



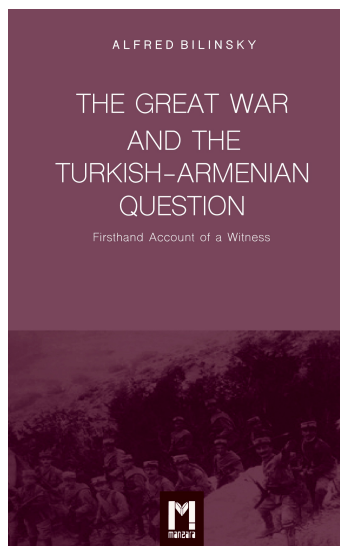
manzara

Reading of:

Alfred Bilinsky

The Great War and the Turkish-Armenian Question

Firsthand Account of a Witness



You will find further information at manzara-verlag.de

All rights reserved. No parts of this book may be reproduced, scanned or distributed in any printed or electronic form without permission of Manzara Verlag.

© 2018 Manzara Verlag Bölge & Avşar GbR,
Offenbach am Main/Germany
Cover design: Grafikdizain, Germany
Type: Manzara Verlag Bölge & Avşar
Font: Garamond font size 10/11
Print and binding: SOWA Sp. z.o.o,
Piaseczno/ Polska

www.manzara-verlag.de

Bilinsky, Alfred:
The Great War and the Turkish-Armenian Question.
Firsthand Account of a Witness.
Alfred Bilinsky. – English edition
[Translated from the Turkish original *Cihan Harbi ve
Türk-Ermeni Meselesi*, 1918, Bern]

Offenbach am Main/ Germany: Manzara Verlag 2018

ISBN: 978-3-939795-94-0



www.manzara-verlag.de

The picture on the cover shows an Armenian volunteer unit that fought within the French occupational forces in Cilicia.

Spelling and pronunciation

a as in father or hah

e as in wait or great

i as in beet or meet

ı a soft i, as in cushion or curtain

o as in home or bone

ö as in German

u as in moon or June

ü as in German

ay as in by or why

ey as in mayor pay

c as in jam or jump

ç as in child or chimney

j as in the French gendarme or passage

ş as in ship or shore

ğ lengthens previous vowel only. For example, “ağaç” is pronounced “aa-ach.”

Table of Content

Author's Explanation Regarding Himself	5
General Way of Treatment to the Non-Muslims in the Ottoman Empire	8
General Behaviors Against Armenians in the Ottoman Empire	17
The Relationship of the Armenians with the State and Their Behaviors Until 1877-78 Turkish-Russian War.....	21
The New Attitude of the Armenians After the Turkish-Russian War.....	27
The Massacres of 1895-96.....	30
Attitudes and Behaviors of Armenians After the 1908 Revolution.....	33
Adana Events	39
Extention and Dissemination of the Action Programs of the Committees.....	44
Attitude of the Dashnak Committee During the Balkan Wars	54
The Armenian Committees' Reaction Against the Ottomanization of the Empire.....	56
Opposition of the Committees Against the Administrative Reform Project of the Ottoman Government, Which Is in Accordance with the Special State for Eastern Anatolian Provinces.....	59
The Fourth and Last Phase of the Turkish-Armenian	

Issue After the Start of the Great War.....	68
Attitudes of Armenians Against the Declaration of the Mobilisation	70
The Status and the Behaviors of the Armenians After Turkey's Attendance in the War	72
Warnings to the Armenians at the Beginning of the War	75
The Ottoman Government's Measures to Defend Itself.....	77
From What Did the Armenians Suffer?.....	80
The Reaction of the Turks Was Neither More Nor Less Than What Could Happen in Any Other Country.....	86
Witness Statements Against Armenians.....	112
Concluding Remarks	145

The Status and the Behaviors of the Armenians After Turkey's Attendance in the War

We have explained in detail above the clear, treacherous and criminal manners and attitudes of Armenian activities within the considerably short period of time between the beginning of the war and the actual participation of Turkey. Nevertheless, after the Ottoman Empire had actually entered war, the plan that they had implemented against the Ottoman Empire was beginning to show extensive and extremely dire consequences. This plan was as described below:

According to the instructions transmitted to the smallest Armenian villages and settlement centers by the Armenian committees, the Armenian paramilitary groups, consisting of the other Armenians who deserted from the Imperial army and who are able to use guns, would spread plunder, destruction, and death to the Turkish and Kurdish villages. Thus, not only would they frighten and horrify the Muslims, but also, they would ensure the Turkish soldiers, who wanted to help their relatives, to desert from the army. To disrupt Turkey's

military defense and organization, military convoys must be attacked, ambushes must be established on the isolated units of the army, and they should be serving as spies to the enemy, who was ready to cross the border. Thus, they would prepare themselves for the invasion of the Russian army and join them, serve them for reconnaissance and intelligence, occupy the outposts, and cut off the retreat lines of the Turkish troops.

The Armenians have achieved extremely successful results in their own way, in those sinister activities, which they regarded as their duty in a wild anger. Hundreds of Muslim villages have become victims of their activities in anger. In the Sankamış battle, the flags decorated with the armors of the Armenians' kingdoms, which had ended a thousand years ago, were side by side with the flags of the Russian army. The city of Van, where the Armenians revolted for being called for the military service, was seized by the Russians with the help and contribution of the Armenian volunteers; and after the city has been occupied, the city and its vicinity were completely destroyed, and massacres, unbelievable persecutions and tortures were carried out.

They carried out the same destruction, massacres, and murders in Punar, Gevaş, and Çatak. At the very beginning of the war, a large group of Armenian volunteers from the Ottoman and Russian Armenians took over the almost defenseless Bayezid town. As it happened in Van, with all sorts of assaults, assassinations, and destruction, there had also been revolts in Zeitun, Haizan and Koms. The Armenians served as spies to the Entente Powers along the entire Black Sea coast and in the eastern Mediterranean coastal waters, while, at the same time, they continued to carry out similar terrorist movements as they did in Eastern Anatolia.

Extending these details is unnecessary and tiring. The

reader will have had enough knowledge about the scope and extent of the support given by the Armenians to the Russian army, and the brutal and terrible attacks they have carried out against their Muslim fellows and neighbors.

In these documents, it has been undeniably stated that the vast majority of the Armenian people, who had become fanatics with the effect of the Armenian committees to commit the most terrible and graceless murders, participated and contributed to these events. There was no murder that the Armenian people would not do against their fellows and the state. Additionally, these crimes were ordinary offenses such as plundering the neighbor's goods or killing those, who were previously their adversaries.