

A BOOKLET REGARDING THE ARMENIAN QUESTION IN HUNGARY

Yücel NAMAL

Zonguldak Karaelmas University
yucelnamal@hotmail.com

Translated by **Gizem SÖKMENSÜER**

Specialist AVİM
gsokmensuer@avim.org.tr

Abstract: *The activities of Armenians in Hungary against Turks had triggered the activities by the Turcophile Hungarians and Hungarian intellectuals against such activities. One of those Hungarian intellectuals is Dr. Attila Von Orbók. Orbók has exposed the real face of the Armenian issue and the role of England and Russia in the Armenian riots to the Hungarian people and Statesmen in his booklet. Orbók had published and distributed this booklet assuming its costs in Budapest, 1916. Thus, the booklet, published by Orbók, had changed the point of view of Hungarian people to the Armenian issue.*

Key Word: *Dr. Attila Von Orbók, Armenian Question, Turk, Hungarian, Budapest.*

I - Introduction

Since the 18th century, the Armenians have been among the major communities that had the grip on trade in Hungary.¹ In 1898, around thirty thousand Armenians existed in the Transylvania region of Hungary. However, all of these Armenians had become Hungarianized by losing their ethnic and religious identities.² The Minister of Finance and Commerce serving within the Hungarian Government were of Armenian origin.³ In relation to the “Armenian Question”,

1 Ferenc Eckhart, *Macaristan Tarihi*, Trans. İbrahim Kafesoğlu, Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, Ankara 1949, p. 157.

2 After Hungary gaining independence in 1867, Hungarian nationalism had increased in the country and the idea of making everything Hungarian had developed. In 1868, learning Hungarian in schools had become mandatory. Some communities of the nations living in Hungary which possesses a population of 17 million have become Hungarian to only be appealed. From 1881 until 1896, 14.090 individuals have obtained Hungarian names. (Prime Ministry of Ottoman Archives, HR. SYS (Foreign Minister’s Political Division Record), File: 166, No. 2).

3 It is the translation of the official letter numbered 17, sent on 10 February 1898 by the Prime Ministry. (Prime Ministry of Ottoman Archives, HR. SYS, File 166, No. 2; István Lázár, *Transilvania A Short History*, Edited by: Andrew L. Simon, English translation by: Thomas J. De Kornfeld, Published in 1997 by Corvina Books Ltd. p.133)

the Armenians living in Hungary have carried out several unsuccessful attempts against the Turks.⁴ But, these anti-Turkish activities of the Armenians have set Hungarian Turcophile comrades into motion.

Just as in previous years, Hungarian statesmen have also refrained from harming Turkish-Hungarian friendship when the Armenian events had arisen. The Hungarians' Turkish-friendly policy has sometimes reached such an extent that some Hungarian deputies within the Hungarian National Assembly have defended the rights of Turkey by acting "more Turkish than Turks".⁵ The Hungarian press has also evaluated the news concerning the Armenian question objectively and has headlined the actual persons responsible for these uprisings. It could be seen that during this period, all Hungarian newspapers had condemned the savage murders committed by Armenian anarchists on Ottoman territories and had openly accused the English Government for inspiring these events.⁶

II – The Purpose for Writing the Booklet

One of the Hungarians taking action against anti-Turkish activities conducted in Hungary regarding the Armenian question has been Dr. Atilla Von Orbók. In 1916 in the capital city of Hungary Budapest, Orbók has written the booklet entitled "The Truth on the Armenian Riot Based on Original Official Information Obtained by the Ottoman Government Concerning the Riot of the Armenians against the State" "(Az Igazság Az Ármények Forradalmi Mozgalmáról, A Császári Ottomán Kormányának Az Örmények Államellenes Mozgalmáról Beszerzett Eredeti Hivatalos Adatai Nyomán)".⁷

Orbók has written this booklet in order to explain the truth regarding the Armenian question and the "seditions" of England and Russia to the Hungarian public who were unaware of the Armenian riots in Turkey. He has written this by making use of the albums sent to the Turkish Embassy in Budapest along with the former Russian Consul General serving in Erzurum and Van, General Mayevsky's⁸ book

4 For the activities of Armenians in Hungary against the Turks see: Yücel Namal, *Macaristan ve Ermeni Meselesi (1878-1920)*, Truva Yayınları, 1st edition, İstanbul 2010, p. 44-48)

5 Yücel Namal, *Türk-Macar İlişkileri*, İskenderiye Yayınevi, 1st Edition, İstanbul 2009, p. 152.

6 Yücel Namal, *Macaristan...*, p. 66.

7 Dr. Atilla Orbók, *Az Igazság Az Ármények Forradalmi Mozgalmáról, A Császári Ottomán Kormányának Az Örmények Államellenes Mozgalmáról Beszerzett Eredeti Hivatalos Adatai Nyomán*, Budapest 1916, Renyi Karoly Kitapevi and Yayınevi, Budapest, IV, Vigado-Utca 1; Prime Ministry of Ottoman Archives, HR. SYS, File. 2883, no.21, lef. 7.

