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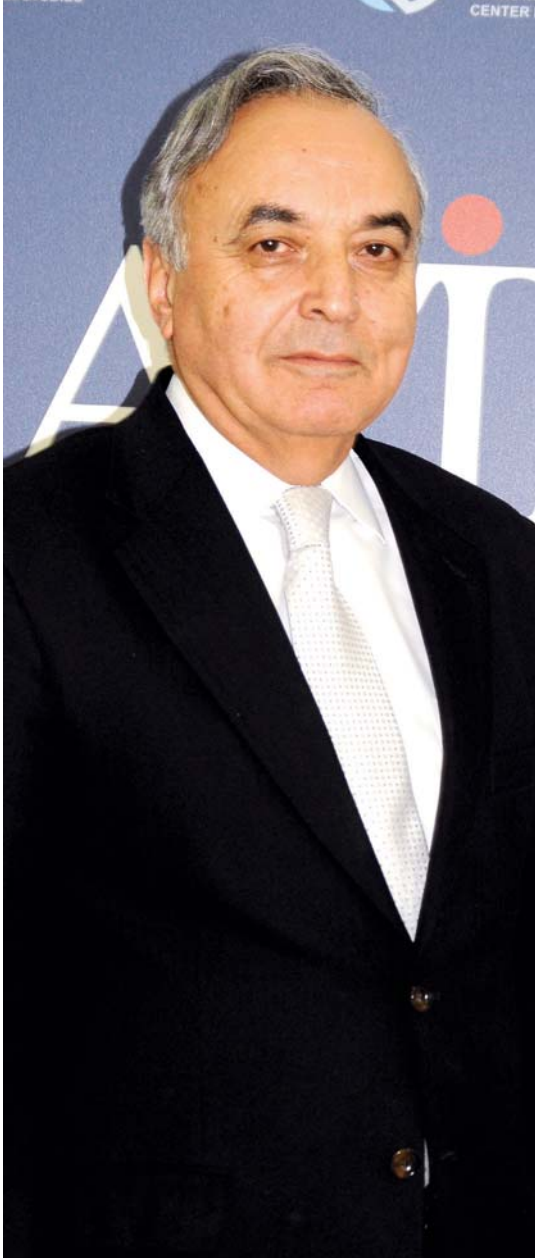
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AVİM Director

Ambassador (R)
Alev KILIÇ

Foreword

The positive comments received on the first annual report published in 2015 have encouraged the Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM) to continue with publishing an annual report for the year 2016 to present AVİM's activities and publications in a comprehensive manner.

The year 2016 has witnessed significant developments in AVİM's area of interest in the sphere of Eurasia, reinforcing our earlier analysis, assessments and forecasts. In the period following the end of the Cold War that ended with the victory of the West and the implosion of the Soviet Union, AVİM has been consistently voicing the view that Turkey's geopolitical vocation has been shifting from once being the easternmost post of the West to moving to the core of Eurasia, thus becoming the nexus of the West and an East emerging as a new heavy weight in global relations.

Asian countries, with China at the forefront, have indeed continued to exert their influence in the political, military, economic scales of the global balance, corroborating that the trend of the global balance shifting from the West to the East is of a sustaining nature. The Eurasian Economic Union that was initiated by Russia, as an alternative to the European Union; *One Belt One Road Silk Road Project* that China perseveringly keeps high on the agenda; the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, initially introduced with the cooperation of Russia and China as a security oriented

gathering that has evolved into an organization with increasingly economic content; the Economic Cooperation Organization founded by Turkey, Iran and Pakistan, now including ten members, with an outlook for reinvigoration; the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank initiated by China; the emerging proposals to introduce payment in local currency into the international finance system; the crucial location and potential of the Black Sea and the Caspian basins can all be cited among the indicators of the increasing significance and acknowledgement of Eurasia in global geopolitics.

In the meantime, the definition of Eurasia keeps on being flexible. Geographically, it is possible to define it as the combination of the land masses of Europe and Asia. However, in practical terms, it appears to be convenient to define its scope in accordance with special relations and interests. It is a leitmotif of AVİM that Turkey is situated at the center of Eurasia, providing a door for the West to the East and vice versa. The hinges of this door, in AVİM's view, are the Caucasus and the Balkans. Turkey is a Balkan country. The etymological root of the word "Balkan" is Turkish. The European identity of Turkey is closely tied to being in the Balkans. As such, the Balkans and beyond are of special interest to AVİM.

The Caucasus, the Caspian basin and Central Asian republics constitute the other focal point of interest for AVİM. Relations with Georgia and Azerbaijan have continued to prosper in 2016. The sole exception blocking regional stability and peace in South Caucasus continues to be Armenia.

Therefore, the problems created by Armenia and the Armenian diaspora continue to take priority in the work and research of AVİM. In this context, the 2016 issues of two periodical journals, the 53rd, 54th and 55th editions of *Ermeni Araştırmaları* in Turkish, and the 33rd and 34th issues of *Review of Armenian Studies* in English have duly dwelt on the subject. AVİM has also started to study the Armenian question and Armenian claims in a comprehensive and in depth manner from a judicial angle, as this aspect of the question is acquiring new significance. To that end, we have organized legal workshops in cooperation with legal professionals and academics, the proceedings and outcomes of which have proven to be of great value.

We have further focused on Armenian allegations employed as a political tool of abuse against Turkey by third countries, as well as on the religious aspect which has come out more into the open.

Information in detail is available in the following pages on AVİM activities. I would particularly like to mention our Daily News Bulletin, bilingual, in Turkish and English, with an ever increasing following and qualitative improvements in content. We are convinced that, with regard to AVİM's work, the year 2016 has been quite valuable and forward looking.

In conclusion, I wish to express, on behalf of AVİM, our gratitude to all who have shown interest in and given support to our work, as well as sincere thanks to AVİM staff to whose unrelenting efforts and conscientious work we owe the level we reached today.

On the Past and



AVİM Honorary President

Ambassador (R)

Ömer Engin LÜTEM

AVİM was established in 2009. However, since it has assumed the duties of the Institute for Armenian Research (ERAREN) at the Eurasian Strategic Research Center (ASAM) and has carried out its work under the same president, it is possible to say that it has a history of seventeen years.

Since 2000, in parallel with Turkey's efforts for accession process to the European Union, the Armenian question has gained significance. In this period, Turkey has been increasingly confronted with the genocide allegations. Since it has become a necessity to respond to these allegations in a scientific manner, the Institute for Armenian Research was established with this purpose. Within this framework, the Institute began publishing *Ermeni Araştırmaları* since 2001, and *Review of Armenian Studies* since 2002. These journals have been published until today without interruption. At present, *Ermeni Araştırmaları* has reached its 55th issue, while *Review of Armenian Studies* has reached its 34th issue. Thousands of pages of studies on the different aspects of the Armenian question have been published in both journals.

The reason for this intense publication activity is that no substantial

Future of AVİM

studies were made on the Armenian issue in the past, except for the work of several selfless scholars. Both *Ermeni Arařtırmaları* and *Review of Armenian Studies* have filled this void and enabled scholars who work on the Armenian question to publish their work. As in the past, today, our journals are the only continuous publications in Turkey on the Armenian question. On the other hand, a very large portion of the official records on the Armenian question is found in the archives of Turkey. Therefore, it is necessary that these records are studied and presented to the scientific community as soon as possible.

Following its establishment, AVİM took over the responsibilities of the Institute for Armenian Research and continued its work. Furthermore, AVİM began to take close interest in the Eurasian region which also includes Turkey. Considering the economic rise of China and India besides Japan, which has been long a major economic power, the commercial success of Southeast Asian countries, and Russia's rich natural resources in Asia, it is understood that the America-Europe axis, which has been at the forefront in terms of global economy and therefore politics, will eventually lose its leadership position to Eurasia. The importance of the rise of Eurasia for Turkey, a country located at the southern border of Europe and

whose belonging to Europe is still subject to debate, is that it provides Turkey the opportunity to become a central country, and as a result to become a transit country in terms of energy and transportation, as well as providing Turkey advantages in terms of trade. Therefore, besides Europe to which it has desired to become economically integrated, Turkey needs to take greater interest in the developments in Eurasia and develop closer relations with the countries of the region. Therefore, great responsibility falls to AVİM and similar organizations to carry out studies in this field. As a matter of fact, AVİM cooperates with leading think-tanks, particularly with those based in the Caucasus and Russia, and also plans to establish close contacts with organizations in Central Asian Turkic states.

Presently, AVİM carries out its work with a small staff of highly educated analysts with good knowledge of foreign languages. I extend my warmest gratitude to the staff of AVİM and to everyone who showed support to our organization, and express my confidence in the success of AVİM's future studies with the experience and foresight of AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç, as well as the valuable contributions of Ambassador (R) Yiğit Alpogon who has recently joined AVİM.



AVİM Advisor

Ambassador (R)

Yiğit ALPOGAN

At the Start

It is my honor and privilege to have been called upon at the end of 2016 to become a part of the Center for Eurasian Studies, a think tank, the work and activities of which I have always followed with interest.

In my new duty that I assume with great responsibility, I hope and expect that the experience I gathered during my long career in the Turkish Foreign Ministry as well as my last six years of work as the Deputy Secretary General of the UfM (Union for the Mediterranean) established in 2010 in Barcelona will be of help. In the same vein, I regard it highly valuable in particular my time as the Deputy Undersecretary re-

sponsible for the entire Eurasian region in the Turkish Foreign Ministry and my later work on the Mediterranean, that is while not a part of Eurasia in the strict sense, but closely related and maintaining deep interaction in political, economic, social, and cultural spheres with it. Indeed, in my view, Eurasia should not be regarded as an isolated entity confined to a certain geography, but as a dynamic region with effect on surrounding geographies in our ever-changing and transforming world.

This particularity of the Eurasian region becomes all the more significant when one realizes that political and economic center of gravity in

today's world is quickly shifting from Euro-Atlantic towards East Asia-Pacific. During this transition, it is noteworthy that Eurasia never loses its importance and remains always at the center defining and influencing developments on the global scale. This fact by itself brings forward new responsibilities to a research and analyses institution like AVİM with focus on Eurasian affairs.

In line with these thoughts, I am happy to be able to contribute to the intellectual work of AVİM as much as I can. At the start, I would like to extend my thanks to the AVİM management for granting this opportunity to me.

About AVİM

AVİM, founded in 2009, is an independent, non-profit think tank based in Ankara that operates under the umbrella of Turkmeneli Cooperation and Culture Foundation. AVİM carries out its work with researchers and analysts who are Master's and PhD students, PhD Candidates and holders of doctoral degrees, and administrative personnel.

Our Mission

AVİM aims to provide researchers, scholars, journalists, policy makers, and the broader community with comprehensive and in-depth perspectives about the current political affairs in the regions which are strategically important to Turkey, particularly Europe, the Balkans, the Wider Black Sea Region, the Caucasus and Central Asia. AVİM also seeks to contribute to the understanding of challenges and opportunities that Turkey faces within the changing global geopolitical context. The geopolitical position of Turkey requires utmost attention and vigilance to the developments in the Eurasian region with two hinges on the Balkans and the Caucasus. AVİM attributes particular attention to these two regions in its studies. Within this framework, AVİM has a special interest in the controversial Turkish-Armenian relations.

Our Vision

AVİM envisions building a network of scholars and experts on the Eurasian region to facilitate intellectual interchanges and cooperation. Pursuing this vision, AVİM collaborates with national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, independent policy institutions and universities, and aims to enhance those partnerships.

What We Do

AVİM publishes books and reports based on original research, conference proceedings and policy briefs both in print and electronic format. It organizes national and international conferences and workshops on the political developments in the Eurasian region. AVİM prepares a daily bulletin with news, commentaries and analyses covering the evolving new Eurasia on its website and distributes it via email reaching currently to 7,000 recipients.

AVİM publishes the following three peer-reviewed academic journals.

- Ermeni Arařtırmaları (in Turkish; since 2001)
- Review of Armenian Studies (in English; since 2002)
- International Crimes and History / Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih (bilingual in English and Turkish; since 2005)

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AVIM 2016 Annual Report

Activities

18 January 2016

Conference Titled *Mongolia on the Eve of 11th Asia-Europe Summit, the Regional Potential of Mongolia, and Turkish-Mongolian Relations*



On 18 January 2016, AVİM organized a conference titled *Mongolia on the Eve of 11th Asia-Europe Summit, the Regional Potential of Mongolia, and Turkish-Mongolian Relations* (11. Asya-Avrupa Zirvesi Öncesi Moğolistan'daki Mevcut Durum, Moğolistan'ın Bölgesel Potansiyeli ve Türk-Moğol İlişkileri).

In the first part of the conference, which began with an opening speech delivered by AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç, H.E. Murat Karagöz, Turkey's Ambassador to Ulaanbaatar made a comprehensive presentation about the current political and economic status of Mongolia within the context of regional developments. Ambassador Karagöz, in his presentation that he enriched with many subtopics, evaluated Turkey-Mongolia relations and Mongolia's strategic importance in terms of Turkey and the region.

The second part of the conference continued with





a Q&A session with the participation of representatives from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, Office of the Prime Minister for Turks Abroad and Related Communities, Public Administration Institute for Turkey and Middle East, and Anka Institute, and academics from Middle Eastern Technical University, Gazi University, Hacettepe University, and Ankara University. The discussions in this part focused on Turkish-Mongolian relations in light of Mongolia's strategic position in relation to Russia and China in the regional sense, and the latest developments that occurred in the region.



27 January 2016

AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç's Participation in the Commemoration Ceremony for *International Holocaust Remembrance Day*

On 27 January 2016, AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç participated in the Commemoration Ceremony for *International Holocaust Remembrance Day*.

In 2005, in order to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust perpetrated by Nazi Germany during the Second World War, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared 27 January as *International Holocaust Remembrance Day*, coinciding with the day that Auschwitz-Birkenau, one of the largest concentration camps of the period, was liberated in 1945.

As part of the events and educational activities aiming at raising awareness about the Holocaust in Turkey, various activities are being carried out since 2011 on the occasion of the *International Holocaust Remembrance Day*.



1915 Events and International Law Workshops - 2

Workshop on Titled *1915 Events and International Law: the Juridical Effects and Outcomes of ECtHR's Perinçek Precedent*

11-12 February 2016

On 11-12 February 2016, AVİM, in cooperation with Başkent University, organized a workshop titled *1915 Events and International Law: the Juridical Effects and Outcomes of ECtHR's Perinçek Precedent* (1915 Olayları ve Uluslararası Hukuk: AİHM'in Perinçek İçtihadının Hukuksal Etkileri ve Sonuçları) in Ankara, which is the second leg of the *1915 Events and International Law* workshop series.

In the workshop titled *1915 Events and International Law: the Juridical Effects and Outcomes of ECtHR's Perinçek Precedent* (1915 Olayları ve Uluslararası Hukuk: AİHM'in Perinçek İçtihadının Hukuksal Etkileri ve Sonuçları) organized by AVİM in cooperation with Başkent University on 11-12 February 2016, the verdict by the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) on 15 October 2015 concerning the *Perinçek v. Switzerland*





case was examined. As known, Swiss courts had convicted Turkish politician Dr. Doğu Perinçek for objecting to the characterization of the 1915 events as genocide during some of the speeches he made in Switzerland.

During the workshop titled *1915 Events and International Law: the Juridical Effects and Outcomes of ECtHR's Perinçek Precedent*, over 30 academics, legal professionals, and researchers from Ankara, Çanakkale, İstanbul, and from the US, as well as the AVİM analysts assessed various aspects of the process of the Perinçek v. Switzerland case, the content and nature of the verdict, and the possible outcomes and effects of the verdict.

In the first session titled *The Basic Elements of the Legal Precedent Created by the ECtHR's Perinçek v. Switzerland Case Verdict and Its Meaning and Importance in Terms of the 1915*





Events, topics such as the importance of the precedent for the determination of the legal characteristic of the 1915 events, the meaning of the comparison that was made in the precedent between the 1915 events and the Holocaust, and how to assess the historical, geographical, and temporal factors that were taken into account by the Grand Chamber for its verdict were discussed.

In the second session titled *The Meaning and Importance of the Precedent Created by the ECtHR's Perinçek v. Switzerland Case Verdict in Terms of Denial and Memory Laws*, topics including the meaning and importance of ECtHR's precedent in terms of the discussions related to “denial laws”, whether countries (foremost being Switzerland) with “denial laws” need to make changes in their relevant laws, and whether the precedent has a preventative effect on prospective legal initiatives were discussed.

This workshop constitutes the second leg of the *1915 Events and International Law* themed workshop series, the first of which was organized with Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University on 8-9 October 2015.

17 February 2016

AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç's Participation in the *Ortadoğu Gündemi* (Middle East Agenda) Program Aired on Türkmeneli TV

On 17 February 2016, AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç, participating in *Ortadoğu Gündemi* (Middle East Agenda) Program aired on Türkmeneli TV, made evaluations regarding Turkish foreign policy agenda.



Book Launch: *Zoraki İttifaktan Yol Ayrımına: İttihat-Terakki ve Ermeniler* (From an Unwilling Alliance to a Parting of Ways: The Committee for Union and Progress and Armenians)

18 February 2016



On 18 February 2016, AVİM held a meeting for the launch of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nejla Günay's book titled *Zoraki İttifaktan Yol Ayrımına: İttihat-Terakki ve Ermeniler* (From an Unwilling Alliance to a Parting of Ways: The Committee for Union and Progress and Armenians).

