). The American Red Cross establishes its first ever international mission for the Armenian victims
- 1901 AD                  🎨 Armenians in Mush and Sassoun are massacred
- 1905 AD                  🎨 Tartars kill Armenians in Nakhitchevan, burn and loot their villages
- 1908 AD                  🎨 The Young Turk revolution overthrows Sultan Abdul Hamid II and raises hopes for Armenians and others that a new constitution will be put in place which will protect and enhance the rights of all
- 1909 AD                  🎨 An estimated 20,000 Armenians are massacred in Adana. Pan-Turkism is adopted as a strong nationalist policy designed to unite the country under the Young Turks
- 1911 AD                  🎨 Armenians in Bitlis, Moush & Diarbekir are massacred
- 1913 AD                  🎨 The Balkan War ends with the Turks being driven out of southern Europe

## 1914 AD

- February 21, 1914      ♣ The Ittihadist Government of Turkey declares Turkish boycott of Armenian businesses
- June 28, 1914        ♣ Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, is assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia. This event triggers the beginning of WW1
- August 1, 1914       ♣ Germany declares war on Russia. France and Belgium begin full mobilization
- August 3, 1914       ♣ Germany declares war on France and invades neutral Belgium
- August 4, 1914       ♣ Great Britain declares war on Germany. The United States declares its neutrality
- August 5, 1914       ♣ The Ottoman Empire closes the Dardanelles
- August 18, 1914      ♣ 1,080 shops owned by Armenians are burned in the city of Diyarbekir
- August 22, 1914      ♣ The male population between the ages of 20 and 45 is conscripted by the Turkish armed forces.
- October 29, 1914     ♣ The Ottoman Empire (Turkey) enters the war on the side of the Germans as three warships shell the Russian port of Odessa
- November 1, 1914    ♣ Russia declares war on the Ottoman Empire
- November 5, 1914    ♣ France and Britain declare war on the Ottoman Empire
- November 11, 1914   ♣ Sultan Mehmed V declares Jihad on the Allies
- November 21, 1914   ♣ In Moush, Ittihadist agents distribute arms to the Turkish population after arousing them with false stories of Armenian outrages
- December 1914       ♣ Turks loot the properties of subjects of Allied nations

## 1915 AD

- January 2, 1915       ♣ The Russians win the Battle of Sarikamish in the Caucasus
- January 16, 1915      ♣ The Turkish army is totally defeated and almost destroyed with a loss of 70,000 men out of 85,000
- January 17, 1915      ♣ The initial Turkish offensive into Russia is prevented as the Turkish 3rd Army suffers a defeat by the Russian Army of the Caucasus near Kars. The Russians then begin invasion of the Ottoman Empire from the Caucasus
- February 1915        ♣ The Turks begin forced deportations of Armenians
- February 19, 1915    ♣ British and French navies attack the Dardanelles. The Gallipoli Campaign begins
- March 12, 1915       ♣ Mass arrests of Armenians are carried out in Dortyol
- March 18, 1915       ♣ In Zeitun, the Turkish forces arrest many of the remaining Armenian notables and intellectuals whom they torture and finally kill
- March 31, 1915       ♣ Armenians are deported from Zeitun
- April, 1915           ♣ Mass arrests of Armenian political leaders & intellectuals takes place in Sivas, Bitlis, Erzerum, Van, Diyarbekir, Moush, Marash, Hadjin, etc. Armenian villages are burnt and looted
- April 24, 1915       ♣ Some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders are arrested in Constantinople and sent to Chankri and Ayash, where they are later slain
- April 25, 1915       ♣ Allied forces land on Gallipoli
- May 23, 1915        ♣ Italy enters the war on the side of the Allies by declaring war on Austria-Hungary

- August 6, 1915      ♣ The British renew the offensive in Gallipoli with an additional 20,000 troops, but their attack is obstructed by poor communications and logistical problems. The Turks, led by Mustafa Kemal, are able to stop the offensive
- September 6, 1915      ♣ Bulgaria enters the war on Germany's side. With the addition of Bulgaria, Germany now has three allies in the war including Austria-Hungary and Turkey. This alliance is called the Central Powers

## 1916 AD

- January 9, 1916      ♣ The Gallipoli Campaign ends in an Allied defeat and an Ottoman victory
- February 13- 16, 1916      ♣ The Russian army captures the strategic city of Erzurum
- April 29, 1916      ♣ In the Middle East, the five-month siege at Kut-al-Amara in Mesopotamia ends as 13,000 British and Indian soldiers, on the verge of starvation, surrender to the Turks
- July 2, 1916      ♣ Battle of Erzinjan begins
- August 27, 1916      ♣ Romania declares war on the Central Powers
- August 28, 1916      ♣ Italy declares war on Germany
- November 7, 1916      ♣ American voters re-elect President Woodrow Wilson who had campaigned on the slogan, "He kept us out of war"
- December 7, 1916      ♣ Lloyd George becomes Britain's new Prime Minister. His new War Cabinet immediately begins to organize the country for "total war"