8 General Mayevsky is the Russian general who has been the Consul General at the end of the 1800's and beginning of 1900's in Rize, Van and Bitlis. His military reports entailing his observations of Turkey have been organized into a book at the beginning of the 1900's by the Russian General Staff and have been distributed to military troop. The Turkish General Staff has obtained Mayevsky's reports and has done the Ottoman translation of the book in 1914. With the title of "*Van-Bitlis Vilayetleri Askeri İstatistiği*", it has been published (İstanbul Matbaa'yı Askeriye-Süleymaniye 1330-1914) and has distributed the limited number of books to Ottoman troops. (Bayram Bayraktar, 20. Yüzyıl Dönemecinde Rus General Mayevsky'nin Türkiye Gözlemleri, İnkılâp Yayınları, İstanbul 2007, p. 5.)

written for the Russian General Staff entitled “The Statistics of Van and its Dependent Provinces” (Van ve Tebaayi Vilayetlerin İstatistiği) and which openly displays the goal and aspirations of the Armenians.⁹ In 1916, Orbók has published this booklet with his own financial means and has distributed it to Hungarian statesmen, journalists and the public free of charge. The Ottoman Government has shown gratitude to Orbók for his booklet which he had written to enlighten neutral Catholic public opinion on the relations of the Ottoman Government and the Turkish people with Armenians and their behaviors towards them and also to serve Turkish-Hungarian friendship.¹⁰

In a letter sent to the Ottoman Foreign Ministry on July 1st 1916, Orbók has explained his purpose for writing this booklet as follows:¹¹

“I, a sincere advocate of Turkish-Hungarian friendship, have regretfully witnessed that some oppositions in Austria-Hungary and Catholics in particular, without knowing the real truth of the situation, foster some unpleasant ideas regarding the behavior of the Turkish Government and Turkish nation towards Armenians. Even more, I have received the news that one of our political parties would give a motion of censure in the Assembly due to the Ottoman Government’s supposedly unpleasant policy towards the Armenians. I regard this situation with regret since it will not only impede Turkish-Hungarian friendship, but will also constitute a threat towards the bond of brotherhood existent between the two relative nations which I mostly attempted to display the truth about in my article I published in order to fully safeguard the interests of my nation since the Balkan war. Therefore, I find it an imperative mission to eliminate these unpleasant ideas which have arisen and explaining to Hungarian general opinion (public opinion) the approach adopted by the Turkish Government and Turkish nation towards the riots carried out by Armenians. Based on the book sent to me by the Ottoman Foreign Ministry, I have published a booklet regarding this issue and have sent it to members of the Assembly, statesmen, municipalities, various institutions and all publishing houses and newspapers. And I have distributed it to the entire community. My purpose for publishing this booklet is to present the truth. At the same time, all newspapers, through their detailed articles, have established that the viewpoint of the Ottoman Government is accurate. Likewise, it is known today by everyone that the Ottoman Government has not acted for religious purposes, but has taken action against the riots which contradict the interests of the state...”

9 Prime Ministry of Ottoman Archives, HR. SYS, File 2883, No. 21, Attachment: 6, 8, 9.

10 Prime Ministry of Ottoman Archives, DH.EUM.2.ŞB (Dâhiliye Nezareti Emniyeti Umumiye 2nd Department), File. 26, No.13.

11 Prime Ministry of Ottoman Archives, HR. SYS, File 2883, No. 22, Attachment: 1.2.3.4.5.6.

III – The Presentation of the Booklet

The booklet entails the conditions of the Armenians under the control of Ottomans, the reasons for the Armenian riots, and the role of Great Powers within these riots. The booklet has been prepared based on Russian General Mayevsky's book "The Statistics of Van and its Dependent Provinces" (Van ve Tebaayi Vilayetlerin İstatistiği), which consists of the reports he wrote to the Russian General Staff, along with the sources present in the Turkish Embassy in Budapest regarding the Armenian riots.¹² The booklet has not been separated into sections. The author has observed the events as an outsider and with a Western and foreign viewpoint. The

The booklet mostly examines the Armenian riots and the influence of Great Powers within these riots.

author's objective approach within the light of these documents and its preparation based upon the official data increases its credibility. The booklet mostly examines the Armenian riots and the influence of Great Powers within these riots. The booklet is small with forty eight pages and has a paper cover. A copy of the booklet can be found in the Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives

Foreign Minister's Political Division Record (HR.SYS), File: 2883, No: 21, Lef. 7.