In the book launch for her book titled *Zoraki İttifaktan Yol Ayrımına: İttihat-Terakki ve Ermeniler*, faculty member at Gazi University Faculty of Education Department for History Education, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nejla Günay shared with the audience her data and analyses from her book that provides readers with information on the development of Turkish-Armenian relations from the end of 19th century to the beginning of the First World War based on the pivot of the relations between the Committee for Union and Progress and Dashnaksutyun, and made evaluations on the topics covered in the her book. The book launch ended with a Q&A session with the participation of the audience.

23 February 2016

Speeches Delivered by AVİM Honorary President Amb. (R) Ömer Engin Lütem and AVİM Director Amb. (R) Alev Kılıç in the Conference Titled *The Past, Today, and Tomorrow of Turkish-Armenian Relations*



On 23 February 2016, AVİM Honorary President Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem and AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç delivered speeches in the conference titled *The Past, Today, and Tomorrow of Turkish-Armenian Relations* (Türk-Ermeni İlişkilerinin Dünü, Bugünü, Yarını) organized by Çağ University.

In the conference that focused on Turkish-Armenian relations from a historical perspective, various aspects of the Turkish-Armenian relations dating back centuries were covered. Within this framework, AVİM Honorary President Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem delivered a speech titled *Reasons for the Armenian Relocation, Is Relocation a Genocide?* in which he evaluated the genocide allegations. In his speech titled *Evaluations on the Future of Turkish-Armenian Relations*, AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç shared with the audience his thoughts on the future of Turkish-Armenian Relations.

AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç's Participation in the *Gündem* (Agenda) Program on Ankara Radio

4 March 2016

On 4 March 2016, AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç participated in the *Gündem* (Agenda) program aired on Ankara Radio, and shared his views regarding Turkey's foreign policy agenda.



15 March 2016

Book Launch: *Şehit Diplomatlarımız (1973-1994)* (Our Martyred Diplomats (1973-1994))



On 15 March 2016, AVİM held a meeting to launch Ambassador (R) Bilal N. Şimşir's book titled *Şehit Diplomatlarımız (1973-1994)* (Our Martyred Diplomats (1973-1994)).

In the meeting, Ambassador (R) Bilal N. Şimşir discussed various aspects of the assassinations carried out by the Armenian terrorist organizations targeting members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and their family members, which he covered in his book *Şehit Diplomatlarımız (1973-1994)*. The book is based on the documentation in the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Intelligence and Research General Directorate archives. The event was concluded after Ambassador (R) Bilal N. Şimşir answered the questions of the audience.



Participation of AVİM's Staff in the Commemoration Ceremony Organized by the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on the 18 March Martyrs' Day

18 March 2016



On the occasion of the Martyrs' Day, AVİM's staff attended the commemoration ceremony organized by the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on 18 March.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his comrades in arms, soldiers who lost their lives at Gallipoli, Turkish diplomats and other public servants and their family members serving in Turkish missions abroad who were assassinated in terrorist attacks carried out by extremist Armenians were remembered in the Martyrs' Cemetery of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs located within the Cebeci Cemetery.

21-22 March 2016

Participation of AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç in the UNESCO Meeting on *Prevention of Violent Extremism*

AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç participated in the UNESCO meeting titled *Prevention of Violent Extremism* held on 21-22 March 2016 in Paris.

During the meeting, a small group of experts discussed the ways to prevent global and regional terrorism through education. This meeting was the preparatory meeting for the UNESCO meeting which was planned to be held on September 2016 in the capital of India, New Delhi, with a broader participation.



The Meeting between AVİM Analysts and Lithuanian Delegation of Diplomats

31 March 2016



AVİM analysts held a meeting with a delegation composed of diplomats from the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Lithuanian Embassy in Ankara that visited AVİM on 31 March 2016.

In the meeting, AVİM analysts shared their views on Turkey's approach to Caucasia, Central Asia and Greater Black Sea Region and listened the opinions of Lithuanian diplomats on these matters. The talks between AVİM analysts and Lithuanian diplomats ended with the expressed desire for continuation of exchange of views in the future.

30 March - 1 April 2016

AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç's Presentation at the Conference on *Stop Genocides* Held in Baku



AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç made a presentation at the conference titled *Stop Genocides* held on 30 March-1 April 2016 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The conference with the participation of experts and academics from Azerbaijan, USA, Iran, Israel, Hungary, Uzbekistan Russia, and Turkey discussed issues such as genocidal acts throughout history, legal aspects of the struggle against the crime of genocide, international courts and justice. AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç in his address expressed his views to the participants.

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views - 1

Conference Titled *An Assessment of Armenian Claims in Light of the Verdicts of the Constitutional Council of France and the ECtHR*

4 April 2016



On 4 April 2016, AVİM organized a conference titled *An Assessment of Armenian Claims in Light of the Verdicts of the Constitutional Council of France and the ECtHR* (Fransa Anayasa Konseyi ile AİHM Kararları Işığında Ermeni İddialarının Değerlendirilmesi) with Ambassador (R) Dr. M. Şükrü Elekdağ as the keynote speaker.

On 8 January 2016, the Constitutional Council of France delivered its verdict on the case that was filed for the repeal of the Gayssot Act that outlaws the denial of the Holocaust. The plaintiff for the case argued that the act should be repealed due the fact that, despite criminalizing the denial of the Holocaust, the act does not criminalize the “denial” of the “Armenian genocide” or other similar events legally recognized by France. Armenian activists in France and the French-Turkish “Association for Neutrality in Turkish History Education” (TTETD), which requests the removal of the Armenian genocide claims from school textbooks in France, joined the case as intervening parties. In its application, TTETD argued that the 2001 Act accusing Turkey for committing the “Armenian genocide” lacks a legal basis and therefore requested its repeal due to it being in violation of the Constitution of France. In its verdict, the Constitutional Council of France decided that the Gayssot Act does not violate the Constitution of France since it foresees the penalization of the denial of



crimes that have been ascertained by an international criminal court. In this respect, the Council confirmed that only a competent court may determine whether an action constitutes genocide. Because of this, the Council's verdict eliminated the potential effects of the 2001 law that recognizes the events of 1915 as genocide and the possibility for the adoption of acts that criminalize the rejection or the "denial" of the "Armenian genocide".

During the AVİM conference, Ambassador (R) Dr. Şükrü Elekdag, who is at the same time chief advisor to the TTETD, shared with the audience his thoughts on the importance of the cases dealt by the Constitutional Council of France and ECHR in terms of the Armenian claims and the Turkish-Armenian dispute.

This conference constituted the first leg of the conference series organized by AVİM on the Turkish-Armenian Relations titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views*.



**AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç's
Participation in *Hariciye Kliniği* (Foreign Affairs
Clinic) Program of Kanal B**

13 April 2016



On 13 April 2016, AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç expressed his views regarding Turkish foreign policy agenda during his participation in *Hariciye Kliniği* (Foreign Affairs Clinic) program aired on Kanal B. Ambassador (R) Kılıç also participated on 1 June, 29 June, and 20 July episodes of the same TV program.

15 April 2016

Presentation of the Special Issue of *Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History Journal* Titled *Crimean Tatars under Tsarist Russia and Soviet Union*



On 15 April 2016, AVİM organized a conference for the presentation of the special issue of *Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History Journal* titled *Crimean Tatars under Tsarist Russia and Soviet Union*.

In the meeting, Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Aydıngün (METU Department of Sociology and Eurasian Studies Programme; Member of the Editorial Board of *Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History Journal*), Prof. Dr. İsmail Aydıngün (Başkent University Department of Political Science and International Relations), and Asst. Prof. Tümen Somuncuoğlu (Gazi University Department of History) were the speakers, social conditions of Crimean Tatars in the periods from the establishment of the Crimean Khanate in the 15th century to the 1944 Deportation, the deportation in 1944 and its aftermath, the annexation of Crimea by Russian Federation in 2014 and the following developments were examined.

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views - 2

Conference Titled *The Relations between Mormon Missionaries Who Had Come to the Ottoman Empire and Armenians*

19 April 2016



On 19 April 2016, AVİM organized a meeting on *The Relations between Mormon Missionaries Who Had Come to the Ottoman Empire and Armenians* (Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'na Gelen Mormon Misyonerlerin Osmanlı Ermenileri ile İlişkileri) with Prof. Dr. Seçil Karal Akgün as the speaker.

Prof. Dr. Seçil Karal Akgün, the author of the book titled *Osmanlı İmparatorluğu'nda Mormon Misyonerler* (Mormon Missionaries in the Ottoman Empire) published by İş Bankası Kültür Yayınları in 2014, shared the results of her research on the reasons that directed American Mormon missionaries to leave their homes and to travel thousands of miles to come to the Ottoman Empire, and their relations with the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Prof. Dr. Seçil Karal pointed out that documents, articles, and correspondence of Mormon missionaries that lived in the Ottoman Empire for up to thirty years consist of remarkable observations about the Ottoman Empire in that period. One of the important points that Prof. Akgün underlined was that the Mormon documents that belong to the year 1915 and afterwards include data that invalidates Armenian claims.

This conference was the second leg of the conference series organized by AVİM on Turkish-Armenian relations titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views*.

22 April 2016

AVİM's Session with the Diplomatic Correspondents of the Anadolu Agency



On 22 April 2016, AVİM Honorary President Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem and AVİM analysts talked on different aspects of Turkey-Armenia relations in their meeting with the Diplomatic Correspondents of the Anadolu Agency.

The AVİM Honorary President and AVİM analysts expressed their views on the historical orientation and the current situation of the Turkey-Armenian relations and shared their observations on some of the important matters in the context of the relations between the two countries.

Speech delivered by AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç at the Conference Titled *Is Keeping Genocide Allegations Constantly on the Agenda a Form of Hate Speech?* held at Marmara University

On 26 April 2016, AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç delivered a speech at the Conference titled *Is Keeping Genocide Allegations Constantly on the Agenda a Form of Hate Speech?* (Soykırım İddialarının Sürekli Gündemde Tutulması, Nefret Söylemi Teşkil Etmekte Midir?) organized by the Department of International Law at Marmara University.

In his speech titled *The Process of the Evaluation of Armenian Claims by the Constitutional Council of France*, Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç assessed current developments related to the “genocide laws” and bills criminalizing “genocide denial” currently discussed in France.



3 May 2016

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views - 3**Conference Titled *An Overview of Turkish-Armenian Relations***

On 3 May 2016, AVİM organized a conference titled *An Overview of Turkish-Armenian Relations* (Türk-Ermeni İlişkilerine Bir Bakış) with Ambassador (R) Kadri Ecvet Tezcan as the speaker.

Ambassador (R) Kadri Ecvet Tezcan, who served as the Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan between 1998 and 2001, and as Deputy Undersecretary of the Department for Multilateral Political Affairs from 2008 to 2009, conveyed his thoughts on the historical and political dimensions of Turkish-Armenian relations in light of his observations and first-hand experiences as a diplomat.

This conference was the third of the conference series organized by AVİM on Turkish-Armenian relations titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views*.

AVİM's Session with the Students of the Department of International Relations at Trakya University

6 May 2016



On 6 May 2016, AVİM Honorary President Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem and AVİM analysts held a meeting with the students of the Department of International Relations at Trakya University.

During the session, AVİM Honorary President Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem talked on the historical dimensions of the Turkish-Armenian relations that was followed by AVİM analyst Hazel Çağan Elbir's presentation on Armenian terrorism. Their for followed by AVİM senior analyst Dr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel, who shared his observations and thoughts on the current state of the Turkish-Armenian relations, and the Karabakh conflict. The lecture ended with a Q&A session.

6-8 May 2016

Papers Presented by AVİM analysts Dr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel and Özge Nur Ögütçü at the Symposium Titled *The Past, Today and Future of Islam in Georgia*



AVİM senior analyst Dr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel and analyst Özge Nur Ögütçü presented papers in the Symposium titled *Past, Today and Future of Islam in Georgia* (Gürcistan'da İslamiyetin Dünü, Bugünü, Yarını) organized by Fatih Sultan Mehmet University on 6-8 May 2016.

Dr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel presented a paper titled *Policies of the South Caucasian Countries and Turkey towards Muslims in Georgia* that he prepared in collaboration with AVİM senior analyst Aslan Yavuz Şir. Özge Nur Ögütçü made a presentation that she prepared with Aytaç Yılmaz titled *Azerbaijanis, Borchali Turks - Sense of Belonging and Integration* on the challenges with respect to socio-economic integration of the Borchali Turks in Georgia.

Round Table Meeting with Mr. Daniel Rosenblum, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State

17 May 2016



On 17 May 2016, AVİM organized a round table meeting with the participation of Mr. Daniel Rosenblum, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State.

During the closed session with selected participants, Mr. Rosenblum made a presentation on US relations with Central Asian countries and the US policy towards the region. Mr. Rosenblum and the participants also exchanged views on Central Asia.



18 May 2016

**Lecture by AVİM Honorary President (R) Ambassador
Ömer Engin Lütem and AVİM Director (R)
Ambassador Alev Kılıç on the Armenian Question at
the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs**

**AVİM Honorary President (R) Ambassador Ömer Engin Lütem and
AVİM Director (R) Ambassador Alev Kılıç talked on the Armenian
question to prospective career officers at the seminar organized by the
Directorate of the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs on 18 May 2016.**



**Participation by the AVİM Senior Analyst
Dr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel in the Conference Titled
*Historians without Borders:
The Use and Abuse of History in Conflicts***

19-20 May 2016

AVİM Senior Analyst Dr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel participated in the conference titled *The Use and Abuse of History in Conflicts* organized in Finland's capital Helsinki on 19-20 May 2016.

The *Historians Without Borders* was established in July 2015 in Helsinki with the aim of promoting historical discussions in the public domain, providing interaction between academia and political institutions, facilitating the use of history in solving the current problems, and for this purpose, establishing a communication network among experts from different countries. In the conference organized by *Historians Without Borders* one of the sessions focused on the Turkish-Armenian controversy.

Dr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel's article titled *Searching for the Right Approach to Solve the Turkish-Armenian Controversy* was distributed by the organizers of the conference to the participants, numbers of which exceeded a hundred, together with the other conference documents.



26 May 2016

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views - 4**Book Launch: *Ermeni Sorununda Tehcir ve Ötesi*
(Relocation and Beyond in the Armenian Question)**

On 26 May 2016, AVİM organized a meeting to launch Prof. Dr. Kemal Çiçek's book titled *Ermeni Sorununda Tehcir ve Ötesi* (Relocation and Beyond in the Armenian Question).

Ermeni Sorununda Tehcir ve Ötesi is a concise compilation of revised and updated versions of Prof. Dr. Kemal Çiçek's articles on the Armenian question published in various newspapers and journals in the past fifteen years. With this book, Prof. Dr. Kemal Çiçek aimed to present his observations and opinions about the Armenian question to those interested in the issue. During the book launch, Prof. Çiçek once again shared with the audience certain views that he discussed in his book. During his speech, Prof. Çiçek stated that there a limited number of studies published in Turkey and abroad on the Armenian question, whose source material are insufficient. He also pointed out the presence of available data that is being overlooked regarding Armenians who migrated to the United States.

This book launch was the fourth leg of the conference series organized by AVİM on Turkish-Armenian relations titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views*.

1915 Events and International Law Workshop – 3

Workshop Titled *1915 Events and International Law: Property Law*

2-3 June 2016



On 2-3 June 2016, AVİM, in cooperation with Dokuz Eylül University, organized a workshop titled *1915 Events and International Law: Property Law*, (1915 Olayları ve Uluslararası Hukuk: Mülkiyet Hukuku) which is the third leg of the 1915 Events and International Law workshop series.

During the workshop, 32 participants consisting of academics from law and history departments of universities in Ankara, İstanbul, İzmir, Konya, legal professionals, and AVİM analysts made detailed assessments on different topics relating to property issues that are being brought up within the context of 1915 events. The participation of scholars belonging to different disciplines rendered possible the analysis of the different aspects of topics discussed with an interdisciplinary approach.

At the first session titled *What is “Abandoned Properties”?*, definition of ‘abandoned properties’, the scope, validity and implementation of the related legislation were discussed.

During the second session titled *Evaluation of the Treaty of Lausanne and Other Treaties in terms of Property Law*, related provisions of the Lausanne Peace Treaty were discussed and treaties of 1923 and 1934 signed with the USA were analyzed.



During the third session titled *Abandoned Properties According to Turkish Judicial Decisions; Property Law within the Framework of the European Convention on Human Rights*, effectiveness of domestic remedies, related administrative and judicial decisions and Constitutional Court decisions were examined.

And in the last session titled *Assessment of Abandoned Properties in Terms of Property Law and ECtHR's Authority within the Framework of the European Convention on Human Rights*, authority and case laws of the ECtHR, the concept of legitimate expectation and the possibilities of retrospective application of the European Convention on Human Rights were discussed.



Book Launch: *The Young Atatürk: From Ottoman Soldier to Statesman of Turkey*

9 June 2016



On 9 June 2016, AVİM organized a meeting to launch Prof. Dr. George W. Gawrych's book titled *The Young Atatürk: From Ottoman Soldier to Statesman of Turkey*.

