



«THEY ARE A WELL EQUIPPED AND TRAINED FORCE»

ADDITIONS, INTEGRATIONS, CORRECTIONS AND SUPPLEMENTS
TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ARNOLD JOSEPH TOYNBEE*

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Addition to Part I,
Works by Arnold J. Toynbee

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388) Arnold J. Toynbee, *The Tragedy of a Great Blunder. Turkish offer that was spurned with contempt. When the Dominions know*, in «The Daily Mirror», September 20, 1922, p. 5 (text below).

389) Reprinted (with the photograph above), in «The Leeds Mercury», Thursday, September 21, 1922, p. 7.

* *A Bibliography of Arnold J. Toynbee*, compiled by S. Fiona Morton, with a Foreword by Veronica M. Toynbee, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1980.

THE TRAGEDY OF A GREAT BLUNDER

By Arnold J. Toynbee

The most amazing feature about the Government's manifesto to Turkey is that last month they contemptuously refused the proposals for securing the freedom of the Straits which were made to them by the Turkish Nationalist Government.

Fethi Bey, the Angora Minister of the Interior, came to London just before the Turkish offensive against the Greeks to seek an understanding between Turkey and Great Britain.

His Government authorised him to propose that an adequate zone on each side of both the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles should be both denationalised and demilitarised.

They offered the fullest facilities for perpetual inspection to ensure that this freedom was respected by the Turks and by all other nations.

If our Government had had the sense to discuss this proposal, the Turkish offensive against the Greeks might have been averted.

No member of the Government would see Fethi Bey, and a circular was sent out to the Press stating that Fethi Bey was not in London on business connected with the Eastern settlement and that he had simply had formal interviews with junior officials.

WHEN THE DOMINIONS KNOW

Now the Government, while completely suppressing the fact that this offer was made by the Turks and was ignored by the British Government, have been trying to force the hands of the Allies and rush the Dominions into war.

When the Dominions learn the truth, they will feel with justice that their loyalty has been played upon on false pretences.

What British Government, since that which lost us the thirteen colonies in America, has put such a wanton strain upon our relations with our kinsmen overseas?

Fethi Bey, the Turkish Nationalist representative at Paris, has declared since the Turkish victories over the Greeks that the Turkish peace terms remain the same as before that event.

The British Government, by their suppression of the vital point in these Turkish peace terms regarding the Straits, have deliberately misled the people of this country and of the Dominions.

They have misrepresented the situation still further by suppressing all mention of Eastern Thrace, the province in Europe which the Turks do wish to recover from the Greeks.

The restoration of Thrace to Turkey is perfectly compatible with the freedom of the Straits, so long as the Turks accept guarantees for that freedom on the suggested lines.

That is the vision of France. The French Government in their Note confirming their determination to do their part in maintaining the freedom of the Straits, added the condition that the reasonable territorial aspirations of the Turks must be satisfied.

The truth is that the Turks do not want to deprive us or other nations of this essential waterway, and have done their best to come to an arrangement with us about it.