IV – The Situation of the Armenians and the Armenian Riots in Orbók's Booklet

In his booklet, Orbók has expressed that the Ottoman Government has displayed goodwill towards the Armenians and have provided them with privileges by trusting them. Moreover, he has added that the Armenians constitute the "elite" class of the Ottoman society and works in high-status positions in public services (Undersecretariat, Ministry).¹³ Under these conditions, the Armenians have easily preserved their own churches, built their own schools, and maintained their own language and traditions under Ottoman administration.¹⁴ However, the Armenians have failed in appreciating these privileges and favors and on the opposite, have

12 In his booklet, Orbók has made the following comment in relation to these sources: "*The Ottoman Government has published a photo album entitled "Aspirations et mouvements révolutionnaires arméniens" (Movements for Armenian Riots and Efforts), which have been sent to diplomatic representatives, the governments of allied and neutral states etc. This album independently approves the behavior of the Turkish Government and makes the accuracy of the information indisputable. Its enemies should also kneel in front of this document. Photographs of the Armenian riot being organized ever since are displayed in its pages and entails precious information relating to the notes of objective observers and authors of history*". (Orbók, p. 44.)

13 As an example, Orbók has mentioned Armenian Gabriel Noradungyan, the Foreign Minister of the Ottoman State in 1914 and Oksan Efendi as the leader of postal services. Orbók, p. 12; For extensive information on the Armenians serving in the Ottoman Empire see: Nejat Göyünç, *Osmanlı İdaresinde Ermeniler*, Gültepe Yayınları, İstanbul 1983; Mesrob K. Krikorian, *Armenians In The Service Of The Ottoman Empire 1860-1908*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London 1977; Y. G. Çark(Rahip), *Türk Devleti Hizmetinde Ermeniler 1453-1953*, Yeni Matbaa, İstanbul 1953.

14 Orbók, *Ibid*, p. 12.

taken every opportunity to create disturbances within the state and to disrupt its peace with other states.¹⁵

Concerning the reason for the Armenian riots, Orbók has referred to the following information in Mayevsky's writing:

“By expressing that the reason for the Armenian riots in 1895 and 1896 is neither the poverty of those living in Armenian villages, nor the pressure to make them victims, Mayevsky has made the following comment in relation to the situation of the Armenians: “because, these Armenian villages were highly prosperous and were happy just as those in neighboring towns”.

The Armenian committees, regarding the goodwill of the Ottoman Government towards the Armenian riots more as a weakness, have accelerated their activities. All efforts of Armenian committees were directed towards creating an independent Armenia with the support of the UK, France, and the Russian Empire. In order to obtain this goal, they have not refrained from anything which would lead to the Ottoman Empire's decline and collapse. In 1908 following the declaration of the 2nd Constitution, when the Ottoman Government was struggling against difficulties of administration and policies that developed with the March 31st movement, Armenians took advantage of this situation by increasing their activities and on the same day started their riots¹⁶ which caused bloodshed in Adana.¹⁷

While the Ottoman Empire was trying to gain strength after being exhausted with the failures of the Balkan Wars, the Armenians expecting to fulfill their dreams and hoping to create an independent Armenia upon these ruins have attempted to lead the Ottoman Empire into collapse by utilizing all their powers.¹⁸ The Armenians, who have always gained the support of the Allied Powers, have strived towards assisting them with all their efforts and weapons, for the defeat of the Ottoman

15 As an example, Orbók has provided that when Turkey was in war with Russia in 1878 and the enemies had reached San Stefan, Patriarch Nerses Varjabedian had hastily met with supreme commander of the Russian army and Grand Duke Nikola and convinced him to add several articles in favor of the Armenians to the document referring to the former peace agreement and that when the Berlin Congress had convened, he had sent a separate delegation to make sure that these provisions mentioned in the Ayestefonos Agreement referring to the Treaty of Berlin. Moreover, he has mentioned that the Armenians want to convince Russia, who sees Turkey as an enemy, to defend them against Turkey by utilizing these methods. The Armenians who have from now on received encouragement and motivation from the Allied Powers or the representatives of Allies in the Empire, have created a private organization called the “Hinchaks” and hoped to draw Europe's attention this way. (Orbók, Ibid, p.13.)

16 Orbók, Ibid, p. 15

17 A day after the reactionary movement of 13 April 1909 to overthrow the Constitutional Monarchy, Armenians and Muslims start fighting each other in Adana and the last bloody event of the Armenian question starts this way. Upon the Armenians murdering two Muslim youngsters, the events erupt quickly and the Armenians and Muslims fight on the streets for three days. The second Adana incident develops eleven days after the first incident. It has started with some Armenian youngsters shooting the military headquarters at night. (Kámuran Gürün, *Ermeni Dosyası*, Remzi Kitabevi, 9th edition, İstanbul 2008, p. 250, 253, 252.)