George W. Gawrych is a professor of Middle East history at Baylor University in the US America and currently a visiting professor at West Point Academy. Prof. Gawrych's *The Young Atatürk: From Ottoman Soldier to Statesman of Turkey* published in 2013 received the Distinguished Book Award by *The Society of Military History* in 2014.

Prof. George W. Gawrych argues that in order to thoroughly understand Atatürk, one must examine his years as a military officer. Therefore, in his book, Prof. Gawrych, differently from other biographies of Atatürk, studies the military career of Atatürk. In the book in which he analyses factors that shaped Atatürk's mind set, Prof. Gawrych also reveals Atatürk's thought system when dealing with problems he faced during his military career.

During the book launch organized by AVİM, Prof. Gawrych, within the framework of the data and opinions in his book, shared the results of his study on Atatürk's mind set and thought system. He later answered questions from participants.

16 June 2016

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views - 5**Book Launch: 4'üncü Ordunun İnsani Yardımları
(Humanitarian Aids of the 4th Army)**

On 16 June 2016, AVİM organized a meeting to launch Prof. Dr. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir's book titled *4'üncü Ordunun İnsani Yardımları* (Humanitarian Aids of the 4th Army).

During the book launch, Prof. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir explained the results of his study on the humanitarian aids at the Syrian Front by the 4th Army for nearly three years under the command of Cemal Pasha, who was also the then Minister of Navy, to the Armenians who were subjected to relocation under the government's law on relocation. During his presentation, Prof. Dr. Özdemir shared noteworthy historical facts that refute the one-sided narrative of the Armenian allegations.

This conference was the fifth leg of the conference series organized by AVİM on Turkish-Armenian relations titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views*.

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views - 6

Conference Titled *Turkish-Armenian Relations in the Light of Recent Developments*

21 June 2016



On 21 June 2016, AVİM organized a conference titled *Turkish-Armenian relations in the Light of Recent Developments* (Güncel Gelişmeler Işığında Türk-Ermeni İlişkileri) with Ambassador (R) Dr. Osman Faruk Loğoğlu as the speaker.

During the conference, Ambassador (R) Dr. Osman Faruk Loğoğlu, who served in important positions including Undersecretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shared his experiences and evaluated the Turkish – Armenian relations in the light of the current developments. Ambassador (R) Loğoğlu emphasized that Armenian allegations on the agenda of third countries aim to create problems for Turkey in international arena, as well as between Turkey and its allies. Ambassador (R) Loğoğlu remarked that Turkey has to deal with these moves with subtle maneuvers.

This conference was the sixth leg of the conference series organized by AVİM on Turkish-Armenian relations titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views*.

23 June 2016

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views - 7**Conference Titled *Civilian Victims of War in the Ottoman Empire 1878-1918: What 'History' Does Not Tell Us***

On 23 June 2016, AVİM organized a conference titled *Civilian Victims of War in the Ottoman Empire 1878-1918: What 'History' Does Not Tell Us* with Jeremy Salt as the speaker.

Jeremy Salt, a retired academic taught courses on contemporary Middle East history at Bilkent University Department of Political Science and Public Administration and on Middle East politics at Melbourne University Department of Political Science. He has been researching Ottoman Armenians, Turkish-Armenian relations and the events of 1915. He is the author of the books titled *Imperialism, Evangelism and the Ottoman Armenians 1878-1896* and *The Unmaking of the Middle East: A History of Western Disorder in Arab Lands*, as well as numerous academic articles. The conference, Jeremy Salt made a critical analysis of publications of historians and researchers who embrace the Armenian narrative that focus on the late period of the Ottoman Empire, and shared his views about the major problems of the literature in question.

This conference was the seventh leg of the conference series organized by AVİM on Turkish-Armenian relations titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views*.

AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç's Participation in Meeting Titled *Prevention of Violent Extremism Through Education* Organized by UNESCO

19-20 September 2016

AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev KILIÇ attended the meeting titled *Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education* organized by UNESCO on 19–20 September 2016 in New Delhi, India.

Numerous participants from different countries assessed the role of education in preventing extremism and violence that arise in different contexts, and in the light of their local experiences, discussed different approaches that can be developed in this framework.



6 October 2016

Book Launch: *Gürcistan'daki Müslüman Topluluklar: Azınlık Hakları, Kimlik, Siyaset* (Muslim Communities in Georgia: Minority Rights, Identity, Politics)



On 6 October 2016, AVİM organized a meeting to launch the book titled *Gürcistan'daki Müslüman Topluluklar: Azınlık Hakları, Kimlik, Siyaset* (Muslim Communities in Georgia: Minority Rights, Identity, Politics) published in June 2016 by AVİM.

Gürcistan'daki Müslüman Topluluklar: Azınlık Hakları, Kimlik, Siyaset is a book based on data from field studies carried out in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey by a research team led by Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Aydın and consisting of AVİM analysts and researchers from Middle East Technical University, Karabük University and Koç University. The book was a product of great support from the Office of the Prime Minister for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) and supplementary contributions from the Directorate of Religious Affairs, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency and the Promotion Fund of Turkey. The book explores the post-Soviet situation of Georgian and Turkish Muslim communities in Georgia in terms of minority rights, secularism and identity politics.

At the meeting held for the purpose of launching this book, Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Aydın, Assoc. Prof. Ali Asker and AVİM Senior Analyst Aslan Yavuz Şir made presentations about the field research and writing stages of the book as well as about the data and commentaries presented in the book. Following this, the speakers and the participants made assessments about the different topics mentioned in the book.

AVİM Senior Analyst Aslan Yavuz Şir's Participation in the Black Sea NGO Forum

Aslan Yavuz ŞİR, Senior Analyst of AVİM, attended the 9th Edition of Black Sea NGO Forum held on 31 October-2 November 2016 in Varna, Bulgaria.

The Black Sea NGO Forum, held since 2008, is part of the Black Sea Synergy program, which was proposed by the European Commission in 2007 and subsequently endorsed by the Council of Ministers and other institutions of the European Union, aiming to support the Eastern Partnership. In this context, the forum was launched by the *Federation of Romanian NGOs for Development* in 2008, and is organized with the partnership of Romanian Foreign Ministry and support of the European Commission. The Forum brings together NGOs that work in areas such as environment, energy, human rights, transportation, youth, education, children's rights, economic and social development. The Forum also acts as an effective and consistent platform for NGOs to meet with organizations such as the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, European Commission, Black Sea Trust, CPDE, and develop joint projects and work on basic problems of the regional countries.

In 2016, the Forum, which was participated by more than a hundred different NGOs from Black Sea and Balkan countries in previous years, was attended by 131 participants and NGOs from eleven Black Sea and Balkan countries.

Giving utmost importance to cooperating with NGOs, think tanks and universities in the Black Sea region, AVİM is pleased to have participated in and contributed to the Black Sea NGO Forum. AVİM will continue its work on this platform.



4 November 2016

The Papers Presented by AVİM Analysts at Eskişehir Osmangazi University



On 4 November 2016, Senior Analyst Dr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel and Analyst Özge Nur Ögütçü of AVİM participated in the conference titled *Current Problems in Turkey-Eurasia Relations* (Türkiye - Avrasya İlişkilerinde Güncel Sorunlar) organized by the Eskişehir Osmangazi University International Relations Society.

In the conference titled *Türkiye - Avrasya İlişkilerinde Güncel Sorunlar*, AVİM analyst Özge Nur Ögütçü first made a presentation titled *Current Situation in the Aral Sea Basin*. Following this, Eskişehir Osmangazi University lecturer Assoc. Dr. Valeriy Morkva made a presentation titled *Ukrainian Crisis*. Finally, AVİM Senior Analyst Turgut Kerem Tuncel presented his paper titled *The New Political Context in the Caucasus and the Black Sea Region, and the Current Situation regarding the Karabakh Conflict*. The conference ended with a Q&A session.

Consultation Meeting with *Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC)* Co-Chairman Günay Evinch

14 November 2016

On 14 November 2016, *Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC)* Co-Chairman Günay Evinch and AVİM analysts held a consultation meeting in Ankara.

In 2009-2011, Günay Evinch, who specializes in areas such as public international law, civil rights, non-profit legal consulting, served as the president of the *Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA)*. He is currently the Co-Chairman of the Turkish American National Steering Committee. Evinch serves in various activities and organizations representing Turkey in the United States. He is also the lawyer of Turkey in various cases in the United States.

During the closed meeting, Günay Evinch and AVİM analysts exchanged information and opinions about lawsuits filed in the US by Armenians against Turkey and Turkish institutions, Armenian lobby activities in the US, and the efforts of Turkish institutions *vis-a-vis* these activities.

17-18 November 2016

1915 Events and International Law Workshops - 4**Workshop Titled *1915 Events and International Law: Successor State-Continuing State and International Reparations***

On 17-18 November 2016, AVİM, in cooperation with Özyeğin University, organized a workshop titled *1915 Events and International Law: Successor State-Continuing State and International Reparations* (Uluslararası Hukuk ve 1915 Olayları: Ardıl Devlet-Devam Eden Devlet ve Uluslararası Tazminat) in İstanbul, which is the fourth leg of the *1915 Events and International Law* workshop series.

During the event, over 30 participants composed of academics from law departments of universities, legal experts from Turkey and the United States of America and AVİM analysts discussed the legal dimensions of the successorship-continuation relationship between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey.

In this context, in the session titled *Successor State-Continuing State: Theoretical and Conceptual Approaches in International Law*, the definitions of successor state and continuing state, the criteria used when identifying a successor state-continuing state, and international law texts and agreements that regulate and study the topic of successor state-continuing state had been put under focus.



The session titled the *Relation between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey in the context of Successor State-Continuing State – the Determination of the Current Situation* was reserved for the assessment of related articles of Treaty of Lausanne and court verdicts that include references regarding the successor state-continuing state relation between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey.

In the final session titled *Successor State-Continuing State Relations Between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey, the Issue of Reparations and Legal Responsibility*, the outcomes of the Republic of Turkey being either the successor state or the continuing state of the Ottoman Empire and in this context, the topics of wrongful act, causation, imputability and responsibility were discussed.



22-24 November 2016

Participation of AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç and AVİM Analyst Özge Nur Ögütçü in the Meeting Titled *Convention of the Eurasian Think-Tanks*



AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç and AVİM Analyst Özge Nur Ögütçü participated in a meeting titled *Convention of the Eurasian Think Tanks* (Avrasya Düşünce Kuruluşları Buluşması) organized by the Ahmet Yesevi University and supported by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Relative Communities on 22-24 November 2016.

At the event, which was participated by 42 experts from 37 research centers and 13 countries including Turkey, both political and economic dimensions of the transportation corridors in Eurasia were discussed. In the context of the convention, state institutions working on Eurasia were also visited.

At this meeting AVİM Director Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç moderated the session titled *Challenges to Ensuring Security and Stability in Eurasia: Key Regional Disputes*. AVİM Analyst Özge Nur Ögütçü made a presentation on *Transportation Corridors in Eurasia, Risks-Opportunities and Turkey's Role within the Regional Connectivity*.

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views - 8***Conference Titled Armenian Question from the Public Diplomacy Perspective and Ottoman Archives of the Prime Ministry*****24 November 2016**

On 24 November 2016, AVİM organized a conference titled *Armenian Question from Public Diplomacy Perspective and Ottoman Archives of the Prime Ministry* (Kamu Diplomasisi Açısından Ermeni Meselesi ve Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi) with Prof. Dr. Mustafa Budak as speaker.

Prof Dr. Mustafa Budak, who served as Deputy Director at the State Archives between the years 2004-2015 currently works as an academic staff member at the Institute of Ataturk's Principles and Revolution History at Istanbul University. He continues his work on the Caucasus in the 19th and 20th centuries, the Turkish national struggle for Independence and the Turkish foreign policy. At the conference titled *Armenian Question from the Public Diplomacy Perspective and Ottoman Archives of the Prime Ministry*, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Budak shared his observations and assessments on the issue of archives that is of importance in terms of the allegations with regard to the 1915 events. During his presentation, Prof. Dr. Mustafa touched upon several points that are of importance in terms of revealing how claims by supporters of the genocide thesis regarding archives are far from reality.

The meeting is the eighth leg of the conference series organized by AVİM on Turkish-Armenian relations titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views*.

1 December 2016

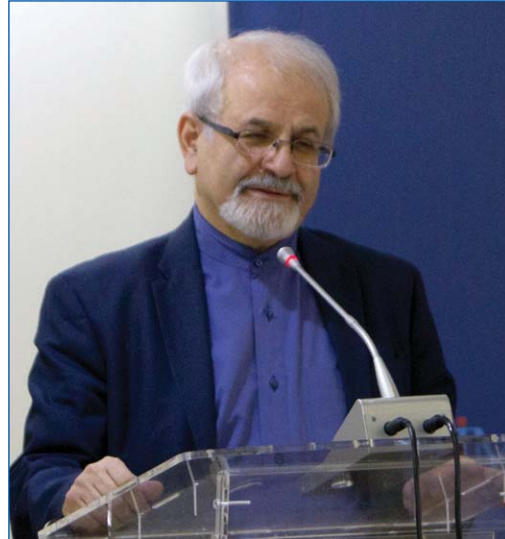
The Roundtable Meeting Organized by AVİM with Tehran Based Research Center IPIS on *Turkish and Iranian Perspectives on the Current Developments in the South Caucasus and Central Asia*



On 1 December 2016, AVİM organized an expert-level roundtable meeting with Tehran based research center Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) on *Turkish and Iranian Perspectives on the Current Developments in the South Caucasus and Central Asia*.

At the roundtable meeting, which composed of three sessions, AVİM and IPIS analysts and Turkish and Iranian diplomats exchanged views on both Turkey's and Iran's policies towards the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

At the first session titled *Current Regional Developments in the South Caucasus*, developments in the South Caucasus, and Turkish and Iranian perspectives on current developments in the Wider Black Sea Region were put up for discussion. At the second session titled *Current Regional Developments in Central Asia*, the agenda items were New Silk Road Project, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Economic Cooperation



Organization, security and stability in Central Asia, and energy and transport corridors. In the final session, Iran-Turkey bilateral relations and their regional aspects were discussed, and participants shared their views on the recent developments in bilateral relations, opportunities and challenges in the post-Iran nuclear deal era, and the trends in public opinions in Iran and Turkey.

This expert-level roundtable meeting is the follow up of AVİM's visit to Tehran on 14-15 September 2015. AVİM and IPIS intend to continue their meetings in the future.



9 December 2016

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views – 9

Conference Titled *The Current State of the Academic Debate over the Events of 1915 in an Increasingly Islamophobic West*

On 9 December 2016, AVİM organized a conference titled *The Current State of the Academic Debate over the Events of 1915 in an Increasingly Islamophobic West* with Assist. Prof. Christopher Gunn as the speaker.

Assist. Prof. Gunn is currently a faculty member at the History Department of Coastal Carolina University (USA) and continues his research on areas that include the Ottoman Empire and especially its border regions such as the Balkans and Caucasia, the successor states of the Ottoman Empire, and transnational political violence and reconciliation. During the conference, Gunn evaluated the work carried out by the Western academia on the 1915 events within the scope of the general cultural context in the West, focusing on the framework and tone of the academic discussions. Assist. Prof. Gunn drew attention to the fact that that academic works on the 1915 events have never been carried out solely with academic motivations and have always been influenced by political opinions and goals. Gunn also pointed out that just like the 1920s, recent discussions in the United





States about the 1915 events tend to be carried out under the concept “Muslim Turks – Christian Armenians”.

The meeting was the ninth leg of the conference series organized by AVIM on Turkish-Armenian relations titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views*.



13 December 2016

Azerbaijani Journalists' Visit to AVİM



On 13 December 2016, a big delegation consisting of journalists and chief editors of Azerbaijan's leading newspapers visited AVİM within the framework of the Project for Turkey-Azerbaijan Media Relations.

During the meeting between AVİM analysts and the Azerbaijani delegation, AVİM analysts gave a briefing about AVİM's views and approach as regards to the Eurasian region, South Caucasus, Turkey-Azerbaijan and Turkey-Armenia relations.

The effective use of the mass media, especially the internet, and opportunities for cooperation between Turkish and Azerbaijani media organizations were among the topics discussed in the meeting.

Later on, Azerbaijani press representatives posed AVİM analysts questions about the concept of "Eurasianism" that has come to the forefront especially in the recent period.

The meeting concluded with mutual expressions of support for further development of contacts and cooperation.



The delegation of Azerbaijani journalists composed of the following individuals:

Vugar Seferli	<i>State Fund for Support to Development of Mass Media (KİVDF) - President</i>
Vugar Aliyev	<i>Presidency of the Republic of Azerbaijan - Deputy Head of Social and Political Bureau</i>
Hikmet Memmedov	<i>Yeni Azərbaycan Newspaper - Chief Editor - Member of Parliament</i>
Hasan Hasanov	<i>Halk Newspaper - Chief Editor</i>
Vügar Rehimzade	<i>İki Sahil Newspaper - Chief Editor</i>
Behruz Guliyev	<i>Ses Newspaper - Chief Editor</i>
Reşad Mecid	<i>525. Newspaper - Chief Editor</i>
Namık Aliyev	<i>Palitra Newspaper - Chief Editor</i>
Rauf Arifoğlu	<i>Yeni Müsavat Newspaper - Chief Editor</i>
Aydın Guliyev	<i>Bakü Haber Newspaper - Chief Editor</i>
Müşfik Aleskerli	<i>Journalists' Trade Union (JuHI) - President</i>
Yunus Oğuz	<i>Olaylar Newspaper - Chief Editor</i>
Emin Ahundov	<i>Mediainfo.az News Agency - Chief Editor</i>
Tural Saferov	<i>Şark Kapısı Newspaper - Chief Editor</i>
Ramin Kerimli	<i>State Fund for Support to Development of Mass Media (KİVDF) - Advisor</i>

13 December 2016

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views – 10**Conference Titled *An American Missionary Family in Bitlis and their Effects on the Genocide Allegations***

On 13 December 2016, AVİM organized a conference titled *An American Missionary Family in Bitlis and their Effects on the Genocide Allegations* (Bitlis'te Bir Amerikan Misyoner Aile ve Soykırım İddialarına Etkileri) with Prof. Dr. Haluk Selvi as the speaker.