## 1917 AD

- February 3, 1917      ♣ The United States severs diplomatic ties with Germany after a U-Boat sinks the American grain ship *Housatonic*. Seven more American ships are sunk in February and March as the Germans sink 500 ships in just sixty days
- February 25, 1917      ♣ In the Middle East, newly reinforced and replenished British troops retake Kut al-Amara in Mesopotamia from outnumbered Turks. The British then continue their advance and capture Baghdad, followed by Ramadi and Tikrit
- March 8, 1917      ♣ A mass protest by Russian civilians in Petrograd (St. Petersburg) erupts into a revolution against Czar Nicholas II. Within days, Russian soldiers join the revolution
- April 2, 1917      ♣ President Woodrow Wilson appears before the U.S. Congress and asks for a declaration of war against Germany
- April 6, 1917      ♣ The United States of America declares war on Germany
- April 16, 1917      ♣ Political agitator Vladimir Lenin arrives back in Russia, following 12 years of exile in Switzerland
- July 2, 1917      ♣ Greece declares war on the Central Powers, following the abdication of pro-German King Constantine, who is replaced by a pro-Allied administration led by Prime Minister Venizelos
- October 31, 1917      ♣ In the Middle East, the British led by General Edmund Allenby begin an attack against Turkish defensive lines stretching between Gaza and Beersheba in southern Palestine
- November 6-7, 1917      ♣ In Russia, Bolsheviks led by Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky overthrow the Provisional Government in what comes to be known as the October Revolution (Oct. 24-25 according to the Russian calendar)
- November 15, 1917      ♣ Georges Clemenceau becomes France's new Prime Minister

- December 9, 1917      🌀 The British capture Jerusalem from Turkey
- December 15, 1917      🌀 Soviet Russia signs an armistice with Germany

## 1918 AD

- March 3, 1918      🌀 At Brest-Litovsk, Soviet Russia signs a treaty with Germany formally ending its participation in the war. Russia yields a quarter of its pre-war territory and more than half of its industries as Germans impose harsh terms. Talaat declares that he will grant amnesty to the Armenians.
- March 12, 1918      🌀 Turkish forces reoccupy Erzerum
- April 5, 1918      🌀 Turkish forces reoccupy Van
- April 13, 1918      🌀 Turkish forces reoccupy Kars
- April 28, 1918      🌀 Turkey formally recognizes the Transcaucasian Federative Republic consisting of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan
- September 19, 1918      🌀 The Allies launch a cavalry attack to push the Turks out of Palestine. The Turkish armies withdraw northward toward Damascus with the Allies in pursuit
- October 1, 1918      🌀 Damascus is captured by Australian troops and Arab fighters
- October 8, 1918      🌀 The Ittihadist Cabinet of Enver, Jemal, and Talaat resigns
- October 30, 1918      🌀 Turkey signs an armistice with the Allies, becoming the second of the Central Powers to quit the war
- November 2, 1918      🌀 Talaat, Enver, and Jemal flee Turkey on a German freighter

## 1919 AD

- January 18, 1919      🌀 The Paris Peace Conference opens with invited delegates from 32 nations
- February 1, 1919      🌀 A court martial to address war crimes is convened in Constantinople
- April 28, 1919      🌀 The League of Nations is founded
- May 19, 1919      🌀 Mustafa Kemal lands at Samsun on assignment from the Ministry of War and the Grand Vizier in Constantinople as Inspector-General of central Anatolia
- June 10, 1919      🌀 Talaat, Enver, Jemal, and Dr. Nazim, charged with war crimes by the Turkish court martial, are condemned to death in absentia
- June 28, 1919      🌀 At Versailles, France, a German delegation signs the Treaty formally ending the War
- December 1, 1919      🌀 Francois Georges-Picot, former French High Commissioner in Syria, and Mustafa Kemal hold a secret meeting in Sivas concerning the status of Cilicia

## 1920s AD

- January 19, 1920      🌀 The Allies formally recognize the independence of Armenia
- January 21, 1920      🌀 Turkish Nationalist forces affiliated with Mustafa Kemal attack Marash, where over 10,000 Armenians are killed
- April 19-26, 1920      🌀 Conference of San Remo, Italy, is held to discuss the League of Nations mandates in former Ottoman territories of the Middle East
- April 22, 1920      🌀 The USA officially recognizes the Independent Republic of Armenia

- August 10, 1920
  - ☛ Treaty of Sèvres between the Allies and the Ottoman Empire is signed. The Treaty is not recognized by the Turkish National movement, which considers the Istanbul government illegitimate
- November 22, 1920
  - ☛ President Woodrow Wilson presents his delimitation of the borders of Armenia
- October 13, 1921
  - ☛ Bolshevik Russia and Turkey sign the Treaty of Kars
- September 11, 1922
  - ☛ Treaty of Kars is ratified in Yerevan, Armenia
- July 24, 1923
  - ☛ Treaty of Lausanne is signed between the Allies and Turkey, the successor state to the Ottoman Empire. This Treaty supersedes the Treaty of Sèvres
- October 29, 1923
  - ☛ The Republic of Turkey is proclaimed. The next day Mustafa Kemal Pasha (Ataturk) is unanimously elected as the first President of the Republic of Turkey by secret vote

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1914