18 Orbók, p. 16.

Empire and its allies.¹⁹ Before the Ottoman Government had decided on entering the First World War, the Armenian committees had already begun preparing and closely observing the tide of events. The activities carried out by Armenians during this period are the following:²⁰

- Forming Armenian gangs
- Spreading the riots
- Setting traps on the path used by the Turkish Army during their retreat and committing massacres

In the report No. 63 report that was sent to the Russian Consul Charikov in Bitlis on 24 December 1912, the following significant information was present concerning the Armenian Committee and particularly the activities of the Dashnak organizations:²¹

“The Dashnak Committee makes great effort and exerts their authority in order to gain Armenian public opinion for the benefit of Russia. The point in question is that the community acts with determination to provoke the conflict between Armenian and Muslim elements and therefore, to ensure Russia’s intervention and the occupation of the country with the aid of the Russian forces. Dashnak members use different equipment for this purpose. This way, they strive towards creating disagreements between the Muslim population and Armenians and planting seeds of fear and disintegration within the country. The Armenians in the city and village together with their religious leaders display endless sympathy towards Russia. The stance of Dashnaks and their commitment to Russia is the result of the instructions of the central committee in Istanbul”.

Notwithstanding, the Ottoman Government had knowledge of this information and was already aware of this intrigue carried out behind their back. Yet, until mid-April 1331 in Hegira (1915) when a riot broke out in Van, they still refrained from taking measures against Armenians based on this justification and also from the legitimate use of the weapon of revenge. A couple of months before this crisis erupted, Enver Pasha had warned the Armenian patriarch that if the Armenians carry out initiatives to provoke riots, since the country lacks sufficient gendarmerie and soldiers to ensure security, they will be forced, for the security and peace of the country, to eliminate all riots before they increase and will take all firm measures

19 Orbók, p. 18.

20 Orbók, p. 19.

21 Orbók, p.21-22.

for this purpose.²² Speaker of the Parliament has also warned Armenian deputies present in Armenian committees. Therefore, Armenian minorities have received the news from both churchmen and leading politicians that any kind of illegal action will create depressing consequences. However, despite all warnings, Armenians have not suspended their rebellious activities. A majority of Armenian youngsters being called upon under the Turkish flag to fulfill their military service have refrained from performing their duty and have joined the Russian Army. Therefore, they have stood by the enemy's side in order to fight against their own nation. These young Armenians were slaughtering Muslims living in the villages on the borderline. Under the influence of these events, Armenian minorities residing in different regions of the Empire have followed the chain of riots and have become courageous enough to provoke their cognates to rebel.²³

In his booklet, Orbók has provided many examples of the riots caused by Armenians. Several of these are the following:

At the end of 1914, Armenians have carried out an armed attack against the gendarmerie in *Muş* and *Kızan* and have cut off transportation and the telephone lines between Van and Bitlis. Armenian gangs comprised of army deserters and bandits have attacked the government office in Zeytun²⁴ and sought to slaughter the Muslim population regardless of women or children. Ottoman offices during their investigations in Kayseri (Cesarea) in Armenian-owned lands have found bombs, ammunition, weapons, confidential documents, codes to read the letters, instructions for rebellious gangs and many more significant evidences in cemeteries, schools and churches. It has been proven that the priest has been the leader of this unlawful and anti-government movement and the culprits have admitted that the bombs and weapons found were for the independence of Armenia. On 11 March 1915 at the Armenian monastery in Teke located at the upper part of the city of Zeytun, an Armenian gang has laid an ambush for the

A majority of Armenian youngsters being called upon under the Turkish flag to fulfill their military service have refrained from performing their duty and have joined the Russian Army.

22 Orbók, p. 30.

23 Orbók, p. 31.

24 The Zeytun (Süleymanlı) events, with a declaration of mobilization on 3 August 1914, Armenians of Zeytun appeal to officials to establish an "Armenian regiment" and when their request is rejected, Armenians rebel and start slaughtering. First, they have robbed and murder on 30 August 1914, 100 unarmed Andirins who had disbanded and returned to their villages. Then, they have killed some individuals from the Besenli Village, but around 60 of the gangs have been captured with their weapons. Around 800 Armenian gangs taking action again in February have cut off Maraş's telegraph lines and have attacked the military barracks and the government office. The gendarme commander and 25 gendarme soldiers have been martyred, while 34 of them have been injured. Moreover, many Muslims have been killed by Armenian gangs in various areas of Maraş. At the end of these events, 713 rifles, 12 shotguns, 12 mauser rifles, various bombs, 70 animals and 61 bandits including the Armenian priest and many documents belonging to the committee have been found. (Azmi Süslü, *Ermeniler ve 1915 Tehcir Olayı*, Yüzüncü Yıl Üniversitesi Rektörlüğü Yayın No: 5, Ankara 1990, p. 71-72.)

