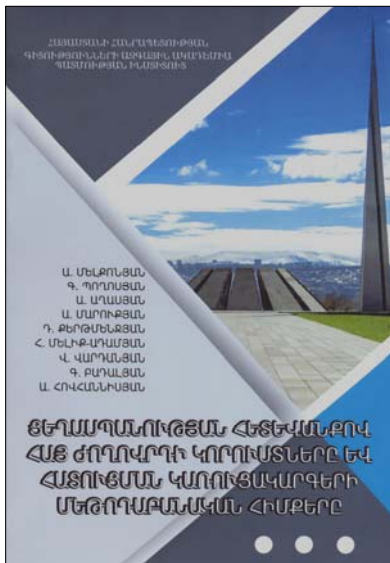


ԳՐԱԽՈՍԱԿԱՆՆԵՐ BOOK REVIEWS



**ՑԵՂԱՍՊԱՆՈՒԹՅԱՆ
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ՄԵԹՈԴԱԲԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՀԻՄՔԵՐԸ**
Երևան, «ՏԻՐ» հրատ., 2019, 608 էջ:

**MELKONYAN A., POGHOSYAN G., AGHASYAN A., MARUKYAN A.,
KERTMENJYAN D., MELIK-ADAMYAN H., VARDANYAN V.,
BADALYAN G., HOVHANNISYAN A.**

THE LOSSES OF ARMENIAN PEOPLE BECAUSE OF GENOCIDE AND THE METHODOLOGICAL GROUNDS OF COMPENSATION STRUCTURE

Yerevan, «Tir» Publishing House, 2019, 608 pp.

In 2019 a significant collective work – “The Losses of Armenian People because of Genocide, and the Methodological Grounds of Compensation Structure” – was published. Undertaken in 2016–2018 by a group of researchers studying the issues of overcoming the consequences of the Armenian Genocide, it was accomplished on the initiative and with financial support of the Department of

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Armenology and Social Sciences of NAS RA within the scope of a research project. The work was recommended for publication by the Scientific Council of the Institute of History, and its printing was sponsored by the Pan-Armenian Foundation of NAS RA Financing Armenological Studies. The book includes the results of the recent investigations of a number of leading Armenian authors – A. Melkonyan, G. Poghosyan, A. Aghasyan, A. Marukyan, D. Kertmenjyan, H. Melik-Adamyanyan, V. Vardanyan, G. Badalyan, A. Hovhannisyan in the field of Genocide Studies.

The book is intended for a wide variety of people interested in the problems of the history of the Armenian Genocide and Armenian claims under international law, students and readers at large. In its seven parts the political, economic and demographic consequences of the Armenian Genocide are elucidated, the amount of losses of the Armenian people in various fields of human activities are identified, the ways of overcoming the consequences of the Genocide are outlined.

In particular, Ashot Melkonyan, Academician of NAS RA, has thoroughly studied the process of international recognition of the Armenian Genocide as well as the issue of reparation in historical, international-legal and political dimensions. According to the historian, Armenia's tactics with relevance to the Armenian Genocide should inevitably be the transition from the Genocide recognition policy to the claims for material and territorial retribution as soon as possible. The problem should be resolved by the international court on the basis of the Treaty of Sevres (August 10, 1920) and the United States' President W. Wilson's Arbitral Award (November 22, 1920) on the border between Armenia and Turkey. A. Melkonyan is quite justified to note that the fundamental international legal documents on the main issues of international recognition of the Armenian Genocide and retribution need to be reviewed. It is necessary to enrich the UN legislation with the concept of **“patriocide”** – **“hayrenazrkum”** through conducting a special formula on it, which should be initiated by Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians – the peoples subjected to genocide in the Ottoman Empire. It will pave a safe path to international judicial order for achieving retribution.

