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The first English translation of a seminal account of the first modern genoci



ARMENIAN GOLGOTHA

A MEMOIR OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, 1915-1918

BY GRIGORIS BALAKIAN

Translated by PETER BALAKIAN with Aris Sevag

**“Blistering...
an important historical document.**

“Grigoris Balakian (1873–1934) was a prominent intellectual and priest of the Armenian Church in Turkey at the outbreak of World War I. The Ottoman Empire was publicly neutral but secretly allied with Germany. Turkey’s long-persecuted Armenian minority favored Russia and her allies, because Czar Nicholas II had long been an unofficial, and ineffective, protector of Armenian Christians under Ottoman rule. This proved disastrous when Russia declared war on Turkey in November 1914... There had been earlier massacres of Armenians in Turkey, but nothing like the nightmare that began with the April 1915 arrest in Constantinople of 250 Armenian intellectuals, including Balakian...

“In a text originally published in 1922, Balakian relates their Kafka-like ordeal, in which humiliating abuse alternated with occasional kindness, and the release of a few was counterpointed by occasional killing of others. After ten months, the remnant of Balakian’s group was ordered to march west, joining hundreds of thousands of additional victims. While ordinary Germans’ acceptance of Jewish persecution was mostly passive, Balakian describes the Turkish population, civilian and military, enthusiastically falling upon the Armenians in an orgy of torture, slaughter, rape and robbery. More than a million Armenians died.

“With luck, the aid of comrades and a few sympathetic officials, Balakian survived to write this memoir, which combines extensive research, an account of his own experiences and testimony from eyewitnesses, both victims and perpetrators. Poet, memoirist and Armenian holocaust historian Peter Balakian, Grigoris’s great-nephew, collaborated with professional translator Aris Sevag to render the blistering Armenian text into modern English.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“A heartbreaking book.” —ELIE WIESEL

“This is a story that needs to be known

and it is told here with a sweep of experience and wealth of detail that is as disturbing as it is irrefutable.” —SIR MARTIN GILBERT

“It will become a classic

—both for its depiction of a much denied genocide and its humane and brilliant witness to what human beings can endure and overcome.” —ROBERT JAY LIFTON

“The translation and publication of this book in English constitutes thundering historical proof that those who deny the Armenian Genocide are engaged in a massive deception.” —DEBORAH E. LIPSTADT

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