

MORGENTHAU SHENANIGANS

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Abstract. The Armenian assertions related to the migration of Armenians living in eastern Anatolia amid the start of First World War, is mainly based on the book titled “Ambassador Morgenthau's Story” written by purported Mr. Henry Morgenthau Sr. The ambassador of USA to Istanbul. In reality, the book was written, edited and composed by Mr. Burton J. Hendricks, the famous journalist, winner of the Pulitzer Prize of the period. He is the unveiled writer behind the curtains. He is the professional writer of this indecisive book and recompensed with an extremely immense lump sum of money from Mr. Morgenthau for his extremely proficient, dedicated and insatiable office. The truth of the matter is that Ambassador Morgenthau administered as a US Ambassador in Istanbul from late November 1913 to early February mid 1916, however never voyaged eastwards even up to İzmit (İzmit of today), which situated a mere 90 km east of Kalkedon (Kadıköy of today). His book is completely in light of hearings and cosmetics stories made by the two Armenian US Embassy representatives. No data in this book depends on any official report issued by any neighboring nation to the Ottoman Empire or even the US Senate or Congress. At the point when this book is checked against Mr. Morgenthau's Diary, it can be unmistakably seen by anyone that it incorporates made up stories as opposed to mirroring the genuine events, incidents, recollections and memories. This paper, in view of data excerpted from the non-Turkish or non-Ottoman archives and documents as well as official discharges, tries to bring into life what happened really amid this period and the contradictions between the book titled “Ambassador Morgenthau's Story” and his diary.

Keywords: Morgenthau, Diary, Armenian, Book, Ottoman

1 INTRODUCTION

During the presentation of Şükrü Server Aya's challenging book “Preposterous Paradoxes of Ambassador Morgenthau” on March 30, 2013 in Istanbul (full text of the book is available at;

<http://armenians-1915.blogspot.com/2013/03/3395-former-us-ambassador-has-falsified.html> (ISBN 978-085034-125-6),

Dr. Pat Walsh, a prominent Irish scholar on the history of the Ottoman Empire, had made the following brief statement about the well heard and only reference on genocide myth, the book “Ambassador Morgenthau's Story, Boston 1918”;

“Morgenthau's book is a propagandist construct around actual events, for apolitical purpose”.

The findings on this old book were also mentioned in the following publications:

- a) <http://www.hrmars.com/admin/pics/1929.pdf>

International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences June 2013,
Vol. 3, No. 6 ISSN: 2222-6990

b) <http://aasrc.org/aasrj/index.php/aasrj/article/view/1448/0>

At that time it is considered that the findings or sharp contradictions between the Ambassador's book and his diary were all new information.

Diary can be retrieved from: <http://www.gomidas.org/books/show/49>

EARLY REVEAL OF THE FALSIFICATIONS

Actually, the falsifications in Morgenthau's Book were already revealed back in 1926, in the book of Harry E. Barnes, titled "Genesis of the World War." (Barnes, 1926:241-7). A critical commentary to Ambassador Morgenthau's Story which largely consists of a Sidney B. Fay quote from the journal *Kriegschuldfrage* (1925), excerpted from the above book of Harry E. Barnes. Sidney B. Fay's commentary (WWWI, 1926) related to the book "Ambassador Morgenthau's Story" is as follows;

"This luxuriant and voluptuous legend was not only the chief point in the Allied propaganda against Germany after the publication of Mr. Morgenthau's book, but it has also been tacitly accepted by Mr. Asquith in his apology, and solemnly repeated by Bourgeois and Pages in the standard conventional French work, both published since the facts have been available which demonstrate that the above tale is a complete fabrication. The myth has been subjected to withering criticism by Professor Sidney B. Fay in the *Kriegschuldfrage* for May, 1925

The contemporary documents now available prove conclusively that there is hardly a word of truth in Mr. Morgenthau's assertions, either as to (a) the persons present, (b) the Kaiser's attitude toward delay, (c) the real reasons for delay, or (d) the alleged selling of securities in anticipation of war. In fact, his assertions are rather the direct opposite of the truth." (Armenians, 1915)

Documents found in the British Archives

A new set of some twenty documents found in the British Archives, have been released on the internet by "Gomidas Institute Armenian Genocide Documentation Project". Some of these documents were mentioned in the "Diary of Ambassador Morgenthau".

