
This standard volume of the Foreign Relations series devotes some 800 pages to developments in the Middle East during the critical war year of 1944 and will prove of vital interest to all students of American foreign policy in that area, which President Roosevelt deemed of "vital interest" at the time. Of special interest to readers of Balkan Studies, of course, are the pages devoted to American interest in and concern with Greece (pp. 84-229) and Turkey (pp. 814-917). The section dealing with Greece, for example, provides basic American documentation on 1) the policy of the United States regarding the question of the political organization of Greece following liberation from German occupation, and well reflects certain differences in American and British views; 2) participation by the United States in arranging for relief supplies for liberated Greece; 3) the request of the Greek Government for further financial assistance from the United States; and 4) the attitude of the United States to abolish the International Financial Commission. The section on Turkey deals generally with 1) Representations by the United States and the United Kingdom in effecting a severance of economic and diplomatic relations between Turkey and Germany; 2) break by Turkey of relations with Japan at the request of the United States and British Governments; 3) discussions regarding proposed Lend-Lease agreement between the United States and Turkey; and 4) the death of the Turkish Ambassador to the United States, Mehmet Mu’'nir Ertegun. One thing which emerges clearly from these documents relative
Reviews of books

Reviews of books

Reviews of books

to Turkey, despite all the talk to the contrary, is the relative indiffer­ence of the United States, in practical terms of the possible diversion of military materiel, to the entry of Turkey into what President Roose­velt used to call “the shooting war.” Similarly of special interest is the exchange of memoranda, cables and despatches (pp. 113 ff) which reflect the American opposition to the Anglo-Soviet projects for the division of the Balkan area into spheres of military action, and the ultimate American acceptance of the proposals. The volume is indispensable to any understanding of American policy during 1944, although it must be supplemented, of course, with all other relevant documentation.

The American University, HARRY N. HOWARD
Washington D. C.


Over the past many years, there have been a number of biographies of the great leader of the Turkish people, the great soldier of the Ottoman Empire during World War I, who came to the conclusion that the Ottoman Empire must go, and who, ultimately, led the Turkish people into independant nationhood, and then impressed upon them one of the great and abiding revolutions of our time. Earlier biographies, however, have been necessarily fragmentary, and some of them, like that of Harold Armstrong, Gray Wolf, have been inclined toward sensationalism. Lord Kinross has had the advantage, not only of the earlier biographical essays, but of access to the Presidential Archives at Cankaya, Ankara, of acquaintance with the Turkish landscape, of much consultation, and of the perspective which the passage of time can give. His work is written with grace and balance and, although he is obviously enthralled with his story, Lord Kinross, presents the late Turkish leader, as the latter, no doubt, would have preferred, warts and all.

Essentially, the work is divided into three parts: 1) the decline and fall of the Ottoman Empire; 2) the war of independence; and 3) the rise of the Turkish Republic. These are basically the periods of Atatürk’s birth, childhood, development and leadership. The story of Atatürk’s birth and early childhood, the influence of his mother upon him, especially, is very well told. The account of his early training and experience as a soldier, and of his association with the Young Turk movement is placed within an appropriate perspective—as is that of his relationships with the triumvirate of Enver, Talaat and Jemal Pashas. This is also