

ARMENIAN GOLGOTHA

A MEMOIR OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, 1915-1918

BY GRIGORIS BALAKIAN

Translated by PETER BALAKIAN with Aris Sevag

Published by Alfred A. Knopf, April 2

“a memoir and . . . a history of the genocide . . . fascinating first-hand testimony to a monumental crime.”—*The New Yorker*

“This book has the feel of a classic about it, and . . . future writers on historical trauma and its representation will turn eagerly to *Armenian Golgotha*. It's a massively important contribution to this field.”—Jay Parini, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

“Balakian chronicles his odyssey through Hell that lasted nearly four years [and] provides strong evidence that these gruesome proceedings were carried out under official orders from the highest level. . . . There have been many books on various aspects of the genocide. . . . but for generations to come ‘Armenian Golgotha’ will remain a first-hand documentation of a historical tragedy written from the perspective of a talented scholar.”—Henry Morgenthau III, *The Boston Globe*

“Balakian should have died on almost every page of this appalling and magnificent book, half the chronicle of a murdered people and half the story of Balakian’s own desperate escape. It owes its existence to his determination to survive to write it, to recount the disaster to ‘future Armenian generations,’ a sacred task that gives him the strength to persevere through the impossible circumstances that killed well over a million of his countrymen.”—Benjamin Moser, *Harper’s*

“Memory and hope for the future live in seminal texts such as Grigoris Balakian's *Armenian Golgotha*. . . . Weighted with eyewitness accounts and distinguished by Balakian's prodigiously sharp memory, this book is not a scholar's history, of course, but an educated prelate's, with an enviable grasp of Ottoman and European history.” Keith Garebian, *Toronto Globe and Mail*

“The singularity of *Armenian Golgotha* resides in the work’s comprehensive historical information regarding the Ittihad government’s *intent* to destroy the Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire. . . . Not unlike the Holocaust, this was a genocide committed by a government as a pretext to war . . . *Armenian Golgotha* is replete with narratives that focus on collective suffering, marking this memoir as one of the few to explicate the true nature of the crime. . . . Balakian’s memory *is* extraordinary, but so, too, are his intellect, his compassion and his ethical obligation. . . .” Donna-Lee Frieze, *The Forward*

“There is thus something in *Armenian Golgotha* that transcends the witness narrative but nonetheless makes this book both an essential memoir, a lively and extraordinary life story and a history of the genocide.—Seth J. Frantzman, *The Jerusalem Post*

“The first English translation of a seminal account of the first modern genocide. . . . An important historical document”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“An Armenian equivalent to the testimonies of Holocaust survivors like Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel. . . . Many of the events Balakian writes about could be taking place in Poland or the Ukraine 20 years later. But Balakian viewed even the worst trials of his people as a prelude to the rebirth of an independent Armenia—a crucifixion that would be followed by resurrection.”—Adam Kirsch, *nextbook.com*

“The book presents a litany of barbaric savageries. . . . Balakian shares it all in a tone that vacillates between reportorial numbness and a grim determination to live to tell the world what he has witnessed. . . . rich with evidence of the Turkish government’s complicity and its leaders’ premeditation. . . . a riveting tale of one man’s survival and as a historical document.”—Chris Bohjalian, *The Washington Post*

“In 2006, for example, the U.S. ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, was recalled for employing the word *genocide*. Then-Sen. Obama wrote a letter of complaint to then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, deploring the State Department's cowardice and roundly stating that the occurrence of the Armenian genocide in 1915 ‘is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence.’ . . . For any who might entertain doubt on this score, . . . of exceptional interest and scholarship . . . depth and texture . . . is *Armenian Golgotha: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide*, by Grigoris Balakian.”—Christopher Hitchens, *Slate.com*

Peter Balakian is the author of *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response*, winner of the 2005 Raphael Lemkin Prize, a *New York Times* best seller, and a *New York Times* Notable Book; *Black Dog of Fate*, winner of the PEN/Martha Albrand Award for Memoir, also a *New York Times* Notable Book; and *June-tree: New and Selected Poems, 1974-2000*. He is the recipient of many awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He is Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities at Colgate University. Grigoris Balakian was his great-uncle.