gendarmerie. The rebels have slaughtered the commander and the escort gendarmerie.²⁵

An Armenian uprising had arisen in March in the village of Timar of Van and had quickly spread to the towns of Gevaş and Çatak. This violent and imprudent uprising had devastated the city of Van and by setting fire to a large part of the city, the Armenians had slaughtered hundreds of civilians and soldiers. In the “Times” newspaper dated 8 October 1915, the following statement appeared regarding the riot: *“With the weapons they carry, Armenians have succeeded in occupying the city of Van again and numerous Ottoman Armenians and Armenian gangs administered by military officers coming from Russia and Iran (Persia) during the Battle of Sarikamish have attempted to enter Ottoman borders. On the flag of these irregulars was written the following: “Armenia is independent”, - “Armenians will be freed”.* After a short while, Russians and Armenians have captured the city of Van. The Muslim population remaining in the city has been brutally murdered by Armenians. Officials in Diyarbakır, Sivas, Suşehri, Merzifon and Amasya have captured thousands of army deserters one by one and have found a large number of bombs, ammunition, weapons, gendarme uniforms, military equipment, trumpet etc. on them. Not wanting to create disturbance in the country during these difficult times, the Ottoman Government has done what best suits them and has refrained from adopting a harsh approach.²⁶ Armenians have continued their rebellious activities within the field of operation of the Ottoman army. Moreover, Armenian rebels have all of a sudden attacked the city of Karahisar-ı Şarki²⁷ on June 1331 (1915) for no reason at all and have burnt one fourth of the Muslim population there. Eight hundred rebels have closed the city fortress and have not wanted to even hear the “paternal advice and kindly worded proposals” of Ottoman officials. Here, the Armenians have killed 150 people, including the gendarme commander. On the same date during the investigations of Ottoman officials, a large number of hidden bombs and weapons have been discovered in Izmit, Adapazarı and Bahçecik.²⁸

When the Russian navy had bombed Herakleia (Ereğli), it was determined that Armenians in Izmit and Adapazarı who had suddenly changed their stances towards Turks were acting in favor of the enemy and spying on them. Armenians have also organized the gangs in some towns and have attacked Muslims. The rebels in Bursa and the surrounding area have worked with great ambition. Armenian army deserters and partisans have created an uprising in Maraş. In the province of Ankara and Boğazlıyan, powerful Armenian gangs have slaughtered Muslims. Under these

25 Orbók, p. 32.

26 Orbók, p. 33.

27 Şebinkarahisar, a district of Giresun.

28 Orbók, p. 34.

circumstances, the Ottoman Government had decided on settling the Armenian population in safer regions. The Ottoman Government had deemed it necessary to ward off the Armenians from those regions in which the existence of the Armenian population was regarded as treacherous. They had to be relocated to regions which were not under foreign influence and in which their activities could be kept under control. In his booklet, Orbók has evaluated the riots created by Armenians on Ottoman territories in which they lived together peacefully:

“During the implementation of these measures, some have deplorably made many abuses against Armenians and victims based on brute force have taken place, but it was not possible to avoid these separate events no matter how depressing it was. A very deep and just anger had awakened among the Muslim population towards Armenians who were citizens of their own nation and who conducted riots and treasons, while they were to own a debt of gratitude to the country for being able to benefit from the blessing of legal equality”.

Moreover, they have attacked neighboring Muslim districts and many individuals have become the victims of the attack of the rebels.

The Armenians have set the gendarme regions on fire from their houses dominated the city of Urfa on 6 September 1331 (1915) and a fierce riot has developed with this signal. The Armenians have even occupied the buildings of foreign institutions and have displayed a strong resistance towards the armed officials of these offices. Moreover, they have attacked neighboring Muslim districts and many individuals have become the victims of the attack of the rebels. Eventually, a certain order was obtained in the city with the arrival of a military force with equal power and the rebels were dismissed from their refuges on October 3rd. In these clashes, twenty died and fifty injured among military and gendarme forces. The quick and effective intervention by the military authorities was successful in suppressing the uprising before it damaged the institutions of foreign, neutral, and hostile states. The charge d'affaires of neutral states did not even consider this as a problem. Furthermore, before the Armenian population was relocated, the Armenians had destroyed their homes in their own cities and had deliberately set them on fire.²⁹

V – The Armenian Question and Great Powers in Orbók’s Booklet

In his booklet, Orbók states that the Armenian riots, presented by Media of Allied and neutral powers as if a “religious” struggle is taking place on Ottoman

