BOOK INTRODUCTION: İSTİKLALE AÇILAN İLK KAPI: BİTLİS (İŞGALİ VE KURTULUŞU) – MEHMET TÖREHAN SERDAR

Hazel ÇAĞAN ELBİR

Analyst

İstiklale Açılan İlk Kapı: Bitlis (İşgali ve Kurtuluşu) [En. The First Door to Independence: Bitlis (Its Occupation and Liberation)]

Mehmet Törehan Serdar

Bitlis: 263 pages

ISBN: 978-975-00241-3-9

Turkish

Mehmet Törehan Serdar, who has in the past conducted numerous works on Bitlis, added the new book entitled "İstiklale Açılan İlk Kapı: Bitlis (İşgali ve Kurtuluşu), which was published by Bitlis Valiliği Kültür Yayınları (En. Bitlis Governorship Culture Publications) and Doğu Anadolu Kalkınma Ajansı (En. Eastern Anatolia Development Agency) in 2017, to his works on this field.

The book, which sheds light on the history of Bitlis, examines how Bitlis resisted the Armenian revolts in 1915. In particular, the book deals with the reasons for the decision to resettle Armenians, the conditions during the resettlement. The book also documents the atrocities suffered by the people of the region who were exposed to the attacks by the Russians and by the Armenians under the Russian influence until the decision for the Armenian resettlement. When explaining the raids against Muslim villages and the massacres suffered by the Muslim folk, the book also underscores the reasons for the resettlement decision.

The favorable conditions provided by the Ottoman State to the Armenians during the resettlement process in Bitlis, which is also known as the first city to be liberated from the Armenian occupation, are also explained in the book via Ottoman archive documents.

The book, which explains that the sufferings were never unilateral, reveals that incidents in 1915 were not genocide, but on the contrary, were reciprocal killings. The book, which

discusses the atrocities committed in Bitlis by the Armenians against the people of the region before and after the Armenian occupation, sheds light on history with Ottoman archive documents.

Mehmet Törehan Serdar's book documents the mutual losses suffered in this province of Anatolia during the Armenian occupations, and is another answer to the one-sided Armenian discourse.

About the Author :

Hazel Çağan-Elbir is an analyst in AVİM. Çağan-Elbir continues her studies in Political Economy doctorate program at Atılım University.

To cite this article: ELBİR, Hazel ÇAĞAN. 2026. "BOOK INTRODUCTION: İSTİKLALE AÇILAN İLK KAPI: BİTLİS (İŞGALİ VE KURTULUŞU) MEHMET TÖREHAN SERDAR." Center For Eurasian Studies (AVİM), Commentary No.2017 / 58. August 11. Accessed November 10, 2026. https://mail.avim.org.tr/en/Yorum/BOOK-INTRODUCTION-ISTIKLALE-ACILAN-ILK-KAPI-BITLIS-ISGALI-VE-KURTULUSU-MEHMET-TOREHAN-SERDAR

Süleyman Nazif Sok. No: 12/B Daire 3-4 06550 Çankaya-ANKARA / TÜRKİYE
Tel: +90 (312) 438 50 23-24 • **Fax**: +90 (312) 438 50 26
@avimorgtr
https://www.facebook.com/avrasyaincelemelerimerkezi
E-Mail: info@avim.org.tr
http://avim.org.tr

© 2009-2025 Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM) All Rights Reserved