



**THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND THE LEGAL  
AND POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE FAILURE TO  
PREVENT OR TO PUNISH THE CRIME**

**VAHAKN N. DADRIAN**

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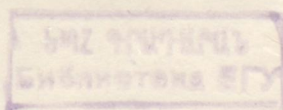
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YANNIS N. DADRIAN

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VAHAKN N. DADRIAN\*

## I. INTRODUCTION THE LEGACY OF INACTION BY THE EUROPEAN POWERS AND THE ANIMUS OF IMPUNITY

The enactment of the Armenian genocide in World War I to which more than one million Armenians fell victim, is significant in several respects. It is especially significant in terms of its causative relationship to the Jewish Holocaust which was enacted 2.5 decades later. Many

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\* Vahakn N. Dadrian received his undergraduate education in Europe, studying mathematics at the University of Berlin and history at the University of Vienna. At the University of Zurich, Switzerland, he subsequently studied international law. His training in the United States was in the social sciences, culminating with a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Chicago.

His academic background includes affiliations with Harvard University as a Research Fellow, with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Guest Professor, and with Duke University as a Visiting Professor. In the last fifteen years he has lectured extensively in French, English and German in European universities such as the Free University of Berlin, and the Universities of Munich, Parma, Torino, Zurich, and Uppsala in Sweden. In 1991, he was a guest lecturer at the Universities of Frankfurt am Main, Cologne (Köln), Bochum and Münster. In 1993–1994, he gave a series of lectures at the Universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht in Holland. He was the first Armenian scholar who in 1995 was invited to the British Parliament, House of Commons, to deliver the lecture commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian genocide. On the occasion of the same anniversary, the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia awarded him an honorary doctorate degree for his seminal contribution to the field of Armenian genocide studies.

Professor Dadrian's field of specialization is genocide in general and the Armenian genocide in particular, in connection with which he has an extensive list of publications, including several articles on the Jewish Holocaust and the victimization of the American Indians. That research has been supported by two large grants from the National Science Foundation and yielded, among others, a monograph dealing with the legal analysis of the Armenian genocide which was published in 1989 by the *Yale Journal of International Law*.

After serving as Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York from 1970 to 1991, Dr. Dadrian shifted his academic career to performing research full-time on the Armenian genocide. He is currently engaged as Director of a large Genocide Study Project sponsored by the H.F. Guggenheim Foundation. That project's first major result was the recent publication in Oxford, England, and the USA of a massive volume titled: *The History of the Armenian Genocide – Ethnic Conflict from the Balkans to Anatolia to the Caucasus*. Professor Dadrian's latest work appeared in April 1996, in Cambridge, MA, entitled *German Responsibility in the Armenian Genocide. A Review of the Historical Evidence of German Complicity*. His *Warrant For Genocide – The Key Elements of the Turko-Armenian Conflict* is in press.