After glancing at these documents found in the British (not US) Archives, which are summarized in pages 189-199 of the new book "The Big Lie" (Aya, 2017, 189-99). The author made a fresh review of some of the old facts which were not mentioned earlier and decided to share the new findings in the biased and paradoxical deeds of US "Ambassador Morgenthau's Story" which is the ONLY U.S.A.'s document all parties take as a "dependable source", but which found very opposite to be true.

Related investigative questions

Question 1:

Was Morgenthau a "neutral ambassador" or a biased person with strong prejudices against Turks, and if yes, what was the reason behind? Let evaluate more widely based on facts.

It is known that Morgenthau was expecting to be made Secretary of Treasury by Woodward Wilson, in return for his strenuous campaign efforts and finance. But Wilson's cabinet was "all Christians" and he was offered the position of "Ambassador for

the Ottoman Empire". Morgenthau did not like this post, but he agreed when Wilson told him that this post would be very advantageous for him to help out the Jews who were settling in Palestine. Morgenthau was a fanatical Zionist, and member of "B'nai B'rith". He accepted the position and arrived in Istanbul in late November 1913 with his wife.

Lord Bryce had been Britain's Washington Ambassador for six years, 1907 to 1913 and had met with Morgenthau in Washington. Bryce was an ardent Armenian lover, because he had climbed Mount Ararat in his youth. Bryce, after retirement was the chief counsel of the "Wellington House", the British Propaganda Department. Sir Roger Casement of the British Foreign Office did not only report Armenian-made massacres on Oct.11, 1915, but in an article published in "The Continental Times" he described him as a "prostitute" and added that "it will be offensive to honest prostitutes"!

The relation between Morgenthau and Bryce families

There is no reference in any book about the joint trip of Morgenthau and Bryce families in late March 1914 to Egypt and from there together to Palestine, where they were hosted by Aaron Aaronson a Jewish agronomist in Haifa who was to develop anti-insecticides against locust disasters. Aaron had a perfect lab, was fully supported by Jamal Pasha the greatest authority and could enter any area any time. Morgenthau had brought Arshag Schmajonian the Embassy dragoman with him, who spoke all languages. Bryce and Morgenthau hosted a few days by the Aaronsohn family. Bryce and Morgenthau split in Beirut and Morgenthau returned to Istanbul by his gunboat-yacht "Scorpion". We learn from Morgenthau's Diary that he received word and transferred money to Aaronsohn in Palestine on November 22, 1914. Later, Jamal Pasha's surprise attack to Suez Canal in February 1915, failed because the British were waiting for them. Aaron disappeared and went to Britain, his sister Sarah got arrested for being part of their spying team "Nili" and committed suicide. His younger brother Alexander escaped on a battleship from Beirut to USA. This explains "why Bryce and Morgenthau" travelled together as "extremely intimate buddies". When WW I started and the British and French had to leave, Morgenthau "kept sending news, old missionary reports" inside diplomatic bags direct to London without giving details on the contents of these to Washington.

Examples of the distortions in the diary

In the free downloadable book on internet since 2013 the "Preposterous Paradoxes of Ambassador Morgenthau"(Aya, 2013), there are several examples of the distortions or even inversions he or the ghost writer dramatized most cunningly in the book which was a great success with reprints for more than forty times in several languages. Heath Lowry was the first scholar who found George Abel Schreiner's- the (Associated Press correspondent who spent some six months in Turkey- and eye witnessed the Dardanelles sea and land battles after April 25, 1915) letter to him. He had been with Morgenthau may be for more than thirty times, but when he read Morgenthau's Book Boston 1918, he had written a severe letter of protest to the ambassador, criticizing his several distortions. Additional other remarks can be seen in p.63 of the referred book. (Aya, 2013:63)

Now that some twenty U.S. Istanbul Embassy documents dated 1915-1916 have surfaced in the "British Archives", it shows that these were kept secret from Washington State Department but instead were served freely to Lord Bryce in London to be penned in takes by Arnold Toynbee.