²⁹ Orbók, p. 35-36.

territories, carries a “political” aspect; the Armenian minority, constituting 1.5 million of the Ottoman Empire which has a total population of thirty million, has cooperated with the enemy upon the provocation of Russia and the Allied Powers and has risen in rebellion against its fatherland of four hundred years. Therefore, the Armenians have aimed at creating an independent Armenia by regaining their independence with the support of external powers.³⁰ The truth is that the Allied Powers have encouraged the Armenians to revolt by appropriately putting the deceiving vision of an “independent Armenia” inside their heads, while the only purpose was for the civil rebellions to leave the Ottoman army in a difficult position. Orbók has also expressed in his booklet that the role of Russia, which he described as the “rolling ruble”, has been significant in these riots.³¹ Moreover, Orbók has pointed out that the news and allegations of Western public opinion that Turkey is following a policy of annihilating the Armenian minority are lies entirely lacking any foundation.³²

The origin of the Armenian riots dates back to 1870 and the Armenian organizations of today have been established in those years through the financial and moral support of Russian foreign policy.³³ In order to take advantage of the religious struggle, Russia has utilized Turkish hostility existing among the Armenians in Turkey as a political instrument for many years.³⁴ The Armenians, who have been provoked by rebellious organizations in Russia, have created a bloody riot in 1892 in the region of Sason. Between 1893 and 1894, the riots have started again³⁵ and through priests possessing a Slav mentality, Armenians have appealed to Russia for external powers to intervene in the internal affairs of the Ottomans.³⁶ Russia, which has resolved the Macedonian question with blood and fire, has been successful in creating a new Macedonian question in Eastern Anatolia in the same way. The Dashnak Central Committee had reported in a confidential memorandum, dated March 5th 1913 – passed into the Ottoman Government’s possession-, that the separate branches were to be joined together, the French, English and Russian Governments had decided on dealing with the Armenian question until a permanent state of peace was established and that this committee had agreed with these states on the main principles concerning the establishment of a separate government and autonomous system in the Armenian regions³⁷. The

30 Reliable statistics do not exist on the number of Armenians in Turkey. According to the research of France, 1,150,000 Armenians live in the Turkish Empire. On the other hand, a Russian source states that this number is 2.5 million. German scholars nearly unanimously indicate that the number of Armenians has reached 1.5 million. One must calculate the most possible number lying between these two extreme amounts. (Orbók, p. 8)

31 Orbók, p. 39.

32 Orbók, p. 39.

33 Orbók, p. 8.

34 Orbók, p. 8.

35 Orbók, p. 9.

36 Orbók, p. 16.

37 Orbók, p. 17.

official statements of some statesmen are persuasive enough in displaying what kind of support the Allied powers provided Armenians and to what extent these powers encouraged them.³⁸ In this context, the statements and the correspondences are indisputable evidences. One of these evidences is the Russian Tsar's appeal to Armenians. A month before Turkey's intervention, the Tsar had presented an invitation to the Armenians in which he had called upon the Armenian citizens of the Ottoman Empire to join together in rebellion. Some sections of the Tsarist manifestation is quite interesting: "*Armenians, time has come to escape the domination of slavery and tyranny which has been hanging over you for five hundred years and which still causes victims. For all of you to benefit from freedom and rights under the Tsarist law, shed their blood!*" An individual named Ibrahim Turabyan has spoken on behalf of the committee which has recruited voluntary Armenians and the explanation provided in his response³⁹ regarding those being recruited, based on the documents mentioned above and the Armenian texts, is as follows:

"The Tsar of all Russians and the king of Armenia is pleased with the view of two hundred thousand Armenians holding bayonets; the army filled with the consciousness of this real obligation is expanding and makes an impression on our behalf. Armenians will never forget that France has defended their cases and will remember France with deep gratitude.⁴⁰ We believe that France will not only consider us as the pitiful victims of the general massacres of the past, but also as the warrior society who can die while struggling in the name of civilization. Proudful Armenia, which has been under the permanent enslavement of the barbarians after the persistent wars lasting for five hundred years and which identifies its pain with courage during threats and aspiration for freedom, responds to the Tsar's invitation and states the following: Your majesty, we are ready!"⁴¹

In his speech delivered in the inauguration of the Duma, Sazanov has announced that the Armenians will declare war against the Ottoman Empire by cooperating with the Russian army. On the other hand, during the discussions in the English Senate, Lord Cromer has stated that "the only purpose of this war is to rescue Armenia from Turkish domination". The English Government has also agreed with this statement and has confirmed it.⁴² In this period, the following idea has been dominant among Armenians:

38 Orbók, p. 19.

39 See the issue dated 22 November 1914 of the newspaper "*La Tribune*" of Geneva, the French translation of the reply has been published. (Orbók, p. 20)

