

Vanetsi aunt and cousin and the whole Armenian race from the evil design of the Turkish government.⁶

⁶ As the first of its kind covering the years of the Armenian massacres and deportations, Hocking's novel could have been invaluable in terms of its realistic depiction of Turkish local culture, politics, and behavior, preparations to enter the war and the subsequent years during the war. The novel lays out the Turkish government officials'—from the Young Turk leaders to local petty officers—intrigues against Armenians, their dealings with foreign diplomats, and the development of events and circumstances culminating in the extermination of the Armenian population. However, the author's extreme political orientation and his political analysis diminish the value of this narrative. Hocking, a British reporter and novelist, leads the reader to believe that the entire plan of the Armenian massacres was designed in Berlin and the Turks were merely the obedient executioners, while German officers and diplomats gave step-by-step orders and oversaw the execution of the plan. His character John Penwithen, a high-ranking British official in Aleppo, expresses the view that "it is one of Germany's plans to drive every Armenian out of Asia Minor, and that by fair means or foul, this must be done" (p. 56). "Germany rules Turkey" is a statement repeated with firm conviction on different occasions throughout the novel. In the meantime, the Russians are presented as the saviors and the only hope of the Armenians. The British are altogether the righteous saviors of the world and the Americans are indifferent and impotent bystanders. The reasons behind the plans to annihilate the Armenian people in the Ottoman Empire are also overly simplified. Hocking puts forward this idea in the voice of an Armenian physician:

Turkey hates the Armenians because we are educated and prosperous, and because we are Christians, and they will be glad of any pretext to turn upon us as they have in the past. Germany means to strengthen her hold on Turkey, and Germany sees that if she is to have the wealth of Turkey, the Armenians must be destroyed. We are the bankers, the merchants, the manufacturers, the trading people of Turkey,