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TURKISH SOURCES ON ARMENIA, THE ARMENIANS  
AND OTHER TRANSCAUCASIAN PEOPLES

The first volume of the present work as well as the second and third volumes, which are in preparation, contains extracts translated into Armenian of materials and texts from 16–19 centuries Turkish sources (annals, historical chronicles, travel notes, official documents etc.) concerning Armenia, the Armenians and other Transcaucasian peoples.

It has not been the intention of the author to make a many-sided study of the Turkish sources in the present work. The material and texts are introduced in the same order as arranged by the Turkish authors.

In the preface the author briefly speaks about Turkish historiography from the beginning to the end of the eighteenth century, stressing the fact that the Turkish historiographers and annalists were representatives of the leading groups of the sultan state and their task was to describe the deeds of the sultans, nobles, viziers, pashas and other high-rank personalities. The description of the continuous wars in the East and the West was also a subject of discussion by these authors, disregarding and neglecting the vast masses of the people. The life and conditions, needs and claims of the people hardly interested these historiographers and annalists. If this was the attitude of the Turkish historiographers and annalists towards the Islam-Turkish people of the Ottoman Empire, it is quite clear that non-Islamic peoples (Armenians, Greeks, the Balkan peoples) could not have come within the purview of their wri-

tings. Turkish chauvinism and Islamic fanaticism have certainly played a great role in the formation of their viewpoints.

But still, as the author states, the Turkish sources do contain a small amount of material on the history of the Armenian and neighbouring peoples.

Translated extracts of ten historiograph-annalists' materials and texts on Armenia, Armenians and other Transcaucasian peoples pertaining to the 16—18<sup>th</sup> centuries, have been presented in the first volume of this work. Brief biographical informations have been furnished for each historiographer and annalist with commentaries on the nature of their „History“.

The works of these Turkish historiographers and annalists bear the title of their respective authors' names e. g. „Pechevy's History,“ (Tarihi Peçevi), „Djevdet Pasha's History,“ (Tarihi Cevdet Pasa) etc.

In the present volume some materials from the works of the Turkish authors of the XVI and XVII centuries, namely Pechevy-Ibrahim, Halepli-Nayima, Rashid and Chelebizade, have been translated in chronological order. Translations have also been made from the XVIII century authors: Subhy, Samy, Shakir, Izzy, Vasif and Djevdet Pasha.

Nearly three hundred years of the history of the Ottoman Empire have been included in the works of these above-mentioned historiographers and annalists.

Necessary introductions and introductory notes have been provided for the material and texts translated from Turkish. The following appendix has also been included for the present work:

a—a list of Ottoman sultans in chronological order,

b—a table of Islamic hidjry dates converted into European dates beginning from the 1<sup>st</sup> of Hidjry till 1360.

c—a short dictionary of Turkish political, economical, religious and other terms has been compiled to meet the needs of the present work.