Armenia 1915 depicts the historical as well as political and economic circumstances surrounding the wartime genocidal fate of the Armenians. In vivid colors, the author condemns with the strongest language the Turkish government for the premeditated and gruesome slaughter of its over one and a half million innocent Armenian subjects. The author strongly denounces what he considers to be a damnable callousness with which, he argues, Imperial Germany, then a political and military ally of the Ottoman Empire, indulged in it. In this sense, Germany is accused of allowing a free hand to her Turkish ally for the organization and execution of the mass murder against its Armenian population. The author describes it as the greatest crime that is marked by heinousness, that calls forth images of Lucifer’s inferno, and ultimately characterizing it as the bloodiest and as one of the most terrific enigmas of history.

Heinrich Vierbücher spent three (1914-1917) years of the First World War in Turkey, as a member of the Central Powers and an ally of Germany at the time. While in Turkey he witnessed the mass murder of the Armenian people by the Turks in 1915 not as a common eyewitness but as the interpreter of German General Otto Liman von Sanders, appointed in 1913 as the director of the German military mission charged with reorganizing the Turkish army. He traveled to various provinces and regions of the empire, Meskene, Karapinar, Mamakhatun, in particular where the Armenian deportee convoys were seized upon and decimated by killer bands; thus he had firsthand knowledge of the atrocities committed. More importantly he learned about the knowledge and possible responsibility of the German war government for the massacres. The testimony offered here is authentic and substantial.

The work emanates from a German national by definition identified with the perpetrator camp, namely, the Turkish ally. Armenia 1915, in essence, is an indictment, with an emphasis on German “co-responsibility”.

The first German edition of Armenia 1915, comprised of twenty-five sections, was published in 1930 and stirred the conscience of the German people. This eminently important book only had a short half-life. In 1933 the book was condemned by Joseph Goebbels and the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhändlers (Association of German Book Distributors) and put on the blacklist. The copies remaining in the public libraries were destroyed during the WWII bombardments of the German cities.

This is the most explicit indictment of Germany issuing from a German national who was a rare eyewitness to the massive calamity engulfing the Armenian nation in the First World War.”

—Vahakn N. Dadrian
Director of Genocide Research, the Zoryan Institute, Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia
Author of German Responsibility in the Armenian Genocide

“Armenia 1915 is an insightful and unique publication, written and published 15 years after the ‘largest persecution of Christians in history’ and with the lucid vision of an approaching new catastrophe, which would transform the whole of Europe into ‘a vast, depopulated Armenia.’”

—Tessa Hofmann
Armenian Studies Scholar, Freie Universitaet, Berlin

“One can only view with awe the vast landscape Vierbucher paints, describing the focus of his work with the minute and most knowledgeable detail. He provides not only eyewitness accounts of the monstrous persecutions imposed on the Armenians, but also the aftermath of Turkish and German evasion, cover-up and denial.”

—Edward Alexander,
Author of A Crime of Vengeance

Comprised of twenty-five sections, Armenia 1915 also includes for the first time in English an extensive article by the German historian and publisher, Helmut Donat on the German pacifist movement and the Armenia massacres, titled “Heinrich Vierbücher and the Armenian Massacre as Seen by the German and International Peace Movement (1895-1933),” an analysis by Dr. Vahakn N. Dadrian, world renowned authority on the Armenian Genocide, and a postscript by writer and university lecturer, Walter Fabian. An extensive select and updated bibliography of primary and secondary sources with an emphasis on Germany and German language sources on the Armenian Genocide and two maps are also included in the book.

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