The Armenian Genocide

Turkish Methodology

Aftermath

“Choices Worse Than Death”

The deportation policy created circumstances of starvation, exhaustion, and victimization in which Armenians—particularly mothers who had survived after their husbands and sons were forced to make cruel but necessary judgments to maximize survival.

Is my life more valuable than my child’s? If all of my children survive, and only one of us survives, which shall I seek to preserve? Is it better that we die together, or that some survive alone? Is it preferable to give your children to a passing Turk or let them die in the street? They’re the children of Armenians killed off earlier. Why did we give them Greco faces and enormous eyes? They’re the children of Armenians killed off earlier. Why did we give them Greco faces and enormous eyes? They’re the children of Armenians killed off earlier. Why did we give them Greco faces and enormous eyes?

Such moral dilemmas plagued mothers each step of the march.

Before Pol Pot, Stalin, and Hitler, there were Jemal Pasha, Enver, Shakir and Talaat, leaders of the Young Turks and the decaying Empire of the Ottoman Turks who had committed the first Genocide of the 20th century. Yet, unlike the other criminals, the modern Republic of Turkey has bestowed the highest honors, and considers them national heroes. One of the most prominent avenues in the capital of Turkey, Ankara, is named after... Talaat Pasha.

The extensive results of mass rape and forced islamization of Armenian children

Elements of the genocidal process, are made clear by the tens of thousands of Armenian children in orphanages at the end of W.W.I.

Halide Hanum with a group of Turkified Armenian girls destined for a life of servitude as “orphans” amongst “good” Turkish families.

A larger aim of the genocide is obliterating a people’s heritage, their cultural and spiritual existence, in addition to killing and dispersing actual people. Thorough genocide requires destroying their historical importance, the memory and even the fact that they existed.

International Herald Tribune

December 28, 1998

In Istanbul, the publisher of a Turkish edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica faces charges of weakening Turkish national feelings because the work says an Armenian state existed in Southern Anatolia in the 1st century.

Halide Hanum, chief prosecutor at the state Security Court, said the statement was “contrary to historical facts”. If found guilty, Halide Poturugu, the publisher, could be sentenced to four and half years in prison.

In Damascus, Syria, Franz Werfel and his companion and future wife, Alma Mahler, visited a carpet weaving plant. The owner personally conducted a tour through the factory. Passing along the rows of looms, the two were visibly shaken by the sight of emaciated children with El Greco faces and enormous eyes. “What strange children are these?” Werfel inquired. “These poor creatures! They’re the children of Armenians killed off by the Turks,” the owner explained. Leaving the factory in a daze, Werfel was unable to get the scrawny children out of his mind. The visit proved to be the catalyst that inspired his epic novel, The Forty Days of Musa Dagh.

In the Ottoman Empire, the deportation of the Armenian population was a process that led to the suffering and loss of life of many children. The deportation created circumstances of starvation, exhaustion, and victimization in which Armenians, particularly mothers who had survived after their husbands and sons were forced to make cruel but necessary judgments to maximize survival. The deportation policy created circumstances of starvation, exhaustion, and victimization in which Armenians—particularly mothers who had survived after their husbands and sons were forced to make cruel but necessary judgments to maximize survival.

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