In his presentation, Prof. Dr. Haluk Selvi evaluated the development process of the Armenian question in the Ottoman Empire between the years 1860-1916, and shared with the audience his research findings on the role of American missionary George Knapp and his children in the genocide allegations and related propaganda activities carried out abroad. Prof. Dr. Selvi also highlighted that Grace Knapp in her writings mentioned that Armenians of Bitlis carried various activities to make it easier for Russian forces to occupy Bitlis, and pointed out that this was an important datum in terms of the disputes regarding the nature of the 1915 events.

The meeting was the tenth and the last leg of the conference series organized by AVİM on Turkish-Armenian relations titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Conference 10 Views* in 2016.

AVİM Analyst Özge Nur Ögütçü's Presentation at a Conference Titled *Security along the Silk Road*

15-16 December 2016



AVİM Analyst Ozge Nur Ogutcu made a presentation at a conference on “Security along the Silk Road” which was held in New Delhi, India on 15-16 December 2016.

Özge Nur Ögütçü shared her opinion on recent developments in Central Asia and Turkey's policies towards the region in the session on *Future Prospects and the Role of Outside Powers* in the conference co-organized by Vivekananda International Foundation based in New Delhi and Near East South Asia (NESAs) Center for Strategic Studies based in Washington.

22 December 2016

Conference Titled *Atatürk and Asia*



On 22 December 2016, AVİM organized a conference titled *Atatürk and Asia* (Atatürk ve Asya) with Prof. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir as the speaker.

In his presentation, Prof. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir talked about the role of Turkish intellectuals from the Eurasia region in the transition from the empire to the republic and the process of building the republic. Prof. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir also shared his views on topics such as Atatürk's thoughts on Asian armies, the importance he attached as statesman to relations with Asian states, Atatürk's opinion on the Turkish presence in Central Asia, and the place allocated to Asian countries in studies of history during the Atatürk period.

AVİM 2016 Annual Report

Publications

AVİM Conference Proceedings and AVİM Reports are available online on AVİM's website. It is also possible to access past issues, excluding the latest ones, of the academic journals published by AVİM, namely, *Ermeni Arařtırmaları*, *Review of Armenian Studies*, and *Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History*. The printed versions of these journals and books published by AVİM are available at book stores. You can also contact AVİM in order to obtain these publications.

Daily Bulletin



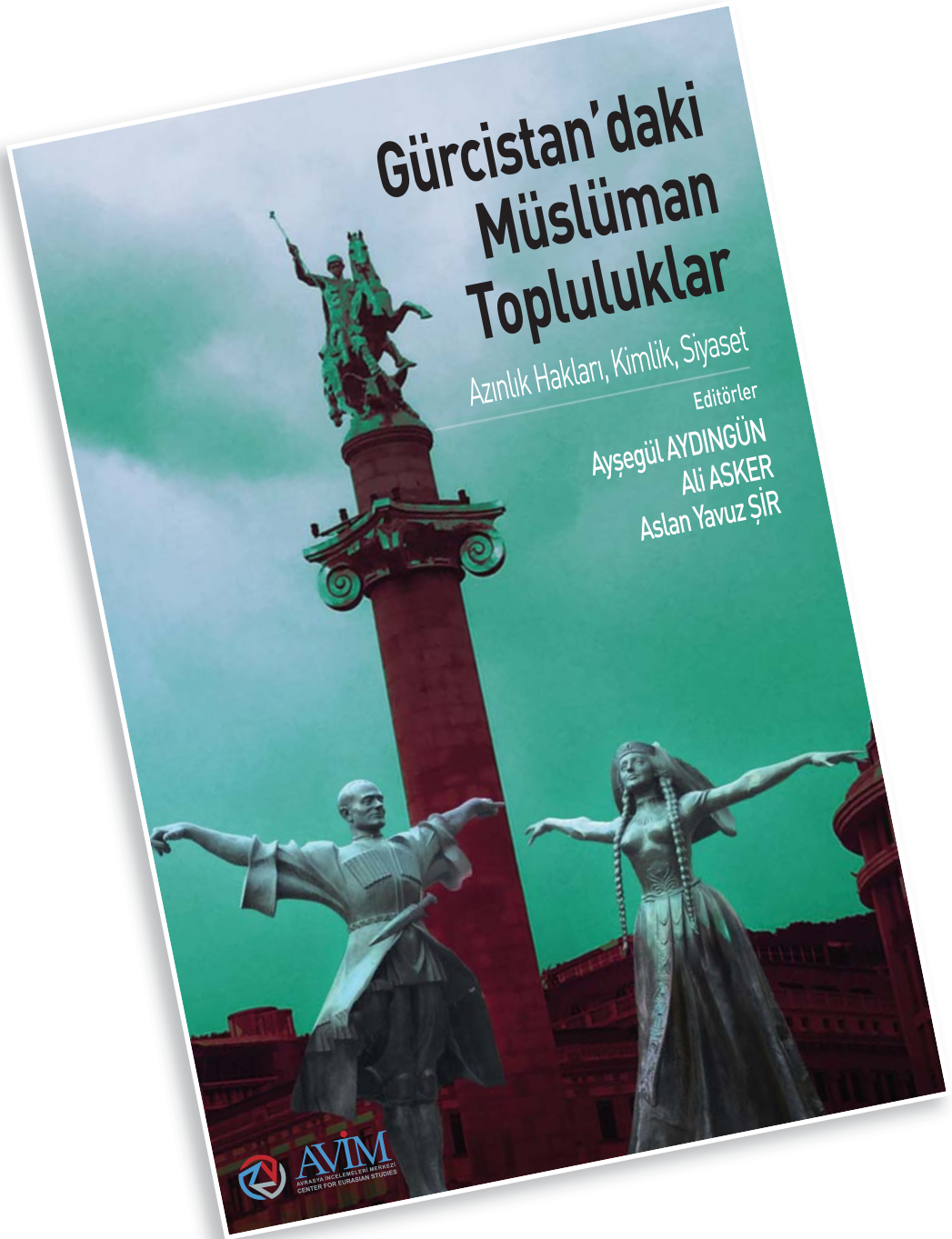
AVİM Daily Bulletin

AVİM publishes books and reports based on original research, conference books that include conference proceedings and presentations, and three peer-reviewed academic journals, namely, *Ermeni Araştırmaları*, *Review of Armenian Studies* and *Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History*. In addition, commentaries and analyses by AVİM analysts on developments in the Eurasian region are accessible in AVİM's website. Furthermore, commentaries/analyses and interviews by the AVİM staff published in different media organs, articles written by outside researchers for AVİM, and articles published in different outlets covering AVİM's research areas are published in AVİM Blog, which can be accessed also through AVİM website.

One of AVİM's publication activities is the AVİM Daily Bulletin, which is prepared with the aim of providing its followers with news on current developments in the Caucasus, the Balkans, Asia, Europe and Iraq. AVİM Daily Bulletin, which includes commentaries and analyses by AVİM analysts, announcements and events news, articles published in AVİM Blog as well as news compiled from Turkish and foreign press, is distributed daily via email reaching currently to approximately 7000 recipients.

Considering that it is an important means that facilitates being up to date with developments in the Caucasus, the Balkans, Asia, Europe and Iraq, AVİM will continue to publish AVİM Daily Bulletin in 2017.

Books



Gürcistan'daki Müslüman Topluluklar: Azınlık Hakları, Kimlik, Siyaset

(Muslim Communities in Georgia: Minority Rights, Identity, and Politics)

Editors: Ayşegül Aydıngün, Ali Asker, Aslan Yavuz Şir

Date of Publication: June 2016

Language: Turkish

ISBN: 97605601974

(Paperback, 428 pages)

This book was rendered possible thanks to the project titled *Gürcistan'daki Müslüman Topluluklar: Azınlık Hakları, Kimlik, Siyaset* (Muslim Communities in Georgia: Minority Rights, Identity, and Politics).

Within the context of this project, the discrimination towards the four Muslim communities in Georgia – Adjarians, Borchali Turks, Meskhetian Turks, and Kists – and its consequent outcomes were analyzed in terms of minority rights, identity and politics. In this context, Georgia's commitments within the framework of its memberships in international organizations, treaties to which Georgia is a part of, legal arrangements as a result of these treaties and the effects of these arrangements on Muslim minorities were analyzed in comprehensive field researches conducted in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkey between September 2015 and March 2016. Interviews were conducted not only with members or leading figures of the said communities but also with officials from government agencies, politicians, NGO specialists and academics. In this manner, the status of Muslim minorities was analyzed in an objective manner by taking into consideration different opinions and assessments. We present this book, which is the product of intensive hard work and devotion, to all our readers who are interested in the subject.

TURKISH-RUSSIAN ACADEMICS

A HISTORICAL STUDY ON THE CAUCASUS

Andrei ARESHEV • Ali ASKER • Andrei BOLDYREV
Altay CENGİZER • Hayri ÇAPRAZ • Amur GADZHIEV
Nejla GÜNAY • Jamil HASANLI • Svetlana DRESHKOVA
Mehmet PERİNÇEK • Natalia Yu. ULCHENKO



Turkish-Russian Academics: A Historical Study on the Caucasus

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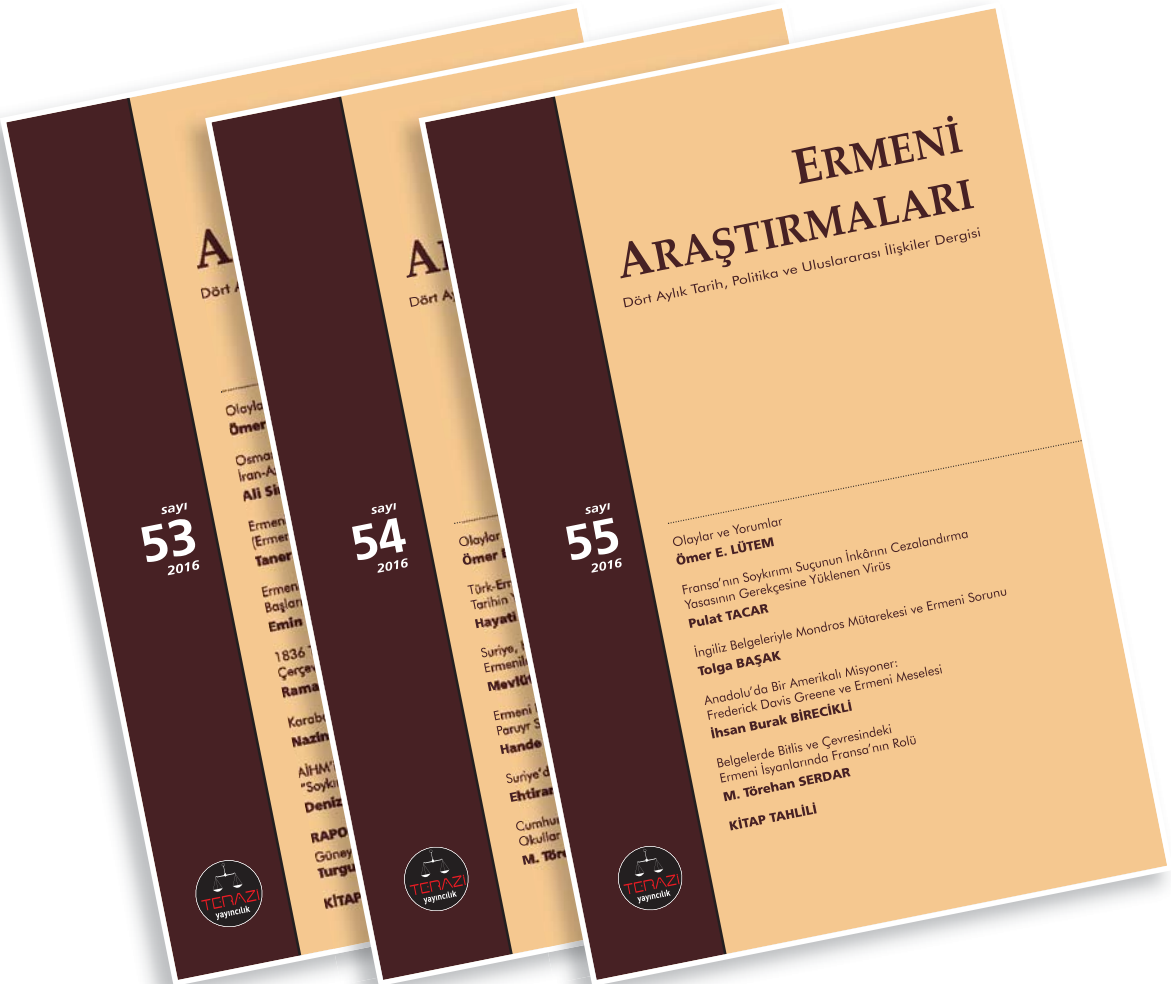
(Paperback, 247 pages)

Turkey and Russia have had many ups and downs throughout history ranging from hostilities and war to friendship, support and cooperation. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in a globalizing world, Turkish-Russian relations grew to become multi-faceted and multidimensional, providing a rich ground for scientific academic studies and research.

History no doubt is still a prominent field. Joint publications, symposiums and conferences on history carried out in the recent period have been concrete indicators of the developing cooperation between Turkey and Russia. Maintaining and developing this cooperation is of vital importance for the future.

As a result of contacts and meetings with the esteemed Head and academics of the Turkish Studies Programme of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Oriental Studies, the idea emerged to compile a book on the work of some distinguished Turkish and Russian historians and academics, particularly on the history of the Caucasus region. In accordance with this understanding, AVİM took the lead to edit this book.

Journals



ERMENİ ARAŞTIRMALARI

Ermeni Araştırmaları (Armenian Studies) was started in 2001 with the aim of publishing academic research and promoting inter-disciplinary debate among academics and researchers on issues within the scope of Armenian Studies. As a peer-reviewed journal *Ermeni Araştırmaları* is published three-times a year. Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem is the editor and Aslan Yavuz Şir is the managing editor of *Ermeni Araştırmaları*. *Ermeni Araştırmaları* is indexed by EBSCO and TÜBİTAK/ULAKBİM.

Ermeni Araştırmaları accepts submissions on a range of subjects that include Armenian politics, history, culture, socio-political developments in Armenia, regional and international politics of Armenia, Armenia-Turkey- relations, Armenia-Iran relations, Armenia's relations with the states in the Caucasus, Armenia-US relations, and Armenia-EU relations.

Previous issues include contributions of prominent scholars such as Justin McCarthy, Guenter Lewy, Edward Erickson, Norman Stone and Jeremy Salt.

In 2016, 53rd, 54th and 55th issues of *Ermeni Araştırmaları* were published.

***Ermeni Araştırmaları*, Issue 53**

The 53rd issue of *Ermeni Araştırmaları* includes seven articles, a report and two book reviews. First of these is Ömer Engin Lütem's *Olaylar ve Yorumlar* (Facts and Comments). In this article, Lütem evaluates the events organized to commemorate the 100th and 101st year of the relocation of the Armenians in Turkey, Armenia and other countries, as well as in some international organizations, and other developments with regard to genocide allegations.

Sinan Bilgili, in his article titled *Osmanlı Tahrir Defterlerine Göre İran-Azerbaycan Şehirlerinde Ermeniler* (Armenians in Iran-Azerbaijan Cities According to the Ottoman Census Books) draws a picture of the Armenian population who lived in and around the city of Revan (Yerevan) at the beginning of 16th century in accordance with the Ottoman population census documents.

Taner Aslan's article titled *Ermeni Yardımsever Hayır Cemiyeti (Ermeni Cemiyeti-i Hâyriye-i Umûmiyesi) ve Nizamnamesi* (The Armenian Humanitarian Charity Society and its Regulations) analyzes the political aims of the Armenian Humanitarian Charity Society and provides the readers with the Regulations of the Society.

The article titled *Ermenilerin Nahçıvan İddiaları ve XX. Yüzyıl Başlarında Yapılan Katliamda Büyük Güçlerin Rolü* (Armenians' Nakhchivan Claims and the Role of Great Powers in Massacre by Armenians in the Beginning of XX. Century) by Emin Şihaliyev examines how the Armenians claimed Nakhchivan at the beginning of the twentieth century, how Russia and Britain gave support to the Armenians and how the Muslim population was massacred by the Armenians in the region.