40 Orbók, p. 20.

41 Orbók, p. 21.

42 Orbók, p. 21.

*“All Armenians living dispersedly in the world must now put all their efforts in supporting the success of Allied Powers. The allies of Germany are doomed to be destroyed; time has come to be born again. For this to be to our advantage, Armenians must strive”.*⁴³

The Allied Powers have taken advantage of every opportunity to convince the Armenians to rebel and therefore, to constrain the Turkish army within the country.⁴⁴ In his booklet, Orbók has stated that especially when he has examined the Armenian riots, he has discovered that Russia and the UK have been the ones provoking the Armenian community in Turkey to rebel and have been the

In his speech delivered in the inauguration of the Duma, Sazanov has announced that the Armenians will declare war against the Ottoman Empire by cooperating with the Russian army.

organizers of the Armenian riots. In order to prove his assertion, Orbók has presented the work published in 1916 in a military press house in St. Petersburg, belonging to its editor Russian General Mayevsky, who was the Russian Consul in Van and later on Erzurum. Orbók has made the following comment on this piece:

“According to what he has personally said and what the book provides evidence for, while he was Turkey’s guest and was taking advantage of

the right of privacy belonging to foreign members of diplomacy, he had acted as a spy for the benefit of Russia. He had participated in the organization of Armenian riots and was in contact with rebellious committees. The title of the book which has been published in a limited number is: The Statistics of the Provinces of Van and Bitlis.⁴⁵ This book, which constitutes historical evidence while disregarding the accuracy of the Turks’ thesis, has been prepared on behalf of the military statistics of Van and Bitlis and the Russian general staff. Its author was the Russian Consul General for six years in Van and then Erzurum. A large portion of the book entails geographical descriptions, natural conditions, means of transportation, description of fortresses and in short, everything related to a successful piece of work a chief of general staff could produce. Although it is as excellent as it could be, a special part of the book has been devoted to the descriptions of the two nation, has dealt with the relations of the different nations with each other and in particular, has been concerned with the situation of the Armenians and Kurds. While proving that the riots were organized with the help of Russia and the encouragement of the UK when mentioning the Armenians, he was convicting them. Since the Russian

43 Orbók, p. 26.

44 Orbók, p. 29.

45 Orbók, p. 41.

General's book was prepared only for the Russian general staff, it is not possible for it to be biased. He has obtained the information and findings by totally acting freely with a clear consciousness at the scene, has spoken with sympathy which is seldom seen and has brought the intrigue of Armenians towards Turkey into the open".⁴⁶ By indicating that the reason for the Armenian riots in 1895 and 1896 was not the poverty of those living in Armenian villages, nor the pressure to make them victims, Mayevsky has made the following comment concerning the situation of the Armenians: "because, these Armenian villages were highly prosperous and were happy just as those in neighboring towns".⁴⁷

VI – Conclusion

Orbók's booklet entitled "The Truth on the Armenian Riot", has had significant influence on Hungarian and Western public opinion in changing the unfavorable atmosphere towards Turks regarding the Armenian question. Following the publication of this booklet, the atmosphere of Turkish-Hungarian friendship in Hungary has increased further. While writing this booklet, Orbók's use of documents and albums sent to the Turkish Embassy in Budapest, along with the report written for the Russian general staff by former Russian Consul General, General Mayevsky, has made it possible for him to view the subject objectively and to explain the truth as it is. Orbók has clearly put forth that the Armenian question is not a religious struggle, but has emerged as a political issue. Moreover, he has indicated that during the emergence of this political issue, the UK and Russia has provoked the Armenians to rebel.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives

BAYRAKTAR, Bayram, *20. Yüzyıl Dönemecinde Rus General Mayevsky'nin Türkiye Gözlemleri*, İnkılâp Yayınları, İstanbul 2007.

ÇARK, Y. G.(Rahip), *Türk Devleti Hizmetinde Ermeniler 1453-1953*, Yeni Matbaa, İstanbul 1953.

ECKHART, Ferenc, *Macaristan Tarihi*, Trans. İbrahim Kafesoğlu, Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, Ankara 1949.

⁴⁶ Orbók, p. 43.

⁴⁷ Orbók, p. 43.

GÖYÜNÇ, Nejat, *Osmanlı İdaresinde Ermeniler*, Gültepe Yayınları, İstanbul 1983.

GÜRÜN, Kâmuran, *Ermeni Dosyası*, Remzi Kitabevi, 9th edition, İstanbul 2008.

KRİKORİAN, Mesrob K., *Armenians In The Service Of The Ottoman Empire 1860-1908*, Routledge&Kegan Paul, London 1977.