Now we can understand why the following very informative conversation on Morgenthau's Diary, was never reported to Washington;

"Diary, September 26, 1915: Zenop Bezjian, Vekil of Armenian Protestants, called. Schmajonian introduced him. He was his schoolmate. He told me a great deal about conditions. I was surprised to hear him report that Armenians at Zor were fairly well

satisfied, that they have already settled down to business and are earning their living. Those were the first ones that were sent away and seem to have gotten there without being massacred. He gave me a list where the various camps are and he thinks that over half a million have been displaced. He was most solicitous that they should be helped before winter set in. In the evening, I had Dr. Schlacht who is in charge of the Sanitary Department of the army around Bagdad.”

Apparently “good or normal news” which did not confirm Morgenthau’s antagonism inspired by Lord Bryce, had no “historical value”.

But the above hiding of facts is just a minor case compared to the “elephant hidden in the US Embassy”. The following context appears in Morgenthau’s Diary, and is also among the documents found in the British Archives, proving that it was never sent to Washington, but went to Lord Bryce.

Morgenthau’s Diary, November 12, 1915:

“Halil Bey called at 5 p.m. and sat until 6.30. He told me his father died at the age of 100 that his mother died when his father was about 98 and that he then remarried a wife that he had previously divorced and was still capable. Philip and Schimavonian were with me and we had a long discussion about the Armenian question. He gave me a very clear explanation of his side of the case. He said that as early as February, he called together the Armenian deputies and told them that the demands which one of them had made about the administration of the vilayet of Van showed that they were preparing for action, and he warned them against their doing so. He told them to wait and see if the Russians would succeed and defeat the Turks, and then it would be proper time for them also to enter the arena, but unfortunately the Dashnaguists joined the Russians and attacked them, and they had to defend themselves for fear that if they had withdrawn, the Armenians would rise and cut off their retreat. They therefore had to deport all of the Armenians and did not have sufficient gendarmes and soldiers free, and all that Enver could spare was a battalion to be devoted to escorting the Armenians. [He stated] that they have now absolutely stopped all deportations, that at Adrianople a new governor had wanted to assert himself and had started deportations, but Talaat stopped him, and that no one at Smyrna or here would be touched. He stated that Enver had insisted that no foreign help should be given to the Armenians, that any money or help will have to go through the [Turks], and he felt that this was largely in the interest of the Armenians because any encouragement received by them from foreigners led them to their troubles. [Halil said] that whether it is right or wrong Enver absolutely insists on this, that the few thousand pounds we could give would be very little to help, and that the Government has sent Chukri, Director of Bureau of Refugees and Djanbolat to Syria to investigate matters and see that they received proper care. He says that the Turks in some of the vilayets are not in any better state and don’t complain and that the people here are frugal and are satisfied very little. When Philip asked him whether we would not render help, as Philip thought it was more important to help a few that try and solve the general question, Halil replied curtly and told him he had explained the point very fully and could not go over it again. They are evidently absolutely determined to avoid outside interference. I again urged to appoint a Committee of Turks and representatives of the Allies and myself but that did not seem to appeal to him at all. He denied that they had any plan or has now to exterminate the Armenians. It was simply a necessary measure of defense! And he said that he is giving this as an explanation of what the Government has done to extenuating circumstances of the severe measures taken against the Armenians and not a justification.” (Morgenthau, 2014)

This is an official diplomatic meeting between the Ottoman Empire's Foreign Minister and the Official Representatives of the U.S.A. The meeting resembles spying operations; the Ambassador of USA fails to inform his own State Department, but instead sends it to Britain the enemy at war with Turks. Chances are that if Washington (State Secretary Lansing) and President Wilson were made aware of this conversation as if "note verbal", they would have avoided Morgenthau's book three years later and the incredible distortions made in the Near East Relief Organization publications, simply to collect money, exceeding the minimal ethical rules.