Ramazan Erhan Güllü's article titled *1836 Tarihli Ermeni Kilisesi Nizamnamesi Çerçevesinde Çarlık Rusya'sının Ermeni Politikaları* (Armenian Policy of Tsarist Russia in the Framework of 1836 Armenian Church Regulation) analyzes Tsarist Russia's policies on Etchmiadzin Catholicosate in the first half of the 19th century.

Nazım Caferov and Araz Aslanlı's article titled *Karabağ Sorununda Ateşkes ve Rusya* (Russia and Ceasefire in Karabakh Conflict) gives a detailed account of ceasefire attempts for the resolution of the conflict, the features of the 1994 ceasefire agreement and the role played by Russia in the signing of this agreement.

In her article titled *AİHM'in Perinçek Kararı: "Soykırımın İnkârı"/ İfade Özgürlüğü İnkileminin Aşılabilirliği* (Perinçek Judgment of the ECHR: The Surmountability of the "Genocide Denial" / Freedom of Speech Dilemma) Deniz Akçay examines the European Court of Human Rights' final decision on the Perinçek case. Akçay argues that the decision paves the way for the Armenian genocide claims –the reality of which has been turned into an inarguable taboo- to be researched and evaluated like any other historical event.

The 53rd issue of *Ermeni Araştırmaları* also includes a report titled *Güney Kafkasya'da 2-5 Nisan 2016'da Yaşanan "4 Gün Savaşı"* (The 4 Day War in the South Caucasus on 2-5 April 2016) by Turgut Kerem Tuncel. Although "The 4 Day War" was the most critical development with regard to the Karabakh conflict since 1994 Bishkek Protocol, it was overlooked both by the Turkish media and the public. Based on this premise, *Ermeni Araştırmaları* includes this report by Turgut Kerem Tuncel which sheds light not only to the recent events but also to the essence of the Karabakh conflict.

The book reviews section includes Aslan Yavuz Şir's analysis of Necla Günay's book titled *Zoraki İttifaktan Yol Ayrımına: İttihat-Terakki ve Ermeniler* (Committee of Union & Progress and the Armenians). A second book review is by Beril Veziroğlu on Agop Aslanyan's book *Adım Agop, Memleketim Tokat* (My Name is Agop, I'm from Tokat).

Ermeni Arařtırmaları, Issue 54

There are six articles in the 54th issue of *Ermeni Arařtırmaları*. First of these, as always, is *Olaylar ve Yorumlar* (Facts and Comments) by Ömer Engin Lütem. In this article, Lütem analyzes German parliament's decision after a long hesitation that acknowledges Armenian genocide allegations and the following tensions in relations between Turkey and Germany, Pope Francis' trip to Armenia, the conflict in Karabakh region on 2-5 April 2016 and consequent developments in the region.

Hayati Aktař and Vahit Güntay's article *Türk-Ermeni İliřkilerinde Algılar ve Karar Alıcılar, Tarihin Yansımaları Üzerine bir Analiz* (Perceptions and Decision Makers at Turkish-Armenian Relations, An Analysis of Reflections in History) is a detailed analysis of the psychological dimension of Turkish-Armenian relations.

In his article titled *Suriye, Halep, Musul, Zor, ve Urfa Bölgelerinde Ermenilere Yönelik İřkân Uygulamaları (1915-1917)* (Resettlement Practices in Syria, Aleppo, Mosul, Zor and Urfa Towards Armenians (1915-1917)) Mevlüt Yüksel gives a detailed account and analysis of the Ottoman regulations and communiques with regard to the provision of allowances, accommodation and protection for the Armenian population who were resettled in Syria, Aleppo, Mosul, Zor and Urfa.

Hande Dolunay's article *Ermeni Edebiyatında Milliyetçi Eğilimler: Paruyr Sevak Örneęi* (Nationalist Tendencies in Armenian Literature: Paruyr Sevak Example) discusses the nationalist tendencies in the Armenian literature and their reflections in the public during the Soviet era through the Armenian writer Paruyr Sevak.

Ehtiram Ařırlı' article titled *Suriye'de Ermeni Diasporası* (Armenian Diaspora in Syria) evaluates the condition of Syrian Armenians – a topic which recently became a current issue due to the civil war in Syria- with reference to Armenian, Assyrian and Arabic sources and official documents.

The last article in the 54th issue of the *Ermeni Arařtırmaları* is *Cumhuriyet Öncesi Bitlis'te Yabancı Okullar ve Misyonerlik Faaliyetleri* (Foreign Schools and Missionary Activities in Bitlis in Pre-Republic Era) by M. Törehan Serdar. In this article, Serdar analyzes the anti-Ottoman activities through the missionary schools in Bitlis, which was an important city with a significant Armenian population.

Ermeni Arařtırmaları, Issue 55

The final issue of *Ermeni Arařtırmaları* in 2016 includes 5 articles and 1 book review. Ömer Engin Lütem, in his article *Olaylar ve Yorumlar* (Facts and Comments), discusses Turkey's attempts to contribute to the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, the effects of the German parliament's decision acknowledging Armenian allegations on bilateral relations, the drafting of a law to punish the rejection of Armenian genocide allegations, and lastly, the movies on Armenian genocide allegations.

Pulat Tacar's article titled *Fransa'da Soykırım Sucunun İnkârını Cezalandırma Yasasının Gerekçesine Yüklenen Virüs* (A Virus Hidden in the Rationale of France's Law on Punishment of the Denial of Crime of Genocide) presents an in-depth legal analysis of how French President Holland gave his support for a law aiming at the criminalization of "Armenian genocide denial" through indirect means despite the fact that another law on the criminalization of "Armenian genocide denial" was annulled by the French Constitutional Court in 2012.

In his article titled *İngiliz Belgeleriyle Mondros Mütarekesi ve Ermeni Sorunu* (Mudros Armistice and Armenian Question in the Light of British Documents), Tolga Başak discusses Armenians' attempts for a "Greater Armenia" during the Mudros Armistice negotiations.

İhsan Burak Birecikli's article titled *Anadolu'da Bir Amerikalı Misyoner: Frederick Davis Gren ve Ermeni Meselesi* (An American Missionary in Anatolia: Frederick Davis Greene and Armenian Question) shows how American missionary Frederick Davis Greene reflected in his books the Armenian revolts in Sason during his stay in Van for 4 years.

M. Törehan Serdar's article *Belgelerde Bitlis ve Çevresindeki Ermeni İsyânlarında Fransa'nın Rolü* (The Role of France in the Armenian Revolts in and Around Bitlis) discusses how France supported terrorist acts by the Dashnak-Hoybun organization between 1924 and 1930 in Eastern Anatolia.

One of the most important articles in the 55th issue of *Ermeni Arařtırmaları* is Ömer Engin Lütem's review of Taner Akçam's recent book titled *Naim Efendinin Hatıratı ve Talat Pařa Telgrafları, Krikor Gergeryan Arřivi* (Naim Efendi's Diary and Talat Pasha Telegrams: Krikor Gergerian Archives). In his review titled *Aram Andonyan, Naim Efendi ve Talat Pařa Telgrafları Üzerine Bir Deęerlendirme* (An Analysis on Aram Andonian, Naim Efendi and the Talat Pasha Telegrams), Ömer Engin Lütem shows how Taner Akçam's criticisms on řinasi Orel and řevket Yuca's

book written in 1983, in which Orel and Yuca clearly exposed Aram Andonian's 1920 book titled *Memoirs of Naim Bey* as a forgery, are groundless and therefore why Akçam's book cannot be trusted as a reliable source."



REVIEW OF ARMENIAN STUDIES

The *Review of Armenian Studies* is an English language biannual academic journal that was established with the aim of publishing academic papers to stimulate inter-disciplinary debate between academics and practitioners on topics relating to Armenian Studies. The editor of the journal is AVİM Honorary President Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem, while the managing editor is AVİM Analyst Mehmet Oğuzhan Tulun. The journal is indexed by EBSCO and TÜBİTAK/ULAKBİM.

The *Review of Armenian Studies*, in its content, covers the following topics:

- Historical, political, and social research on the events of 1915
- The various aspects of the dispute over the events of 1915
- Political developments in the Armenian world (in Armenia and in the Armenian Diaspora)
- Culture and society in the Armenian world (in Armenia and in the Armenian Diaspora)
- Bilateral relations of Armenia with other countries
- Regional and international politics of Armenia

Since 2001, with the edition of the two latest issues, a total of 34 issues of the *Review of Armenian Studies* have been published.

Review of Armenian Studies, Issue 33

The 33rd issue of the *Review of Armenian Studies* contains 6 articles and 2 book reviews.

Penned by Ömer Engin Lütem, *Facts and Comments* analyzes Turkish-Armenian relations and some countries stances regarding the genocide allegations in the first half of 2016. Developments such as the German Federal Assembly's adoption of a resolution recognizing the 1915 events as genocide, Pope Francis' visit to Armenia, and the French National Assembly's adoption of the bill penalizing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of genocide are explained and evaluated in this article.

The German Empire's stance on the Armenian relocation and resettlement during World War I has been an attention-grabbing matter for a very long time. The article titled *German Policies on Armenians During World War I* by Barış Özdal analyses this subject.

Nika Chitadze, in his article titled *Economic Factors of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict*, touches upon an aspect of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that is not discussed much; the economic aspect.

The article by Yıldız Deveci Bozkuş titled *Karabakh Problem in the Light of Global and Regional Developments* touches upon the history of the Karabakh issue, and evaluates how current developments, especially the crisis created by the shooting down of the Russian warplane, has affected the Turkish-Armenian relations and the Karabakh conflict.

In the article titled *Enemies to the Death or Friends for Life? Looking into Prejudice Against Turks Amongst Armenians in Armenia*, Armand Sağ analyzes the dominant perception in Armenia regarding Turks and Turkey.

M. Törehan Serdar, in his article titled *After the Relocation*, addresses the mostly unknown side of the Armenian relocation process, which was the return of the relocated Armenians.

In his book titled *Turks and Armenians: Nationalism and Conflict in the Ottoman Empire* published in 2015, Justin McCarthy explains the historical development of the Armenian issue and how to interpret this development. The English summary of this book has been included in the 33rd issue of *Review of Armenian Studies*.

The last work contained in this issue is the review penned by Şakire Furtun on the book titled *There Was and There Was Not* by Meline Toumani.

Review of Armenian Studies, Issue 34

The 34th issue of the *Review of Armenian Studies* contains five articles and one book review. Penned by Ömer Engin Lütem, *Facts and Comments* analyzes Turkey-Armenia relations during the second half of 2016 and developments on the Nagorno-Karabakh Question.

In the article titled *A Truly Global Crime? Africa and The Campaign For "Armenian Genocide" Recognition*, Brendon J. Cannon analyzes the campaigns carried out by

Armenian groups for the 1915 events to be recognized as genocide. In the article, Cannon determines that such campaigns are carried out with very low intensity in Asia and especially in Africa, and examines why this is so.

Armand Sağ's article titled *The Armenian Diaspora in the Netherlands: Statistics of Education, Residence, and Place of Birth* analyzes the practice of the creation of the "other" and the formation of a defensive Armenian identity within the process of Armenian nation-building and also analyzes the Armenian community living in the Netherlands.

Maxime Gauin, in his work titled *Meline Toumani and the Turkic-Armenian Conflict*, reveals the unacademic information contained within Toumani's *There Was There Was Not* book and how it reflects the culture of hate developed by Armenians living in North America.

For many years, Aram Andonian's book titled *The Memoirs of Naim Bey* that was published in 1920, a book which he alleged to be formed of telegrams in which Talat Bey had ordered for the massacring of Armenians, was shown as the proof of the "Armenian genocide". However, by publishing the book titled *The Talat Pasha Telegrams: Historical Fact or Armenian Fiction?* in 1983, Şinasi Orel and Süreyya Yüca demonstrated that the telegrams within Andonian's book are fake. Afterwards, the reference made to Andonian's book by writings and books on Armenian genocide allegations decreased greatly, and after a while, nearly disappeared altogether. In his book titled *Naim Efendi'nin Hatıratı ve Talat Paşa Telgrafları ve Krikor Gergeryan Arşivi* (The Memoirs of Naim Efendi and Talat Pasha Telegrams) that he published in 2016, Taner Akçam attempts to prove that the "Andonian documents" are in fact authentic. Penned by Ömer Engin Lütem, the work titled *An Assessment On Aram Andonian, Naim Efendi And Talat Pasha Telegrams* reveals in a detailed manner that Akçam's assertions are based on distortions and are thus invalid.

Lastly, the 34th issue of *Review of Armenian Studies* Osman Gün's review of the book authored by Jordis Tezel Gorgas titled *Le mouvement kurde de Turquie en exil: continuités et discontinuités du nationalisme kurde sous le mandat français en Syrie et au Liban (1925-1946)*, which explains the Kurdish-Armenian Federation that the Kurdish Hoybun Union and the Armenian Dashnak Party in Syria and Lebanon during the French Mandate tried establish in 1925-1946.



ULUSLARARASI SUÇLAR VE TARİH / INTERNATIONAL CRIMES AND HISTORY

Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / *International Crimes and History* (UST / ICH) is an annual peer-reviewed bilingual (Turkish and English) academic journal. First published in 2006, the ICH is dedicated to be a platform for the scholarly investigation of inter-communal, inter-ethnic, inter-religious and international conflicts and crimes in the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Eurasia Region, and the Middle East. The editor of the journal is AVİM Honorary President Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem, while the managing editor is AVİM Senior Analyst Turgut Kerem Tuncel. The ICH is indexed in the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey-Turkish Academic Network and Information Center (TUBİTAK-ULAKBİM) and EBSCO Host.

Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History, Issue 16

The 16th issue of the *Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History* (UST / ICH) published in February 2016 is mainly dedicated to the studies that examine various aspects of the *Sürgün* (Exile) of the Crimean Tatars in 1944.

As is known, the pretext of the *Sürgün* was the alleged mass collaboration of the Crimean Tatars with the Nazi invaders. This allegation was propagated by the Soviet propaganda machine in such an effective way that even today the myth of the mass Crimean Tatar treason is widespread among the post-Soviet nations. Andrew Dale Straw, in his article titled *Exposing Dishonest History: The Creation and Propagation of Stalin's False Allegation of 'Mass Treason' against Crimean Tatars during World War II*, examines the formation and propagation of this allegation and presents a counter-narrative.

Throughout history, there have been numerous cases of forced deportations as a collective punishment of the unwanted racial, ethnic, national or religious groups. In fact, there is a huge literature on such tragedies caused by the colonial powers in the Americas, Africa, Australia and the Middle East. However, the 1944 Crimean Tatar Deportation has not yet become a part of this literature, which could have provided the research community with better conceptual tools and a comparative perspective. Based on this perspective, J. Otto Pohl, in his article titled *The Deportation of the Crimean Tatars in the Context of Settler Colonialism*, analyzes the Crimean Tatar case in reference to “settler colonialism” in different parts of the world.

Until now, many of the studies about the 1944 Crimean Tatar Deportation has provided ‘macro-histories’ of the *Sürgün*. Although the importance of these studies cannot be overlooked and similar studies should continue, the micro-history of the *Sürgün* also awaits to be written. Particularly, studies employing new historiographical approaches would contribute to a deeper understanding of this episode. Moreover, given that the social memory of the *Sürgün* is one of the building blocks of contemporary Crimean Tatar identity, studies on the formation of the social memory of the *Sürgün* through the stories told in public and private spaces, as well as the subjective experiences of the Crimean Tatars as they went through the deportation and life in exile would open new ways for a deeper understanding of not only the *Sürgün*, but also its effect on the formation of the Crimean Tatar identity. Martin-Oleksandr Kisly’s article titled *Post-Traumatic Generation: Childhood of Deported Crimean Tatars in Uzbekistan*, which aims to comprehend some aspects of the experiences of the Crimean Tatars who lived their childhood in exile through the testimonies Kisly collected, is an important step in this direction.

The devastation of the *Sürgün* was so large that today some Crimean Tatars and scholars regard it as a genocide and some Crimean Tatar activists seek the recognition of the *Sürgün* as such by the global public. With regard to that, the Ukrainian parliament’s recognition of the devastation of the Crimean Tatars by the 1944 *Sürgün* as genocide on 12 November 2015 should be taken into notice. Onur Uraz’s article titled *A Legal Analysis of the Crimean Tatar Deportation of 1944* provides a detailed legal analysis of the *Sürgün* that seeks to answer whether 1944 Crimean Tatar Deportation can legally be characterized as genocide or crime against humanity.

Since the last two centuries or so, Russian authorities have been resorting to every means possible in trying to erase the traces of the Crimean Tatar heritage in Crimea. One of the ways that both Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union employed to achieve this goal had been to present the Crimean Tatars as ‘uncivilized barbarians’ who needed to be civilized by the ‘enlightened Russians.’ However, this representation is at odds with historical realities. The Crimean Khanate that lasted from 1449 to 1783 was based on an established and complicated polity and social system. Moreover, after its annexation by Tsarist Russia in 1783, Crimea continued to be a cultural and intellectual center and produced a number of intelligentsia who transmitted modern Western ideas and ideals to the Ottoman Empire and the Islamic world. Natalia Krolikowska-Jedlinska, in her article titled *Foreigners in front of the Crimean Khan’s Courts in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, examines three cases in which foreigners appeared in the Crimean Khanate courts, which reveals that, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, there was an established and functioning legal system in the Crimean Khanate in the standards of those times.

