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The Memoir of Naim Bey and Talat Pasha Telegrams

Are They »Armenian Forgeries« or Not?

Vortrag

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In 1920/21, author and editor Aram Andonian published a book known in English as »The Memoirs of Naim Bey«. It contained the writings of an Ottoman official and telegrams of Talat Pasha, Interior Minister and leading member of the Committee of Union and Progress, containing order for the killing of Armenians.

In 1983, the Turkish Historical Society published a work in Turkish that claimed Andonian's memoirs and the Talat Pasha cables were fake. The authors' claims rested on three main arguments: 1) the Ottoman bureaucrat Naim Efendi did not exist; 2) it was thus impossible for him to have written memoirs; 3) the telegraphic cables attributed to Talat Pasha were invented by Andonian. Until now, the Turkish claims against Andonian have remained unanswered and have become the cornerstone of denialism.

Having established the archival sources and documents needed for a proper scholarly assessment, Akçam poses the question: Is it time to remove one of the last bricks in the denialist wall and watch the façade crumble? He will decisively disprove two of the three arguments of 1983. Additionally, by drawing on Ottoman archival documents, he will disprove the claims that the Talat Pasha cables were inauthentic. The central arguments advanced by Turkish denialists regarding the inauthenticity of these incriminating cables, are simply wrong.

Taner Akçam holds the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. He has conducted pioneering research about the Armenian Genocide and is author of numerous books that examine the archival evidence of the Ottoman campaign against its Armenian and other minority Christian citizens, such as: *The Young Turks' Crime Against Humanity: The Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012. *Judgment at Istanbul: The Armenian Genocide Trials*, with Vahakn Dadrian. New York: Berghahn Books, 2011. *A Shameful Act: Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility*. New York: Metropolitan Books, November 2006. *From Empire to Republic: Turkish Nationalism and the Armenian Genocide*. London: Zed Books, 2004.

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