The other authors of the collective work – Gevorg Poghosyan, Academician of NAS RA, and Gegham Badalyan, PhD in History, have carried out the study of the human losses of the Armenian people because of the Genocide and its demographic consequences. The combination of the data of Turkish statistics, Western experts and Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople shows that before WWI in 1914–1918 the Armenian population in the Ottoman Empire, including the

Erzurum, Van, Diarbekir, Sivas, Kharberd, Bitlis, Trabzon provinces, Asian Turkey, Cilicia, Northern Syria and the European part of the Empire, was 1,6-2 million. However, considering the tendency of the Turkish authorities as well as statistics to artificially reduce the number of the Armenians for political considerations on the one hand and the deficiencies in the calculations of the Armenian Patriarchate on the other, G. Poghosyan and G. Badalyan think that the number of the Armenian population in the Ottoman Empire should have been 2,5-3 million on the eve of WWI. Proceeding from a thorough analysis of demographic shifts and the results achieved by their comparative study of data, the researchers conclude that the total number of the Armenians living in our region could reach at least 16–20 million, if it were not for the human losses Armenians had to face as a result of both World Wars in 1914–1918 and 1939–1945, of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict beginning in 1988 and continuing to this day, and also the earthquake of 1988. However, currently there are only 4 million Armenians living in the region.

Ararat Aghasyan, Corresponding Member of NAS RA, has presented the irrecoverable losses of the Armenian medieval architectural monuments, handwritten illustrated manuscripts kept in Armenian monasteries and churches, frescos, icons, high relief sculptures, khachkars and gravestones, values of applied art and secular fine arts in Western Armenia and other territories of the Ottoman Empire because of the Hamidian massacres and the Genocide of Armenians as well as the continuing policy of destruction of the Armenian cultural heritage in the Republic of Turkey.

Davit Qertmenjyan, Doctor in Architecture, has studied the policy of destruction of the Armenian historical-architectural monuments during the Armenian Genocide and its consequences from the perspective of reparation issues for cultural genocide. His suggestions on protecting the rights of the Armenian people towards the abandoned national property during the Armenian Genocide are noteworthy.

In the framework of the collective work, Armen Maroukian, Doctor in History, has presented the property and financial losses of the Armenian people because of the Genocide and its consequences. He has also classified and systematized the section referring to practical suggestions of mechanisms and tools for overcoming the consequences of the Armenian Genocide. A. Maroukian has compiled a new and complete table showing the general picture of the material losses of the Armenians during the Genocide, which is presented in the

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“Appendices” of the work. His proposals on the mechanisms and tools can be described as a scheme of a possible “roadmap” for overcoming the consequences of the Armenian Genocide.

Geologist Hayk Melik-Adamyán has studied the questions of depriving the indigenous Armenian people of exploitation of the mineral resources because of the implementation of the Genocide in Western Armenia, and its consequences, evaluated the degree of economic efficiency of extraction of those resources. He emphasizes that Western Armenia and the territory of Wilson Armenia separately still have reserves of minerals, accordingly – \$ 310 and 227 billion.

Orientalist Anush Hovhannisyan has studied the process of deprivation of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire and its continuation by the Republic of Turkey, revealing its negative effect on the Armenians who remained in the territory of Turkey. A. Hovhannisyan believes heirs of the Armenian Genocide victims could theoretically claim compensation, because the laws adopted by the Ottoman and the republican governments on the abandoned property emphasize the right of the Armenians to own and/or receive compensation.

Lawyer Vladimir Vardanyan has presented the international-legal possibilities of bringing the Turkish State to political responsibility for the Armenian Genocide and overcoming the consequences of the crime. He suggests that first of all the direct and indirect damages caused by the crime of genocide should be distinguished clearly, then an international legal package on the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and justification of the Armenian claims under international law should be created.

Thus, the collective work “The Losses of the Armenian People because of Genocide, and the Methodological Grounds of Compensation Structure” not only reflects the accumulated knowledge on the Armenian Genocide in the field of Armenology, but also can greatly contribute to the elaboration of the Pan-Armenian agenda for overcoming its consequences.

Unfortunately, this valuable work is not devoid of some misprints which should be eliminated while re-publishing it.

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