Finally, Yuliya Biletska provides an instructive review of the latest book of Prof. Paul Robert Magocsi, a renowned specialist in the history of Ukraine, titled *This Blessed Land: Crimea and the Crimean Tatars* published in 2014 by the University of Toronto Press.

Conference Book



Conference Book No: 18

Projections for the Future of Turkish-Armenian Relations

(English; Paperback, 96 pages)

On 16 December 2015, AVİM in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, organized a symposium titled “Projections for the Future of the Turkish-Armenian Relations”.

Most, if not all of the meetings on this critical subject reflect only a one-sided Turkish or Armenian interpretations of the Turkish-Armenian controversy with select audiences and participants. These meetings lack challenging exchange of ideas, since they are in essence monologues of like-minded people instead of dialogues involving people of differing opinions. As a consequence, these meetings fail to contribute to mutual understanding of a common historical past and to serve reconciliation of differences.

Bearing this important deficiency in mind, AVİM invited five scholars from Armenia and six scholars from Turkey to address an audience attended by members of corps diplomatique, representatives of the civil society, and the academic community. The core aim in organizing such an event was to establish expert-level talks that would focus on the critical political realities and developments in bilateral, regional, and global scales structured upon the principle of egalitarian, open, self-reflexive, and rational dialogue.

The meeting was divided into two major panels: the first panel focused on the “Future of the Turkish-Armenian Bilateral Relations”, while the second panel dealt with the “Future of the Turkish-Armenian Relations in the Context of Regional Developments”. The presentations touched upon several critical and contemporary issues in bilateral relations, ranging from the post-protocols developments, ongoing occupation in Nagorno-Karabakh and its implications, increasing influence of Russia over Armenia, the closed borders, and ECHR’s Perinçek decision with a focus on the future of Turkish-Armenian relations.

The background of the participants, their presentations and the discussions that followed, and the spontaneous views expressed by Turkish and Armenian scholars reflected the inherent value of dialogue. The meeting provided a platform to exchange diverse and contrasting views, help understand points of contention and try to find common grounds on the future of Turkish-Armenian relations. It also proved that dialectics, rather than trivial propaganda and monologue, can be a powerful tool for moving towards a better future.

By publishing the presentations delivered at the symposium titled “Projections for the Future of the Turkish-Armenian Relations”, AVİM hopes to contribute to the literature and the ongoing debates, and ultimately, to the normalization and reconciliation between the Turks and the Armenians.

AVİM Conference Book 19

MONGOLIA
ON THE EVE OF THE 11TH ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM) &
TURKISH-MONGOLIAN RELATIONS

Proceedings of the Meeting Organized by AVİM on 18 January 2016



January 2016



Conference Book No: 19

Mongolia on the Eve of the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) & Turkish-Mongolian Relations

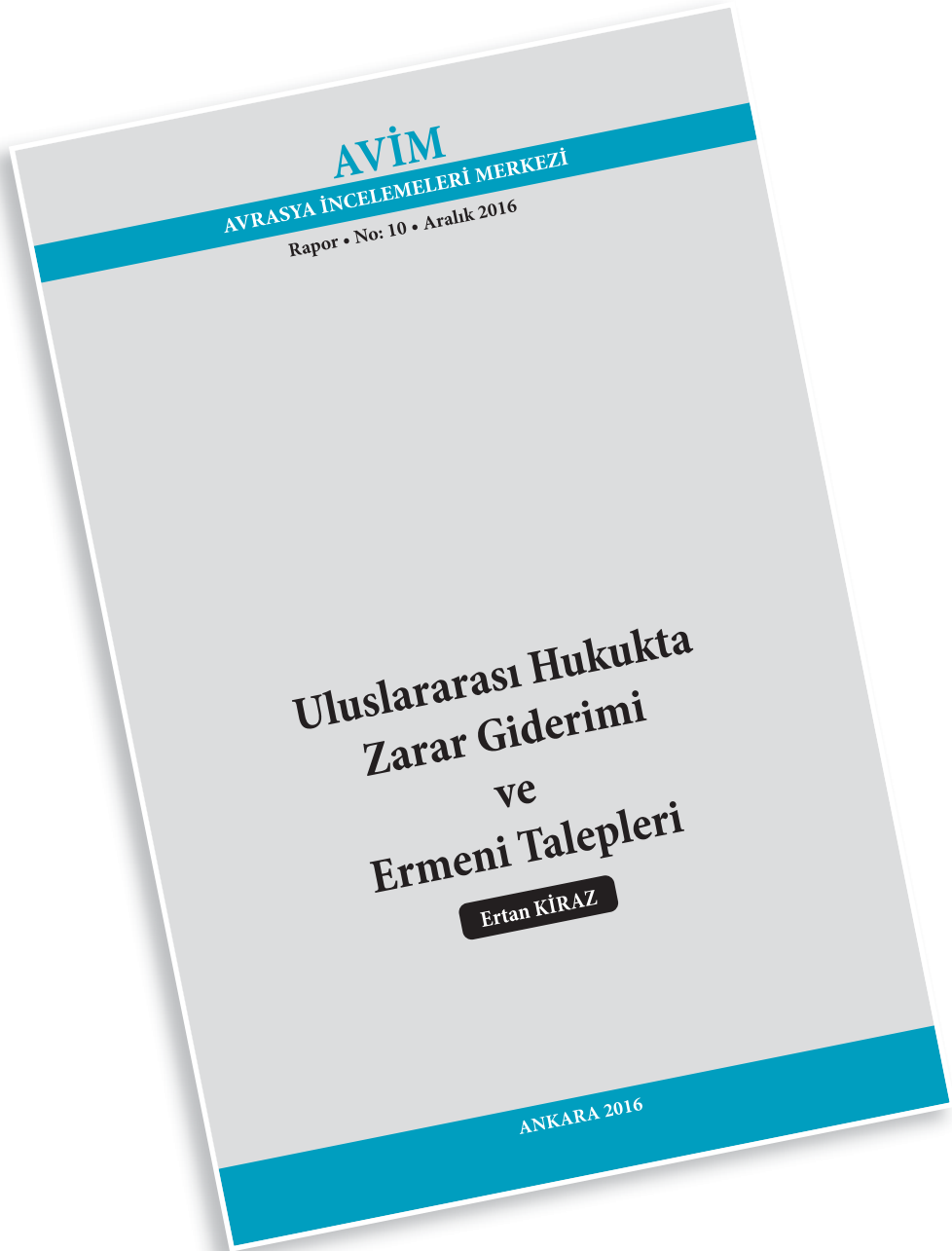
(Turkish and English; paperback, 53 pages)

During the conference titled *11. Asya-Avrupa Zirvesi Öncesi Moğolistan'daki Mevcut Durum, Moğolistan'ın Bölgesel Potansiyeli ve Türk-Moğol İlişkileri* (Mongolia on the Eve of 11th Asia-Europe Summit, the Regional Potential of Mongolia, and Turkish-Mongolian Relations) organized on 18 January 2016 by AVİM, participants evaluated Mongolia's strategic importance for Turkey and the region, shared their views on Turkish-Mongolian relations in light of Mongolia's strategic position tied to Russia and China in the regional sense, and the latest developments that occurred in the region.

In the conference, in which the economic potential between Turkey and Mongolia and the increasing cooperation between the two countries was also put under the microscope, attention was drawn to the need towards intensifying activities that are being carried out in various fields in the framework of bilateral relations and the need to utilize opportunities for cooperation in order to further develop economic and trade ties.

The discussions that took place during this conference have been compiled into a conference book titled *Mongolia on the Eve of the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) & Turkish-Mongolian Relations* and published by AVİM in January 2016.

Reports



AVİM Reports No: 10

Uluslararası Hukukta Zarar Giderimi ve Ermeni Talepleri (Compensation for Damages in International Law and the Armenian Demands)

Author: Ertan Kiraz

(English, paperback, 168 pages)

The main aim of the genocide allegations against Turkey is to gain extensive compromises by way of forcing Turkey to accept the accusation of the crime of genocide. Within this framework, efforts towards this end by certain Armenian diaspora organizations and the Republic of Armenia have gained momentum in recent years. Several third-party countries, as well, put forward genocide allegations against Turkey in accordance with their political goals.

Law has been one of the fields in which genocide allegations have intensified. Reparation cases in US courts, legal cases against Doğu Perinçek in Switzerland and the subsequent Perinçek v. Switzerland case in the European Court of Human Rights that seriously disrupted Armenian efforts, and the legal case filed by the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia are some of the initiatives seen in the field of law.

This study titled *Uluslararası Hukukta Zarar Giderimi ve Ermeni Talepleri* (Compensation for Damages in International Law and the Armenian Demands), which was prepared by Ertan Kiraz at the Strategic Research Institute of the Turkish War Colleges Command, analyzes legal activities against Turkey by Armenian groups and their claimed legal grounds. It also evaluates the Armenian demands in terms of international law.

AVİM believes that this study, which is published as a report will serve to understand the aims of the genocide allegations against Turkey, which could gain political support, and whether or not the legal dimension of these allegations is consistent.

AViM 2016 Annual Report

AViM
Trainee Program

AVİM Trainee Program

AVİM carries out trainee programs throughout the year. For its Trainee Programs, AVİM accepts application from undergraduate and graduate students and recent graduates who are highly proficient in at least one foreign language, and who wish to carry out comprehensive studies on the recent political developments in Europe, the Balkans, Wider Black Sea Region, the Caucasus, and Central Asia that have strategic importance for Turkey. AVİM offers two separate trainee programs, one short term and one long-term.

AVİM Trainee Program participants are expected to help in the organization of AVİM activities and events, and to contribute to the work that goes into the preparation of AVİM's publications. Additionally, the program participants are requested to follow the developments in the Eurasia region throughout their term.

AVİM Trainee Program participants are required to prepare a report at the end of their program. This report should be based on the detailed research that AVİM Trainee Program participants should carry out throughout the course of their program about a topic of interest. In this way, AVİM Trainee Program participants are expected to gain the opportunity to carry out detailed research in a professional environment, benefiting also from the knowledge and expertise of AVİM analysts. In 2016, seven participants from Bilkent University, Erciyes University, Hacettepe University, Middle Eastern Technical University, Osmangazi University, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, and Uludağ University were incorporated to AVİM's Trainee Program.

Regarding information on AVİM Trainee Program, candidates may contact Özge Nur Ögütçü via staj@avim.org.tr or o.ogutcu@avim.org.tr.

2016 AVİM Trainee Program Participants

Ayşe Burcu Ataman, *Hacettepe Uni.*

Kübra Çetin, *Osmangazi University*

Ali Çölgeçen, *Bilkent University*

Mehmet Akif Erkılıç, *METU*

Tuba Gümüş, *METU*

Osman Gün, *Université de Montpellier*

Nail Kara, *Bilkent University*

Denizhan Malkoç, *Bilkent University*

Aycan Özaltun, *METU*

Ferhat Özcan, *TOBB ETU*

Gizem Özyol, *Erciyes University*

Banu Temizkan, *Bilkent University*

Anıl Üner, *METU*

Beril Veziroğlu, *Bilkent University*

Cemre Yapıcı, *Bilkent University*

Aytaç Yılmaz, *METU*



I participated in the AVİM Trainee Program last summer in order to fulfill my undergraduate program's mandatory summer internship. In the education program, I learned many things that will be of benefit to my academic life due to the personalized education provided by the Trainee Program and also the guidance given by AVİM's attentive analysts. Firstly, I had the opportunity to learn the political dimensions of Turkish-Armenian relations, but also to learn a different dimension of these relations by conducting research into and writing an article on the religion factor in these relations. Aside from these, participating in conferences organized by AVİM in which academics and researchers specialized in different historical and political issues has allowed me to gain a different perspective on topics of importance in terms of Turkey's history and politics. In brief, last summer I gained the opportunity to conduct research on topics of interest to me, and was also introduced to different perspectives with the information provided to me by AVİM's analysts. In other words, my two-month summer internship was highly beneficial for me. I thank AVİM for all of this. I recommend the AVİM Trainee Program to anybody who is especially interested in pursuing an academic career.

Cemre Yapıcı

*Undergraduate Student at Bilkent University
Department of Political Science and Public Administration*



I participated in the AVİM Trainee Program in the May-August 2016 period. One of the main reasons for me choosing AVİM was that it focused its activities on the Eurasian region. Up until today, almost all of the subjects I learned or studied was focused only on Europe, and thus Asia was left aside. I felt that this situation was a deficiency. AVİM helped me in my efforts to fill this deficiency. Throughout the time that I was a part of the AVİM, I had the opportunity to work on the geopolitical importance of Central Asia and I developed myself on this subject. My experience at AVİM was also very important in terms of it being my first work experience. Thanks to AVİM's helpful and experienced analysts, I was easily able to adapt to the working environment in AVİM, and I tried to absorb as much experience as possible while I was at this institution. Through the research I conducted and the commentary pieces I wrote, I personally gained experience on how an institution such as AVİM functions. I cannot thank the valuable members of AVİM enough for this experience that will guide me when I am going to decide on my career in the future. I recommend AVİM's Trainee Program to anyone who wishes to experience how such an institution functions.

Denizhan Malkoç

*Undergraduate Student at Bilkent University
Department of Global and International Relations*

AVİM 2016 Annual Report

**Turkey-Armenia
Relations in the
Year 2016**

Turkey-Armenia Relations in the Year 2016

Turkey-Armenia relations constitute a significant portion of AVİM's studies. In 2016, the relations between the two countries were affected by the fact that commemorations and other activities in Armenia and other countries last year to commemorate the centenary of the Armenian Relocation turned into anti-Turkish and anti-Turkey events. While Armenian officials tried to vilify Turkey in every opportunity, Turkey virtually took relations with Armenia off the agenda due to intense internal and external developments. As a matter of fact, Turkey-Armenia relations were not directly included in the program of the 65th Government that was formed in May, and were only mentioned in the context of the Karabakh conflict with the statement, "In accordance with the peaceful settlement of conflicts in the Caucasus, our country will continue to strive for the cessation of the occupation in Azerbaijani territories, Upper Karabakh in particular, and the ending of tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia." In parallel to this, Turkey's efforts to assist the settlement of the Karabakh conflict have increased.

Following the failure of the protocols signed between the two countries in 2009, anti-Turkey sentiments in Armenia has increased, whereas demands from Turkey to recognize the "Armenian genocide" and deal with its outcomes (reparations and property return) has begun to be brought forward. According to the Diaspora, territorial demands are also among the demands from Turkey. However, no such intention is observed, for now, from the Armenian government.

As is known, a State Commission was charged to prepare the legal justifications for the demands from Turkey. Although three years have since passed, these justifications remain unannounced, and the demands from Turkey are yet to be made. The foremost reasons for this is that the Armenian government probably deems it inappropriate to make these demands, which will inevitably cause serious tensions between Turkey-Armenia, in this period of clashes in Karabakh and civil war in Syria and Iraq, and the unlikelihood of the support by the US, Russia, and even the EU for these demands. Furthermore, there are certain disagreements between Armenia and Russia behind the scenes. Among these are Russia's arms sales to Azerbaijan, Russia's apparent support for the return of some of the Azerbaijani regions occupied by Armenia to Azerbaijan, Russia's leaning towards the idea of Turkey contributing to the settlement of the Karabakh conflict, criticisms by the Muslim members of Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), especially Kazakhstan, against Armenia for the Karabakh conflict, and Armenia's failure to gain the expected

benefits from membership to the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Moreover, among the reasons for Armenia's recent position could also be the fact that "Armenian genocide" thesis was weakened following European Court of Human Right's (ECtHR) verdict on the Perinçek v. Switzerland case, and the fact that the argument that the "Armenian genocide" is similar to the Jewish Holocaust is no longer compelling. Factors such as the recent armed clashes in Armenia between the police and certain groups, the subsequent resignation of the government, difficulties during the formation of the new government, and the upcoming elections in 2017 also prevents the assertion of the above-mentioned demands against Turkey that have no priority and are not realistic. However, it is also not correct to think that Armenia is in the process of renouncing these demands.

When Armenia's problems with Turkey and Azerbaijan are analyzed, it is seen that Armenia is responsible for the emergence and intensification of these problems. Matters such as the recognition of the genocide allegations, reparations, return of properties, and cession of territories to Armenia were settled once and for all with the Treaties of Moscow, Kars and Lausanne after the First World War. However, Armenia is still strives to reopen closed files, a totally unrealistic effort. There is no question, according to international law, that Karabakh is an autonomous region within Azerbaijan. As a matter of fact, no country has recognized Karabakh as an independent state. Yet, Armenia is also trying to reopen the closed Karabakh file. However, Armenia's occupation of Karabakh and other territories of Azerbaijan weakens Armenia's position.

There is no question that Armenia's problems with Turkey and Azerbaijan affect Armenia in an adverse manner. Despite aids from the Diaspora as well as from some countries and international organizations, Armenia is still a country that cannot ensure the prosperity of its people and that loses population due to migration. In order to put an end to these adversities, Armenia, first and foremost, must solve its problems with its neighbors and cooperate with countries in its region that are gaining prominence in terms of transportation and energy resources. However, it is seen that both Armenia and the Diaspora, which continue to be under the influence of historical events and ambitions rather than focusing on the realities of today, have no plans to change their attitudes and perspectives, and are determined to carry on with policies that benefit no one, including themselves.