LÁZÁR, István, *Transilvania A Short History*, Edited by: Andrew L. Simon, English translation by: Thomas J. De Kornfeld, Published in 1997 by Corvina Books Ltd.

NAMAL, Yücel, *Macaristan ve Ermeni Meselesi (1878-1920)*, Truva Yayınları, 1st edition, İstanbul 2010

Türk-Macar İlişkileri, İskenderiye Yayınevi, 1st edition, İstanbul 2009.

ORBÓK, Dr. Attila Von, *Az Igazság Az Ąrmények Forradalmi Mozgalmáról, A Császári Ottomán Kormányának Az Örmények Államellenes Mozgalmáról Beszerzett Eredeti Hivatalos Adatai Nyomán*, Budapeste 1916, Rényi Karoly Könyvkerekedése És Kiadóvalla, Budapest, IV, Vigado-Utca 1.

SÜSLÜ, Azmi, *Ermeniler ve 1915 Tehcir Olayı*, Yüzüncü Yıl Üniversitesi Rektörlüğü Yayın No: 5, Ankara 1990.

ANNEXES

1: The cover of Orbók's booklet entitled "*The Truth on the Armenian Riot*". (Dr. Attila Von Orbók, *Az Igazság Az Ármények Forradalmi Mozgalmáról, A Császári Ottomán Kormányának Az Örmények Államellenes Mozgalmáról Beszerzett Eredeti Hivatalos Adatai Nyomán*, Budapest 1916, Rényi Karoly Könyvkereskedése És Kiadóvalla, Budapest, IV, Vigadó-Utca 1.)



2: The page which indicates Orbók's purpose for writing the booklet. (Orbók, page 6)

ماچار افکار صوبه سی نور باره کی ارضیون مرکاتدن تمامه بی خبر بولونچور
بعضی قلوبک محافل، حکومت عثمانیه نیک ارضیه عقیده اتحاد ابدی بی تباریک
سوانقندن معلوماتدار اولدق قلمدن بو خصوصه مراقبه بولونچور لر . بونک
ایچون یلدیلمکینه فارسی برص فریبیت پرورده ایدن ماچار و تورک ملندی
آره سنه هیچ بر فضی سبب مستند اولدی سوی تفهیم حاصل اولماسی ایچون
ماچار تاتنه اولدی بور سال نیک نسیبه لزوم کورولدی
دوقور اور بوی آنتیلا

3: The telegraph belonging to the Tbilisi Armenian national bureau, this telegraph entails the receipt of the amount of 47061 rubles for the riot. (Orbók, p.17)

ՅՐԵՆԻՔ

VOL. XVII - No 34 (1915)
HAIRENIK
 An Armenian Newspaper, Issued Every
 Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
 YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION \$10
 Entered at the post office at Boston as
 second class mail matter
 Through Bureau "Hairenik", Boston

ՀԱՅՏԱԽԱՆԱԿ, ԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ԵՐԵՄՅԱՆ ՔԵՆՏ
 7 Bennett Street, Boston, Mass.
 Published by "Hairenik" Press

Saturday, March 20

ԱԶԳԱՅԻՆ ԲՈՒԲՈՒ ՀՆՈՍԳՈՐԸ
 Հ. Յ. Դ. ԱճԻՐ, ԿԵՐՔ, ԿՈՒԽԱՆԻ

CABLEGRAM

RECEIVED AT 5:54 PM. "VIA COMMERCIAL" MAR 17 1915

TIFLIS '15
 ARMENIAN REPERERATION COMMITTEE CENTRAL BOSTON
 BUREAU 47061 RUBELS 11 NOME VOLONTAIRE ET BUREAU RENERGIEMENT
 ARCHEVEQUE MESROP

112 STATE STREET, TELEPHONE: MAIN 179 AND FORTMILL 2919
 126 FEDERAL STREET, TELEPHONE: MAIN 179 AND FORTMILL 2919
 No liability is assumed for this Bureau can be assumed as without the production of this paper. Specifications of doubtful words should be obtained through the Chamber of
 Commerce and not by applying directly to the sender.

**Թիֆլիս, Մարտի 16 — Հ. Յ. Դ. Ա. Կ. Կոստանի, Պոստի
 Վաստակում 47061 ռուբլի 11 կոպ. Եւրոպայի
 Հայաստանի կամուրջներու և Բիւրոսի անուամբ:**

ԵՐԵՅ. ՄԵՍՐՕՊ

Նախորդ 20,000 ռուբլի ստացուածն սրբապատուելի քննարկ
 անկողնու պէս ղրկեցիք 20,000 ռուբլի հրա:

*A tiflizi örmény nemzeti iroda távirata, melyben 47061 rubel
 forradalmi célokra kapott pénzt nyugtáz.*

