

**ARMENIA AND THE  
ARMENIANS FROM THE  
EARLIEST TIMES UNTIL  
THE GREAT WAR (1914)**

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Armenia and the Armenians from the Earliest Times Until the Great War (1914) by Kevork Aslan

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**KEVORK ASLAN**

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**ARMENIA  
AND THE ARMENIANS**

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES  
UNTIL THE GREAT WAR (1914)

BY  
**KEVORK ASLAN**

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

BY  
**PIERRE CRABITÈS**

WITH A PREFACE ON  
THE EVOLUTION OF THE ARMENIAN QUESTION

BY  
THE TRANSLATOR

**New York**  
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1920

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TO  
BOGHOS PASHA NUBAR,  
PRESIDENT OF THE <sup>American</sup> NATIONAL DELEGATION,  
WHOSE TACTFUL LEADERSHIP AND UNREMITTING  
DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE OF HIS RACE HAS  
MADE EVERY LOVER OF FREEDOM  
HIS DESTOR, THIS WORK IS  
DEDICATED

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## PREFATORY NOTE

IN 1908 the author published at Paris, in the French language, an octavo volume of some 500 pages entitled "*Etudes Historiques sur le Peuple Arménien*," covering the history of Armenia from the earliest times to the eleventh century. This edition is now out of print. Subsequently there was also published in French a condensed edition of the same work, carrying the story, however, from the earliest times down to the present day. The first edition of this smaller volume having been exhausted a new and revised edition has been prepared for publication in French and it has been thought appropriate to issue contemporaneously therewith an English translation.

The author ventures to express the hope that the English edition of his work will meet with the same favor that has been accorded the original French text.

In issuing this English edition it has been deemed necessary, in quite a number of instances, to depart from the French transliteration of Armenian, Persian and other foreign names. The phonetic value of certain English letters differs somewhat from the sound which the French associate with the same character and this difference has made it necessary to modify the transliteration of the Oriental original.

In other cases it has been found that a well-established

lished English custom has consecrated, as it were, a certain spelling which, from a scientific point of view, is absolutely indefensible and clearly shows that a Greek corruption of the Armenian or Persian form has found its way into English nomenclature. In such instances it has been considered better to follow established usages.

Then again as Armenia and the other territory referred to in this volume have been overrun at various times by many different races it has come about that many places are known under different names. Here it has been thought best to adopt what is felt to be more common designation and to add a footnote indicating some of the other forms.

In order to accentuate the manifold difficulties inherent in a work of the instant character it is now pointed out that there are two ways of pronouncing several Armenian letters; one mode obtains among the Armenians of the Caucasus, that is to say, in the East, and the other among occidental Armenians and principally among those inhabiting Constantinople.

Example:—

		<i>Oriental form</i>	<i>Occidental form</i>
բ	==	b	p
գ	==	g	c
դ	==	d	t
է	==	e	g
==	==	t	d

It is considered that the standard accepted in the East is the better form and it is therefore adopted as the basis of the transliteration followed out in this volume. This deduction is founded upon tests pred-

## PREFATORY NOTE

ix

icated upon certain Armenian names which have been handed down in a transliterated Greek form.

Painstaking care has not been spared to fulfill with success a difficult task. These explanations are not set forth for the purpose of escaping responsibility for such omission or errors as may obtain but rather in order that an indulgent public, in arriving at its verdict, may not be unaware of the besetting difficulties which it has been sought to overcome.