AVİM Honorary President
Ambassador (R)
Ömer Engin LÜTEM

AVIM 2016 Annual Report

Other Activities

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AVİM
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Türkmeneli İşbirliği ve Kültür Vakfı
AVRASYA İNCELEMELERİ MERKEZİ

Anasayfa Yayınlarımız Etkinlikler Kadromuz Hakkımızda İletişim



55

ERMENİ ARAŞTIRMALARI

DUYURU: ERMENİ ARAŞTIRMALARI DERGİSİ'NİN 55NCİ SAYISI YAYINLANMIŞTIR

Ermeni Araştırmaları Dergisi'nin yeni yayınlanan 55nci sayısında 5 makale ve 1 kitap tahlili yer alıyor.

ARA

AVİM BÜLTENİ

Bültende Ara ARA

Kafkasya Asya

Balkanlar Avrupa

İrak Tüm Bültenler

E-Posta Adresi Abone Ol

Bülten Arşivi: 03/01/2017 G

[Günlük Bülten İçin Tıklayınız](#)

YORUMLAR

NAİM BEY'İN GERÇEKLİĞİ ÜZERİNDEN TARİHİ DEĞİŞTİRME ÇABALARI

Taner Akçam, "Naim Efendi'nin Hayatı ve Talat Paşa Telgrafları, Krikor Gergoryan'ın Arşivi" isimli, İletişim Yayınları tarafından geçtiğimiz Ekim ayında yayımlanan...

Tosman Ertağrı TULLUN 02.01.2017

SASSOUNIAN NEDEN TAHLİYE EDİLMEMELİDİR?

Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Los Angeles Başkonsolosu Kemal Arkan, 28 Ocak 1982'de, arasıra trafik vakalarında dardağa bir anda atıp ödüler katılmıdır. Bu cinayete...

Hazret ÇAĞAN ELBİR 28.12.2016

KİLİKYA KATOLİKOSLUĞUNUN ERMENİ ANAYASA MAHKEMESİ BAŞVURUSU

Nisan 2015'de Kilikya Ermeni Katolikosluğu, temsilcisi aracılığıyla Anayasa Mahkemesi'ne biryüzlü başvuruda bulunmuş ve terk ettiği şapınmaz idasını tal...

Mehmet Oğuzhan TULLUN 21.12.2016

LOS ANGELES BAŞKONSOLOSU KEMAL ARKANI'NIN 1982 YILINDA KATLEDEN HARRY (HAMPIG) M. SASSOUNIAN'IN ŞARTLI TAHLİYESİ

14 Aralık 2016 tarihinde ABD'nin Kaliforniya eyaletinde gerçekleşen şartlı tahliye duruşmasında, 1982 yılında Türkiye'nin Los Angeles Başkonsolosu Kemal Arkan...

AVİM 21.12.2016

AKADEMİK ETİĞİN KASTEN YOZLAŞTIRILMASI: TANER AKÇAM ÖRNEĞİ

Akçam'ın akademik yitme hiçbir şekilde uygun olmayan ve yayınlanan çalışmalarındaki bilgilerin çelişki ve hatalarla...

ETKİNLİKLER

THE CURRENT STATE OF THE ACADEMIC DEBATE OVER THE EVENTS OF 1915 IN AN INCREASINGLY ISLAMOPHOBIC WEST (İSLAMFÖBİNİN YÜKSELMEKTE OLDUĞU BATI'DA 1915 OLAYLARI HAKKINDA YÜRÜTÜLEN AKADEMİK TARTIŞMALARIN GÜNCEL DURUMU) - YRD. DOÇ. DR. CHRISTOPHER GUNN

Geçmiş Etkinlik

Avrasya İncelemeleri Merkezi (AVİM), 9 Aralık 2016 Cuma günü, Yrd. Doç. Dr. Christopher Gunn'ın konuşmasıyla "The Current State of the Academic Debate over..."

AVİM Konferans Salonu 09.12.2016

KAMU DİPLOMASİSİ AÇISINDAN ERMENİ MESELESİ VE BAŞKANLIK OSMANLI ARŞİVİ - PROF. DR. MUSTAFA BUDAK

Geçmiş Etkinlik

Avrasya İncelemeleri Merkezi (AVİM), 24 Kasım 2016 tarihinde, İstanbul Üniversitesi Atatürk İlkeleri ve İnkılap Tarihi Enstitüsü öğretim üyelerinden Prof. Dr. Mustafa...

AVİM Konferans Salonu 24.11.2016

"GÜRCİSTAN'DAKİ MÜSLÜMAN TOPLULUKLAR: AZINLIK HAKLARI, KİMLİK, SİYASET" BAŞLIKLARI TOPLANTISI

Geçmiş Etkinlik

AVİM KİTAP TANITIMI "GÜRCİSTAN'DAKİ MÜSLÜMAN TOPLULUKLAR: AZINLIK HAKLARI, KİMLİK, SİYASET" Avrasya İncelemeleri Merkezi...

AVİM Konferans Salonu 06.10.2016

AVİM BLOG

RUSSIAN-TURKISH BREAK WOULD BE ILLUSORY AND EXTREMELY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE

Mehmet Oğuzhan TULLUN 30.12.2016

BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE 'TREASON'

Mehmet VLAHOVIC 26.12.2016

FERDİNAND-HODLER SOKAĞI KATLI İLE BULUŞMA

Arzu HANCI 26.12.2016

ERMENİSTAN-AZERBAIJAN BARIŞ PLATFORMU VE OLASI BEKLENTİLER

Ertan ASIRLI 16.12.2016

GÜNEY KAFKASYA BÖLGESİNDE GÜVENLİK SORUNU

Ertan ASIRLI 12.12.2016

DUYURULAR

HİSTORİA 1923 DERGİSİNİN İKİNCİ SAYISI ÇIKTI

02.01.2017

AVİM ANALİSTİ HAZEL ÇAĞAN ELBİR, 29 ARALIK 2016'DA KANAL B'NİN GÜNCE PROGRAMINA KONUK OLDU

02.01.2017

VENİ VİA ARKALIKI

[@AVIMMerkezi](#) kullanıcısının Tweetleri

AVİM's Renewed Website

AVİM is currently the only think-tank that exclusively takes Eurasia as its focal point and employs analysts specializing in different geographies and countries constituting Eurasia. Within this framework, AVİM continues its studies on Turkey-Armenia relations and the “Armenian question”, which are among the main issues of the Turkish foreign policy, and publishes two peer-reviewed academic journals, one being in Turkish and the other in English, that focus solely on these topics. As such, there is no institution equivalent to AVİM. Additionally, AVİM's third peer-reviewed academic journal features research on disputes, conflicts and crimes concerning different communities, ethnic and religious groups, and nations. Books based on academic research, conference books and reports are also among AVİM's publications. AVİM publishes original commentaries and analyses by its own analysts, various announcements, and significant commentaries/analyses previously published in different channels on its own website and blog, as well. AVİM's daily bulletin reaches more than 7000 subscribers both in Turkey and abroad.

AVİM's unique place within the research community makes AVİM's activities and publications a center of attention of different segments of the society, policy makers, students, foreign specialists and other interested people.

Upon this observation, in 2016, AVİM renewed the content and design of its website to make it easier for its followers to access information in a more user-friendly environment.

Joint Training Protocol Between AVİM and TOBB University of Economics and Technology



AVİM
AVRASYA İNCELEMELERİ MERKEZİ
CENTER FOR EURASIAN STUDIES



TOBB
EKONOMİ VE TEKNOLOJİ
ÜNİVERSİTESİ

In April 2016, AVİM and TOBB University of Economics and Technology signed a joint training protocol.

This protocol, which envisages to give priority to TOBB University of Economics and Technology studies in admittance to AVİM Trainee Program, aims TOBB University of Economics and Technology students to work with specialists whose expertise lie within the field of international relations with special focus on Eurasia and gain experience in the field prior to their graduation.

Renewed Protocol on Cooperation Between AVİM and BIEST



In May 2016, AVİM and Bilkent International Relations and European Union Politics Society (BIEST) renewed the protocol on cooperation previously signed in December 2015.

With the renewal of this protocol which foresees joint activities between AVİM and BIEST and to give BIEST members priority in admittance to AVİM Trainee Program, a major step has been taken towards the development of a long-term cooperation between AVİM and Bilkent University students.

1915 Events and International Law Workshops

Divergent Turkish and Armenian interpretations, memories and assessments with regard to the 1915 events is one of the reasons for the politicization of the controversy, leading debates on the issue to lack scientific/academic character. In these debates that take place in a much politicized environment, the very important legal aspect of the issue is not sufficiently addressed.

Existing legal studies mostly focus on criminal law, and revolve around individual penal responsibility. However, today, legal debates on the 1915 events go beyond the criminal law aspect and focus on 'state responsibility' and the human rights. Furthermore, the Armenian side seeks to bring the issue to the legal sphere with demands such as reparations.

Based on this observation, AVİM set out to organize a series of workshops on the theme of *1915 Events and International Law*. The first being held on 8-9 October 2015 in collaboration with Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, the workshop series continued in 2016 with subsequent workshops organized in cooperation with Başkent University (Ankara), Dokuz Eylül University (İzmir) and Özyeğin University (Istanbul).

In the total of four workshops organized until the end of 2016, the topics discussed were the *Legal Aspects of the 1915 Events*, *Perinçek Precedent and Its Effects*, *Property Law*, and *Successor State-Continuing State*, respectively.

In 2017, AVİM plans to continue the *1915 Events and International Law* workshops initiated in 2015.

Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views **Conference Series on the Armenian Question**

In today's environment where the geopolitical center of gravity is shifting from the Euro-Atlantic to the Asia, AVİM, seeking to contribute to the understanding of challenges and opportunities that Turkey faces within the changing global geopolitical context, attributes particular attention to two key components of Eurasia in its studies – the Balkans and the Caucasus. Within this framework, AVİM continues its studies on the Turkish-Armenian relations, which is an issue of particular concern for Turkey in the Wider Black Sea region.

In 2016, as part of its focus on the Turkish-Armenian relations, AVİM organized a series of conferences under the title of *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views* with the participation of Turkish and foreign academics who focus on the “Armenian question”, and Turkish diplomats who took part in the implementation of Turkey's foreign policy on this issue.

The conference series titled *Armenian Question 2016: 10 Views*, which featured, respectively, Ambassador (R) Dr. M. Şükrü Elekdağ, Prof. Dr. Seçil Karal Akgün, Ambassador (R) Kadri Ecvet Tezcan, Prof. Dr. Kemal Çiçek, Prof. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir, Ambassador (R) Dr. Osman Faruk Loğođlu, Jeremy Salt, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Budak, Assist. Prof. Christopher Gunn, Prof. Dr. Haluk Selvi as speakers, will also continue in 2017. The speeches delivered at these conferences will be compiled into a conference book under the same title.

AVIM 2016 Annual Report

AVIM Staff



Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem, *Honorary President*

Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç, *Director*

Ambassador (R) Yiğit Alpogan, *Advisor*

Aslan Yavuz Şir, *Senior Analyst*

Dr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel, *Senior Analyst*

Hazel Çağan Elbir, *Analyst*

Özge Nur Öğütçü, *Analyst*

Ali Murat Taşkent, *Analyst*

Mehmet Oğuzhan Tulun, *Analyst*

Teoman Ertuğrul Tulun, *Analyst*

Maxime Gauin, *Scholar in Residence*

Hülya Önalp, *Assistant of the Director of AVİM*

Ali Kenan Erbulan, *Administrative Staff*

Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem, *Honorary President*



Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Ankara in 1957 and became career diplomat in the same year. During his service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador (R) Lütem had served as the Turkish Consul General at Cologne, Germany (1975-1979), Director General of Personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Republic of Turkey (1979-1981), Director General of Intelligence and Research of the MFA of the Republic of Turkey (1981-1983), Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Bulgaria (1983-1989), Deputy Undersecretary of the MFA (1989-1992), Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Vatican (1992-1995) and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to UNESCO (1995-1997).

After his retirement in 1998, he served as the Director of the Institute for Armenian Research at Eurasian Strategic Research Center (2000-2008) and Director of the Center for Eurasian Studies (2009-2012).

Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin Lütem is the editor of the journals *Ermeni Araştırmaları* (Armenian Studies; published since 2001), *Review of Armenian Studies* (published since 2002), and *International Crimes and History / Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih* (bilingual in Turkish and English; published since in 2005).

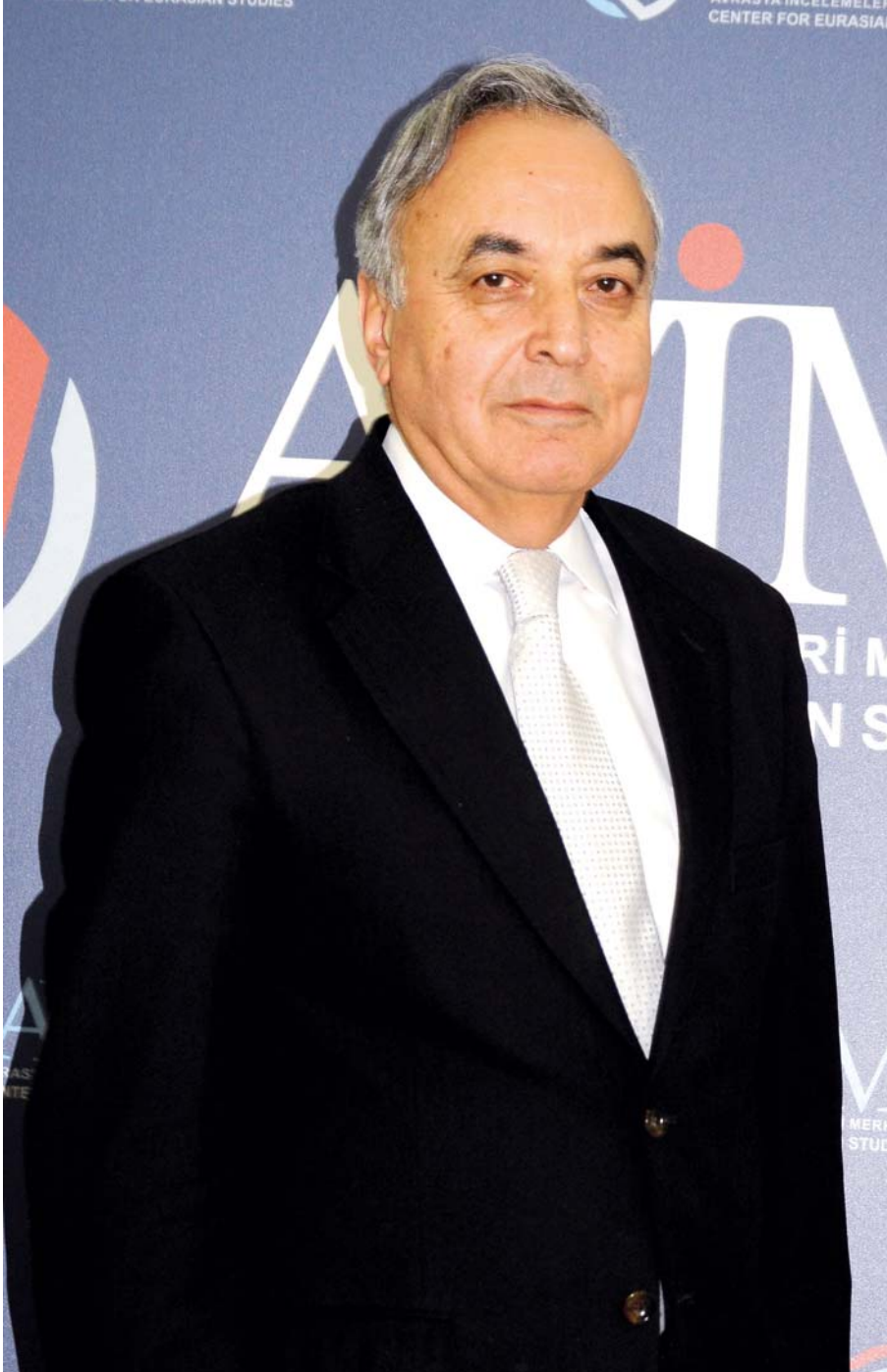
His works include:

- Türkiye-Bulgaristan İlişkileri, 1983-1989 vol. 1 (Turkish-Bulgarian Relations, 1983-1989 vol. 1), ASAM, Ankara, 2000.
- Balkan Diplomasisi (Balkan Diplomacy), ASAM, Ankara 2001
- Ermeni Sorunu El Kitabı (Handbook of the Armenian Question), ASAM-TEİMK, Ankara, 2003
- Türkiye-Bulgaristan İlişkileri, 1983-1989 vol. 2 (Turkish-Bulgarian Relations, 1983-1989 vol. 2), ASAM, Ankara, 2005.
- Armenian Terror, ASAM, Ankara, 2007.
- Armenian Question: Basic Knowledge and Documentation, AVİM, Ankara, 2009.

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Ambassador (R) Alev KILIÇ, *Director*



Ambassador (R) Alev Kılıç graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences of Ankara University in 1968. The next year, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Republic of Turkey. During his service at the MFA, Ambassador (R) Kılıç served in Jordan (1972-1974) and Munich-Germany (1974-1977), at the Ministry in Ankara (1977-1979), in Germany at the Embassy in Bonn (1979-1983), at the Ministry in Ankara (1983-1985), in Bulgaria at the Turkish Embassy in Sofia as the First Councillor (1985-1991), back in Ankara as the Deputy Director General for Central Asian, Caucases and Slavic countries (1991-1996).

