

TURKISH SOURCES

IV B o o k

S u m m a r y

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The present collection comprises data on Armenia, the Armenians and other peoples of the Transcaucasus, culled from the writings of Turkish chroniclers and historians of the second half of the nineteenth and the first decade of the twentieth centuries.

The following is the list of Turkish authors referred to in the collection.

Ahmet Lutfi — nineteenth century chronicler and historian;

Abdurrahman Sheref — historian and man of letters of the close of the nineteenth and the onset of the twentieth centuries;

Mehmet Kyamil Pasha — statesman of the close of the nineteenth and the start of the twentieth centuries;

Osman Nuri — historian of the first decade of the twentieth century;

Ahmet Lutfi — is the twenty-eighth chronicler of the Ottoman Empire. He was appointed to the post in 1864. He was editor of the newspaper „Takvimi Vekai“, in addition to holding state positions. His eight-volume „History“ encompasses the history of the Ottoman Empire from 1825 to 1876, and the significance of events, described in the writing, rank the book high among Turkish chronicles. He continues the chronicle of Jevdet Pasha. All the materials translated from Ahmet Lutfi's eight volumes relate to the Greek rebellion, the elimination of the army of janissaries, the major events in the Russo-Turkish war

of 1827—1828 („The Capture of Kars“, „The Battle of Akhalkhaha“, „The Capture of Erzeroum“), numerous questions on the home policy of the Ottoman Empire, the reforms in Kurdistan, the decree of Gyulhaneh, the uprisings of Armenian catholics and the Kurdish sheik Badirkhan and sheik Shamil.

Abdurrahman Sheref -- has been the last chronicler of the Ottoman Empire. He was appointed to that office in 1909. The two-volume „A History of the Ottoman Empire“ by Abdurrahman Sheref was designed as a text-book for the high schools of Constantinople. The writing covers the history of the Ottoman Empire from its origin to the end of the nineteenth century and was written not in the form of a chronicle but after the pattern of modern western historians. We have translated passages from A. Sheref's „Declaring War on Russia“ (1853), „Military Operations on the Danube“ (1853), „The Tragedy of Sinop“ (1853) and „Events on the Eastern Frontier“.

Mehmet Kyamil Pasha — has been a high ranking statesman and diplomat. He led the Turkish government four times between 1875 and 1913. His activities as statesman have been characterised by Anglophile and Armenophobe feelings. His three-volume „The History of the Policy of the Ottoman Empire“ comprehends the history of Turkey from its origin to the end of the reign of Sultan Abdul Mejid (1861). Our collection includes translations of passages from Kyamil Pasha's „History“: „About Molla Idris“ and „Events in Iran“.

Osman Nuri — is a representative of contemporary Turkish bourgeois historiography. His three-volume „Abdul Hamid II and His Reign“ covers the history of the Ottoman Empire from 1876 to 1909. We have provided a translation of the highly interesting chapter „The Armenian Question“ in Osman Nuri's writing (as from the third chapter which must have been written by the historian Ahmet Refik upon the death of Osman Nuri, relying on the data of the latter), „Events on the Anatolian Border“, picked from various volumes (concerning the 1877—1878 Russo-Turkish war), the chapters on „The War in Zivin“, „The Second War of Kars“, „From Plevna to San Stephano“, „The Treaty of San Stephano“, „The Discords am-

ong States and the Treaty of Berlin“ and „Abdul Hamid and the Press“.

The collection is also supplemented with short biographical notes of the authors, facsimiles of „takrirs“ together with their respective translations, and reference lists of proper and place names.