TURKS AND ARMENIANS

Alev KILIÇ

The latest book of Professor Justin McCarthy, an eminent scholar of high reputation, was recently published, bearing the title Turks and Armenians.*

Prof. McCarthy is no stranger to the topic or the events of the First World War. He has done voluminous research, both demographical and historical, on the losses of the Turkish and Moslem populations of the Ottoman Empire, preceding and during WWI. Inevitably, this has also drawn him into Turkish-Armenian relations. He has, as an academic historian, recognized that reflecting the historical facts accurately, which are frequently manipulated and distorted to suit political ends, would be an uphill endeavor, swimming against the main stream. He has nevertheless kept to his scholarly integrity. Despite the hardships and obstacles he knew he would face -which actually reached such levels as efforts of academic defamation and threats to his well-being, he has valiantly written profusely on what his research showed to be the historical facts and truth against what has been propagated in the Christian World and the West about the bogus Armenian narrative and claims.

This latest book Turks and Armenians is the résumé, imbibed from his lifelong research on the subject, a conclusion of his previous Works**, a collective assessment and an academic synthesis. As such, it carries a special significance and is worthy of outstanding recognition, as it reflects upon his life time research and studies, making it a master piece based on all previous work.

The challenging title of the book Turks and Armenians, certainly magnetic for those interested in the topic, has not been one of vanity or exaggeration. It has tackled and succeeded to uncover the roots of a historical development of how, with what machinations, two peoples of Anatolia, who lived together, side by side, in harmony, with common ways of life and traditions, with mutual moments of joy and grief could end up as adversaries or rather, were induced to be enemies.

The book does not overlook or underestimate the tragedies and losses suffered by the Armenian population. They are recorded within the proper context of the First World War, within their historical background and with analysis of the causes. On the other hand, the book equally acknowledges the tragedies and losses suffered by the Turks and Moslems, no less in magnitude -if not more, however totally overlooked and consciously side tracked by the Christian and Western narrative. Consequently, the book also reflects on

the prejudice and defamation against the Turks in the Christian and Western World, further elevated with the support for the Armenian cause, reactivated in contemporary times by groups with their own political agenda.

Prof. McCarthy indicates that the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire, rebelling to establish their own state with tactics and acts of terrorism inspired by Hunchak and Dashnak parties were so much detached from reality that they could not see that their cause was a lost one from the beginning -no matter how the war ended, that they unnecessarily made themselves pawns to serve allied powers ends, leading themselves to a big calamity. As a demographer, Prof. McCarthy makes his point with the following reality: If all the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire had moved to what was called Ottoman Armenia (the Six Vilayets), they would still have made up less than one fourth of the population. If all the Armenians in the World had moved there, they would have been less than forty percent.

Turks and Armenians is published in English only. It is of necessity and importance to have it, first and foremost, translated into Turkish, and if possible, to those languages where Armenian allegations and claims are voiced. Prof. McCarthy has shown very clearly that consistent and scholarly counter arguments can be presented to Armenian narrative. Surely, views supporting Armenian allegations will linger on. Chauvinism and religious spirituality is as prevalent as ever. Furthermore, what Prof. McCarthy does not delve in his book, but what one can surmise is that many historical accounts with Turkey are again surfacing. Keeping the Armenian claims in the agenda becomes a means to serve others political ambitions.

However, from now on, those who will take part in discussions and presentations on Turks and Armenians, particularly those coming to the support of Armenian narrative, will have to take into consideration the overall content of Prof. McCarthys book, since only if they can come up with historical facts that could invalidate his findings would they be worthy interlocutors. Any discussion not taking into account those facts will not have any merit other than a jingoistic and/or religion based approach.

Sincere and heartfelt thanks, Professor Justin McCarthy, for your courage and academic integrity in writing such a fundamental book.

* McCarthy, Justin. *Turks and Armenians: Nationalism and Conflict in the Ottoman Empire*. Madison, Wisconsin: Turko-Tatar Press, 2015. This book is available for online order from *Amazon.com*: http://www.amazon.com/Turks-Armenians-Nationalism-Conflict-Ottoman/dp/1892381079

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About the Author :

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Süleyman Nazif Sok. No: 12/B Daire 3-4 06550 Çankaya-ANKARA / TÜRKİYE
Tel: +90 (312) 438 50 23-24 • **Fax**: +90 (312) 438 50 26
@avimorgtr
https://www.facebook.com/avrasyaincelemelerimerkezi
E-Mail: info@avim.org.tr
http://avim.org.tr

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