Another important document not reported to Washington, is a Report dated February 6, 1916 (US Archives 59.857.48/271). In this report, the U.S. Consul in Aleppo gives a detailed list of some ten camps he visited in his area, and confirms that 486.000 Armenians are alive in that region only. We know that Armenians in the West, Istanbul, Izmir and adjacent areas were not moved and this would be another minimum of 114.000 making a total of 600.000 no one can object. Again, we have three different sources giving the number of Turkish Armenians who themselves took refuge in Russia when Russian army had pulled back once. The minimum figure is 300.00; the League of Nations gives these number as 400.000 and the U.S. Near East Relief Organization gives it as 500.000. So, this shows that at least 600.000 Turkish Armenians were still living in the Ottoman Empire and another 300.000 had taken refuge to Armenia-Russia during the war, totaling to 900.000.

The Official Declaration of the League of Nations confirms 200.000 Armenians sacrificed their lives fighting on the side of enemies against home country. No one had objected this declaration in the Official Gazette, on September 21, 1929.

The two Official Armenian documents confirm that about 200.000 Armenians died in Armenia during the 30-month rule of the Dashnakist Republic, May 28, 1918 to Dec.2, 1920. These died due to epidemics, starvation and lack of food and shelter. This means that 400.000 Armenians died because of Armenian or Big Powers wars and war shortages. This adds up to 1.300.000.

The population of Armenians in Turkey before war in March 1914 was counted to be 1.280.000. Hence, we need to be shown solid official documents for alleged massacres, for which all existing documents prove these to be done by Armenians. Sadder is the fact that "killing only" was not sufficient; Turks were better to be butchered.

From the book titled "Dro (Drastamat Kanayan)"

"A dispute between Dro and Silikian arose about this military state perspective. Silikian said: "I appoint you commander of Bash-Aparan". Dro replied, "I will go wherever you want, just do not divide the army. Let us with full, attack the Turkish forces advancing toward Sardarapat and massacre them. What is our information? We are informed that they have altogether two battalions. Even if they reach Ashtarak, we can massacre them". (Chalabian, 2010:94)

CONCLUSION

Mr. Morgenthau for sure exploited and denounced the confidence Turks had in him as a "honest Ambassador" who would have no reasons of any antagonism, for all his wishes were nearly met in full trusting USA's neutrality, which in reality was a perfect duplicity. Still, it is hard to explain "why Morgenthau was so antagonistic against Turks?" During his stay of about 760 days as Ambassador in Turkey, he had about 280 transactions

related to Jews, mostly money transfers. The Jewish Rabbi in Istanbul Hayim Nahum, was at all times with him in close friendship. Mr. Nahum was faithful to the Jewish Community and the Ottoman Empire. He was in the team of Nationalist Turks at the Lausanne Conference and earlier the Ottoman Empire tried to send him to Washington as an Ambassador, but he was intercepted in Europe. Morgenthau's following efforts during the Paris and later Lausanne Peace talks were all flawed with inexplicable antagonism, to the degree of failing the government which authorized him as ambassador.

The twenty documents referred to here and addressed to the Istanbul Embassy are available on the internet. We have not seen any "reference to any crimes-massacres" reported by any of the U.S. Consuls to his office. No one asked Morgenthau, what type of concrete evidences he could show to support his book three years later, which under the circumstances proves to be a very cheap falsification for anyone.

Another Official U.S. Document (Authority Letter 1-8-59 State Dept. - W.R. Anderson) enlists total Armenians in the world as 3.004.000, of which 817.873 were refugees from Turkey and adds that 281.000 Armenians live in Turkey at that date. Another document submitted at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 by Greek PM Venizelos declare that 1.280.000 Armenians were living in Turkey in 1918, enough to fill the huge land for which they had asked.

Finally, considering all that has been revealed above, one cannot help but remind ourselves that when the Morgenthau family had emigrated from Germany to New York in 1866, they had taken the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the U.S.A. which says;

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same..."

Let alone his own oath when appointed as an Ambassador, it makes if not the whole world, but especially the historians wonder whether Ambassador H. Morgenthau's allegiance was to USA or to Lord Bryce, and for what reason, as he kept the US State Department in the dark by not forwarding the aforementioned documents where they should have been in the first place. I leave it to the readers to decide whether Ambassador Morgenthau can be taken as a serious and objective witness to history.

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