Ambassador (R) Kılıç served as the Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia between 1996 and 1998 and Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg between 1998 and 2001. In 2001-2004, he served as the Deputy Undersecretary of the MFA for Economic Affairs. Ambassador (R) Kılıç again served as the Ambassador to Switzerland (2004-2009) and Ambassador to Mexican United States (2009-2011).

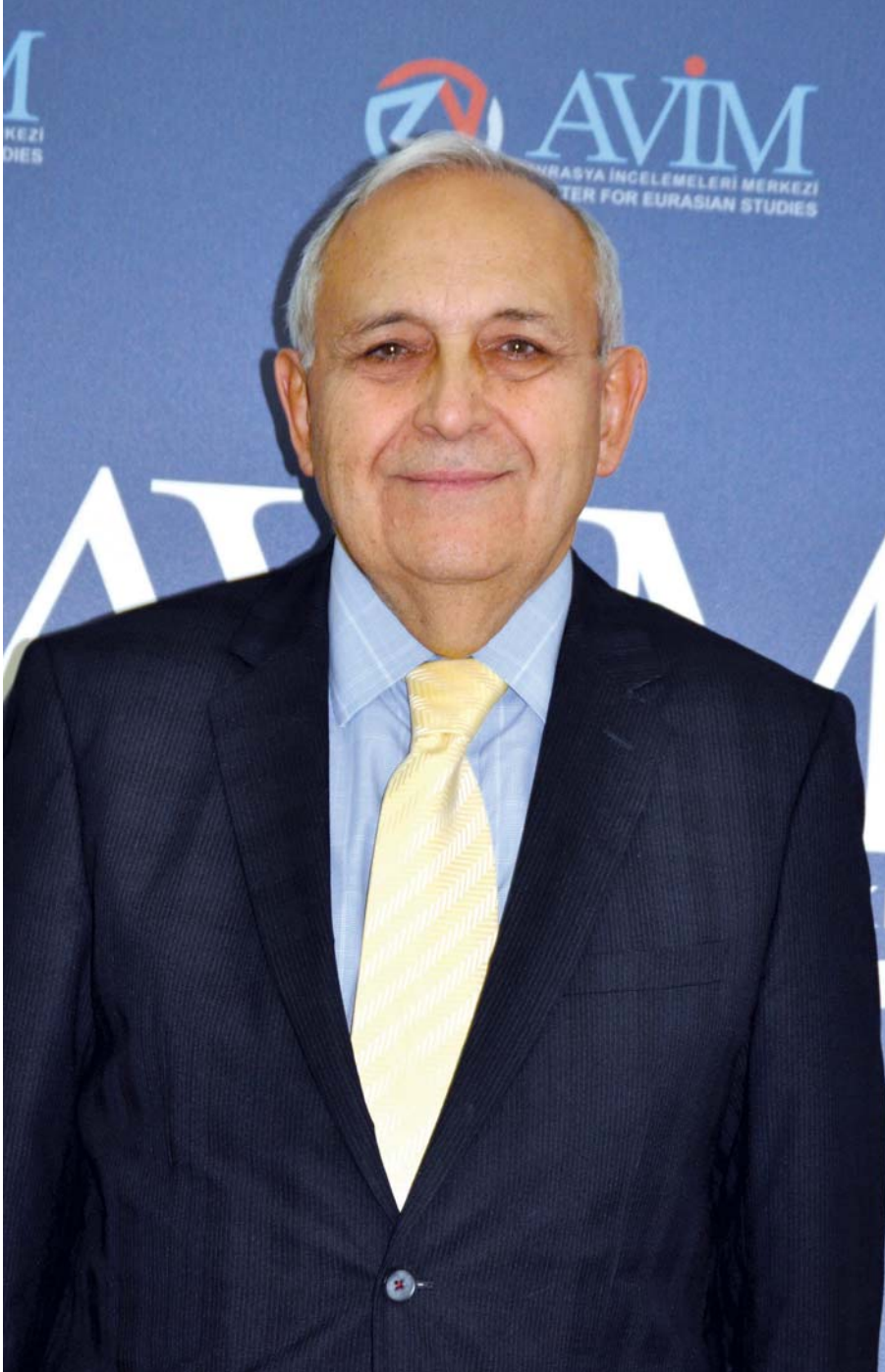
Ambassador (R) Kılıç retired from the MFA in 2011.

He has been the Director of AVİM since 2013.

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Ambassador (R) Yiğit ALPOGAN, *AVİM Advisor*



Ambassador (R) Yiğit Alpogan graduated from the Faculty of Political Science of Ankara University in 1967. In 1968, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, where he served in different positions ranging from Head of Section to Deputy Undersecretary, and abroad in Turkish missions in several countries. Ambassador (R) Yiğit Alpogan was appointed First Secretary of the Turkish Embassy in Tokyo (1972-1975) and in Nicosia (1975-1977), Counsellor of the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the UN Office in Geneva (1979-1983), First Counsellor of the Turkish Embassy in The Hague (1985-1989), and Minister-Counsellor of the Turkish Embassy in Athens (1991-1995).

Ambassador (R) Yiğit Alpogan became ambassador in 1995 and has since served in this position in several embassies such as Ashgabat (1995-1998) and Athens (2001-2004), before his appointment as the first civilian Secretary General of the National Security Council of Turkey (2004-2007). Ambassador (R) Yiğit Alpogan was then appointed Ambassador to London, where he served from 2007 to 2010. Following his retirement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2010, he joined the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in Barcelona and served as Deputy Secretary General until the completion of his term in 2016.

Ambasador (R) Yiğit Alpogan joined AVİM in December 2016 in an advisory capacity.

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yalpogan@avim.org.tr

Aslan Yavuz ŞİR, Senior Analyst



Aslan Yavuz ŞİR graduated from Bilkent University Department of Political Science in 2004. He earned his MA from Middle East Technical University Department of Eurasian Studies and MS from Department of European Studies in 2007. He's currently a PhD candidate at the Department of International Relations, Middle East Technical University.

ŞİR previously worked as an analyst at Global Strategy Institute and Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies (ORSAM) respectively between 2006 and 2009. He's working as Senior Analyst at the Center for Eurasian Studies since 2009. His research interests are Post-Soviet studies, Central Asia, the Black Sea and the South Caucasus, conflict resolution studies and Turkish Armenian relations.

His articles appeared in *Review of Armenian Studies*, *Global Strategy Journal*, *Harvard Central Eurasian Studies Review*, *Ortadoğu Analiz*, *Eurasia Critic* and *Daily Sabah*.

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<https://metu.academia.edu/AslanYavuzSir>

Dr. Turgut Kerem TUNCEL, *Senior Analyst*

Dr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel completed his undergraduate degree in 2001 at Middle East Technical University with a major in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. He holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Bilkent University. In 2014, Turgut earned his PhD degree in Sociology and Social Research from *Università degli Studi di Trento*. During his doctoral studies, he had been a pre-doc visiting scholar at Michigan University, Ann Arbor Armenian Studies Program.

Dr. Tuncel worked as research/teaching assistant between 2001 and 2009 at Bilkent University and İstanbul Bilgi University. He joined AVİM in January 2015. Since then, Dr. Tuncel has also been the managing editor of *Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih / International Crimes and History Journal*.

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AVIM 2016 Annual Report

A Look Into 2017

A Look Into 2017

The year 2017 carries the potential to be a time span where the shift and changes in the global balance will accelerate and become more visible. The absolute authority of the West, leading and shaping the global developments and stamping its own identity and values for the past four centuries has been diminishing as a new power structure is appearing in the horizon in the East.

A new administration will be governing the USA. The two power houses of the European Union, France and Germany will hold elections that will usher in a new lease in government. These events will have a bearing on and will also be affected by the global change. The banner slogan of the new administration of the USA, "America first" will no doubt conjure up for the rest of the globe their first. Hence, it should not come as a surprise if such attitudes would sow the seeds for new priorities and power struggle globally. Should the election statements and promises for the USA to retract from the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement actually carried out, it is bound to facilitate Asia to round up around Russia and China in a more cumulative manner.

The rising xenophobia and islamophobia in the West is apt to encourage the support for isolation in the USA and to strengthen the already prevalent concept of "fortress Europe" in the European Union. Isolation and introvert policies for the European Union, which desperately needs outreach to resources to be able to maintain the way of life it has achieved, will not provide the remedy for its problems; to the contrary, possibly will exacerbate them, melting down the rich accumulation of centuries.

Is the future then so bleak? Not necessarily. AVİM is of the view that Turkey can provide the litmus test to identify the difficulties and worries in the relations between the West and the East. Turkey is a staunch ally of the West. Turkey is a formidable member of the military pillar of the West, the NATO alliance. On the other hand, Turkey has been persistently given a cold shoulder from the political and economic pillars of the alliance from Turkey's point of view, the European Union. It will be increasingly difficult to sustain this double standard approach.

Turkey also needs to strengthen its relations with the East. Multifaceted close ties with the Central Asian Republics provide a solid ground for Turkey's opening up to the East. However, it still remains to be seen how welcome Turkey's approach and opening to the East is received by two powers of Asia, the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China.

AVİM is conscious of the political hurdles Turkey faces due to its sphere of work and research. A well-known case is the support accorded to biased, hateful Armenian narrative and allegations. The motives and instincts behind that support also is a revelation for what not to do. AVİM is resolved to continue with its constructive and consistent work and research on this subject. Our periodical journals will continue to contribute to scholarly research and insights. We also have started working on a fourth journal to appear in 2017 on the overall subject of Eurasia and we count on the contribution of Ambassador (R) Yiğit Alpogan who has recently joined the AVİM staff.

In conclusion, if we are to yearn for an optimistic future, in 2017 and after, it is elementary to keep in mind that the enlargement of the global economic cake requires regional and global stability and peace, and that there are new shareholders and new proportions in its distribution.

AVİM Director
Ambassador (R)
Alev KILIÇ

AVİM 2016 Annual Report

AVİM
Publications

AVİM Books



Gürcistan'daki Müslüman Topluluklar: Azınlık Hakları, Kimlik, Siyaset

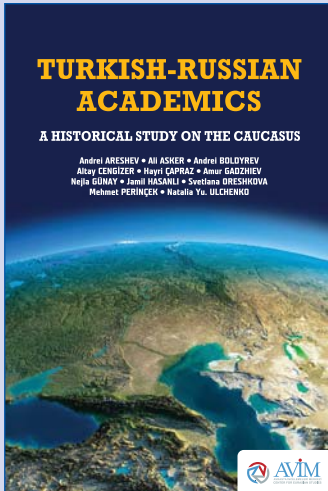
Editors: Ayşegül Aydıngün, Ali Asker,
Aslan Yavuz Şir

Publication Date: June 2016

Language: Turkish

ISBN: 97605601974

(Paperback, 428 pages)



Turkish-Russian Academics: A Historical Study on the Caucasus

Editor: AVİM

Publication Date: April 2016

Publisher: Terazi Yayınları

Language: English

ISBN: 9786056061967

(Paperback, 248 pages)

AVİM Books



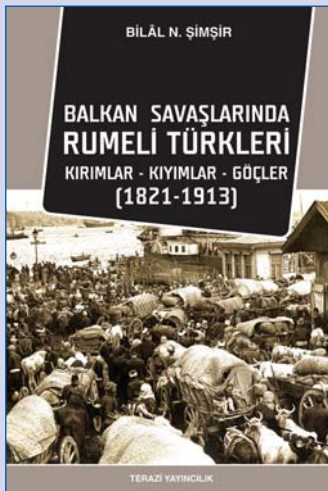
**Armenian Diaspora:
Diaspora, State and the Imagination of the
Republic of Armenia**

Author: Turgut Kerem Tuncel

Publication Date: First edition December 2014;
Second edition August 2015

Language: English

ISBN: 9786056061950
(Paperback, 342 pages)



**Balkan Savaşlarında Rumeli Türkleri
Kırımlar - Kıyımlar – Göçler (1821-1913)**

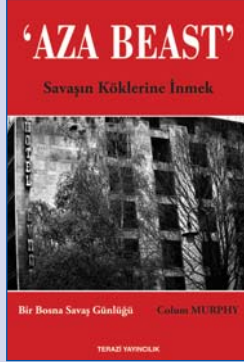
Author: Bilâl N. Şimşir

Publication Date: September 2014

Language: Turkish

ISBN: 978-605-60619-4-3
(Paperback, 312 pages)

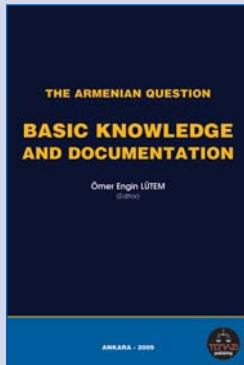
AVIM Books



'Aza Beast'
Savaşın Köklerine İnmek
- Bir Bosna Savaşı Günlüğü -
Author: Colum Murphy
Translation: M. Sina Baydur
Publication Date: 2013
Language: Turkish
ISBN: 978-605-60619-3-6
(Paperback, 368 pages)



Ermeni Sorunu
Temel Bilgi ve Belgeler
Author: Ömer Engin Lütem
Publication Date: 2009
Language: Turkish
ISBN: ISBN 978-605-60619-1-2
(Paperback, 520 pages)



The Armenian Question
Basic Knowledge and Documentation
Author: Ömer Engin Lütem
Publication Date: 2009
Language: English
ISBN: ISBN 978-605-60619-0-5
(Paperback, 470 pages)

AVİM Conference Books

- **Regional Integrated Transport Corridors Project.** No: 1, Ankara, May 2013.
- **A General Look at Asia and Turkey's Priorities: Prospects and Priorities of Turkey in Asia.** No: 2, Ankara June 2013.
- **Turkey in the Troika of G-20, Preparing to Assume the Chair in 2015.** No: 3, Ankara November 2013.
- **Avrasya Perspektifleri: Kazakistan ve Türkiye'den Bakış.** No: 4, Ankara February 2014. (Turkish)
- **Caucasus and Azerbaijan.** No: 5, İstanbul March 2014.
- **South East Europe, The Balkans: Prospects for the Region.** No: 6, Ankara March 2014.
- **Turkish-Armenian Dialogue.** No: 7, Ankara April 2014.
- **Turkey's and Taiwan's Outlook on Eurasia-Pacific.** No: 8, Ankara May 2014.
- **Turkey-Iran: Regional Cooperation in an Evolving Eurasian Geography with a Focus on the Caucasus and Central Asia.** No: 9, Ankara May 2014.
- **The Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: A Threat to Regional Peace, Security and Neighborly Relations.** No: 10, Ankara November 2014.
- **Regional Cooperation Possibilities and Prospects for the Future in the Caucasus.** No: 11, Ankara December 2014.
- **The 'Sociological Turn' of Taiwan-China Relations.** No: 12, Ankara December 2014.
- **28 Ocak AİHM Perinçek-İsviçre Duruşmasının Işığında Türk-Ermeni Sorunu.** No: 13, Ankara February 2015. (Turkish)
- **Turkic Council and Cooperation in Eurasia in the Light of Developments Across the Region.** No: 14, Ankara February 2015.
- **Prospects for Turkish-Armenian Relations.** No: 15, Ankara April 2015.
- **Policy of Mass Killings in the Early 20th Century in Colonial Africa: The Case of Genocide in Namibia and the Lessons Learned.** No: 16, Ankara December 2015.
- **Security and Stability Concerns in the South Caucasus.** No: 17, Ankara May 2015.
- **Projections for the Future of Turkish-Armenian Relations.** No: 18, Ankara March 2016.
- **"11. Asya - Avrupa Zirvesi Öncesi Moğolistan'daki Güncel Durum, Moğolistan'ın Bölgesel Potansiyeli ve Türk-Moğol İlişkileri".** No: 19, Ankara Nisan 2016. (Turkish)

AVIM Reports

- **Armenians and Syria 1915 and 2013.** Jeremy Salt, No: 1, February 2014.
- **Avrasya’da Bölgesel Bir İşbirliği Mekanizması: Türk Konseyi.** Ali Çiviler, No: 2 February 2014. (Turkish)
- **1915 Olayları ve Türk-Ermeni Uyuşmazlığı.** No: 3 February 2014. (Turkish)
- **The Armenian Apostolic Church.** Mehmet Oğuzhan Tulun, No: 4, February 2014. (Turkish-English)
- **What is the World Council of Churches?** Mehmet Oğuzhan Tulun, No: 5, March 2014. (Turkish-English)
- **Kör İnanç Olarak İntikamcılık ve Taşnak-ASALA Suikastleri.** Hikmet Özdemir, No: 6, March 2014. (Turkish)
- **Regional Security Complex Theory and the South Caucasus: Security Perceptions and Their Reflections on Regional Level.** Özge Nur Öğütçü, No: 7, August 2014.
- **The Armenian Terrorism and the Turkish Press (1973 - 1984).** Hazel Çağan, No: 8, October 2014.
- **“Cyprus V. Turkey” Kararı: Avrupa İnsan Hakları Mahkemesi’nin Uluslararası Hukuk ve Uluslararası Uyuşmazlık Sınavaı.** Deniz Akçay. No: 9, February 2016. (Turkish)
- **Uluslararası Hukukta Zarar Giderimi ve Ermeni Talepleri.** Ertan Kiraz, No: 10, December 2016. (Turkish)

