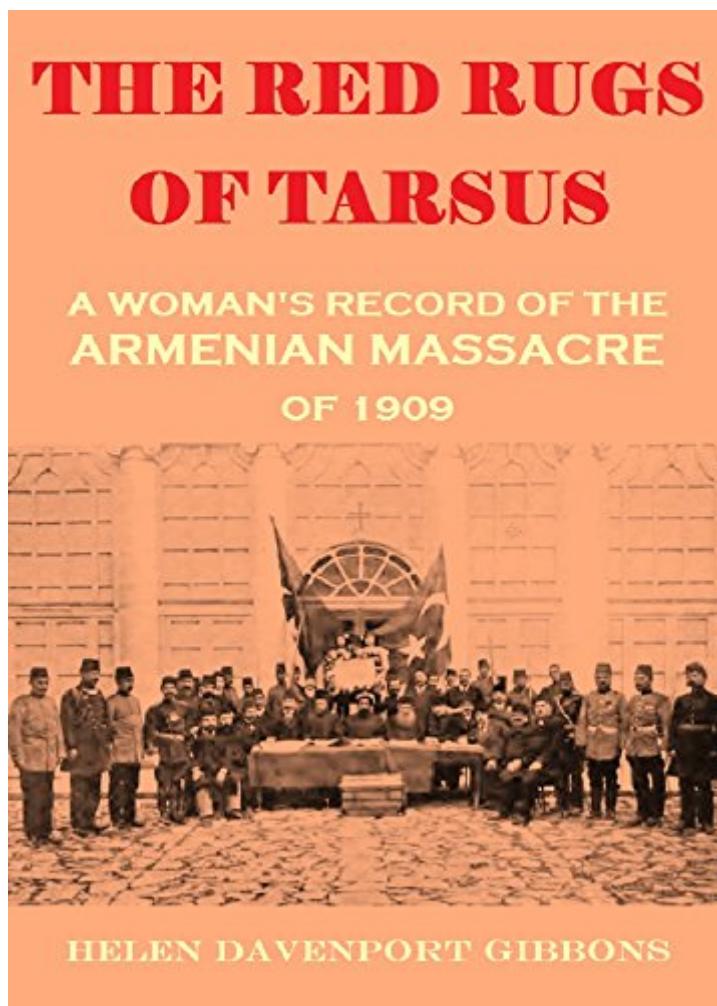


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The Red Rugs Of Tarsus: A Woman's Record Of The Armenian Massacre Of 1909



Synopsis

This is an unusual and riveting account by a young American mother who was living in Ottoman Turkey in both 'Constantinople' and Tarsus in Armenia during the opening years of the twentieth century. This was a period of turmoil—a time of several cholera outbreaks, the war between Turkey and Italy, the Balkan War and the unrest that eventually led up to the conflagration that was the First World War. Helen Gibbons found herself enmeshed in many of these historic events, but the most significant and terrifying ordeal came with the massacres of the Armenian people by the Turks which turned into nothing less than genocide. The twentieth century has seen many examples of 'ethnic cleansing,' each appalling episode seeming by its horror to eclipse the last. So it is perhaps unsurprising that the suffering of the Armenian people one hundred years ago has been relegated to the dusty corners of the public consciousness for all but those who had a direct connection with it. It is always right that these crimes against humanity should be returned to the spotlight of the present. In this book the account is made particularly poignant by the eyewitness recollection of one who lived through those days of terror and personal danger.

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Customer Reviews

The book is a series of letters written by Mrs. Gibbons to her mother from Turkey, as she lived in the middle of the killing. She doesn't go into gruesome detail of what she saw and experienced, but her descriptions are so vivid that you live her experiences with her. What ISIS is doing today is just a continuation of what the Muslims have been doing to Christians and Jews for ages. I fear it will continue till the end of time.

What the Turkish did to the Armenians is equal to Syria & like countries, today. Auschwitz, Khmer Rouge, Darfur, and on and on.

The author was married to a prominent American journalist in the early 20th century. This book describes her first-hand experience of a massacre of an Armenian quarter during 1909, in Turkey. The book provides a useful first-hand account of life in Turkey in the early 20th century.

Extremely interesting as a first generation American- Armenian woman born in the US whose grandparents lived through the early twentieth century genocide. Many family stories told by my father's mother of their escape relived in the pages of The Red Rugs of Tarsus.

The book gave me a lot of information about the Turkish and Kurdish genocide of the Armenians that I never knew.

Very boring reading! If I were not interested in the subject matter, I would have let it go

Sad but profound story

The mass killing of Armenians by Ottoman Turks during World War I remains a highly sensitive

issue. Turkey has resisted widespread calls for it to recognise the 1915-16 killings as genocide, while historians continue to argue about the events. What happened? There is general agreement that hundreds of thousands of Armenians died when the Ottoman Turks deported them en masse from eastern Anatolia to the Syrian desert and elsewhere in 1915-16. They were killed or died from starvation or disease. The total number of Armenian dead is disputed. Armenians say 1.5 million died. The Republic of Turkey estimates the total to be 300,000. According to the International Association of Genocide Scholars, the death toll was "more than a million". What is genocide? Article Two of the UN Convention on Genocide of December 1948 describes genocide as carrying out acts intended "to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group". This book is an excellent eye witness account and a very good read.

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