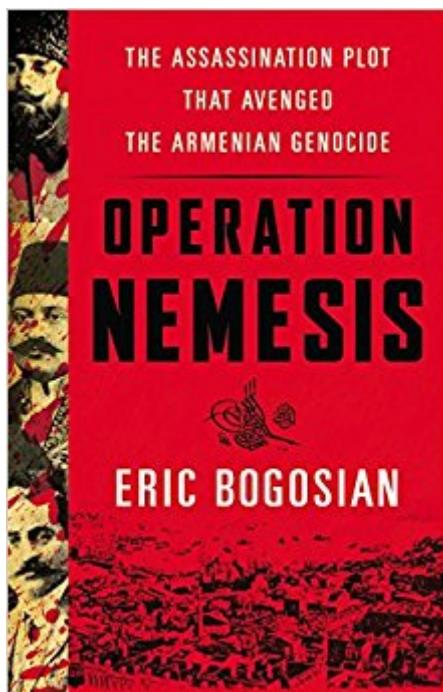


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# Operation Nemesis: The Assassination Plot That Avenged The Armenian Genocide



## Synopsis

[\*Read by the author - Eric Bogosian] A MASTERFUL ACCOUNT OF THE ASSASSINS WHO HUNTED DOWN THE PERPETRATORS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE In 1921, a tightly knit band of killers set out to avenge the deaths of almost one million victims of the Armenian Genocide. They were a humble bunch: an accountant, a life insurance salesman, a newspaper editor, an engineering student, and a diplomat. Together they formed one of the most effective assassination squads in history. They named their operation Nemesis, after the Greek goddess of retribution. The assassins were survivors, men defined by the massive tragedy that had devastated their people. With operatives on three continents, the Nemesis team killed six major Turkish leaders in Berlin, Constantinople, Tiflis, and Rome, only to disband and suddenly disappear. The story of this secret operation has never been fully told, until now. Eric Bogosian goes beyond simply telling the story of this cadre of Armenian assassins by setting the killings in the context of Ottoman and Armenian history, as well as showing in vivid color the era's history, rife with political fighting and massacres. Casting fresh light on one of the great crimes of the twentieth century and one of history's most remarkable acts of vengeance, Bogosian draws upon years of research and newly uncovered evidence. Operation Nemesis is the result -- both a riveting read and a profound examination of evil, revenge, and the costs of violence.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Hitler asked, 'Who remembers the Armenians?' Eric Bogosian, that's who. Read his potent,

action-packed account of how a little known assassination plot harkens back to a world-historical genocide and so will you. So take that, Hitler.” --Sarah Vowell, author of *The Wordy Shipmates* and *Assassination Vacation*”A dark and compelling tale of blood vengeance. In *Operation Nemesis*, Eric Bogosian tells the remarkable story of how a small group of powerless, post-war assassins sought revenge against the all-powerful masterminds of the Armenian genocide.” --Annie Jacobsen, author of *Operation Paperclip* ”Absorbing and accessible, Bogosian presents this complex and multi-layered history with a master dramatist’s flair. *Operation Nemesis* is an engaged and provocative account of an unforgettable tragedy and a cathartic attempt at finding justice.” --Atom Egoyan, Academy Award-nominated writer and director of *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Ararat* ”Eric Bogosian, actor, playwright and novelist, can now add historian to his resume with this carefully researched tale of organized revenge on the perpetrators of one of the most heinous state-engineered genocides in modern history the murderous expulsion of the Armenian people from Ataturk’s newly reconstituted Turkey.” --Richard Price, author of *The Whites* ”An engrossing, heavily-researched account.... The details read like a Hollywood epic, but Bogosian plays it straight, letting the facts tell the story without sensationalizing or romanticizing.... Highly readable.”

--*Publishers Weekly* ”Bogosian dives passionately into an under-reported piece of history, a surprisingly effective conspiracy to assassinate the planners of Turkey’s Armenian genocide.”

--Boris Kachka, *Vulture* ”If you think you know all the great thriller stories of the last century, you don’t. And this one is true. *Operation Nemesis* reads like a high-stakes suspense novel, but it tells us something essential about the world we’re living in right now.” --Peter Blauner, author of *Slipping Into Darkness* and *Slow Motion Riot* ”*Operation Nemesis* is a spell-binding book. It is written both with urgency and patience. Bogosian’s chapter summarizing the ‘variety of peoples who crossed and recrossed’ Anatolia is as good as any of the half-dozen established accounts I’ve read. His play-by-play story of the Armenian assassins avenging the Armenian genocide (1915-20) is as gripping as a Graham Greene novel. The whole book is a significant contribution to the history of Asia Minor and its effect on our present world.” --John Casey, author of National Book Award winner *Spartina*”In this resurrection of a lost story, Eric Bogosian vividly tells the story of the assassins who avenged the Ottoman mass killings of Armenians in 1915. Unfolding like a thriller, Bogosian’s history brings to life long-forgotten events and the courageous people who set out in their own way to bring a kind of justice and peace to their shared past.” --Ronald Grigor Suny, Professor of History and Political Science, University of Michigan, and author of *They Can Live in the Desert But Nowhere Else: A History of the Armenian Genocide*”A clear, concise view of Turkey’s history in the 20th century, and it’s not pretty. Difficult reading, but an extremely well-written

political statement about Turkey not just then, but as it is now." --Kirkus

Eric Bogosian is an actor, playwright, and novelist of Armenian descent. He was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his play *Talk Radio*, and is the recipient of the Berlin Film Festival's Silver Bear Award, as well as three Obie Awards and the Drama Desk. In addition to his celebrated work in the theater and onscreen, he has authored three novels. He lives in New York City with the director Jo Bonney.

It will be difficult for you to keep this book and the story of the Armenian genocide to yourself once you have read Eric Bogosian's searing account of what happened to average Armenian citizens: men, women and children living in Turkey for hundreds upon hundreds of years and without warning, in 1915 were systematically wiped out. Bogosian lays the ground work and spares no detail of the horrific killing that continued until there was no one left. The propaganda machine put into effect encouraged villagers to jump on the band wagon with their own pick axes and other farm implements to join in the carnage. The book is a stunning puzzle that creates a horrifying picture of an historical account. It is incredible that the world looked the other way, when it is clear that there were outsiders who knew exactly what was occurring. What happens next in a plan actually called, Operation Nemesis is another amazing piece of history, espionage, and local lore. Local, in that a place called Watertown, Massachusetts, where the author was born, and a place very far from 1915 Turkish Armenia there was a cartel of surviving Armenians who worked cooperatively and judiciously with other such cartels scattered around the world to systematically assassinate those men intimately responsible for the genocide. A fascinating and compelling read that will stay with you.

Is a very good book. A lot of the book is about the history of that time period with accounts of different happenings. The actual writing about Operation Nemesis does not take up that much of the book. I was not aware of Operation Nemesis until I read this book. This book tied a lot of loose ends up for me as I had read short accounts of different happenings during this time period. The book did not, in my opinion, spend enough time dealing with the battle of Sarikamish and Ismail Enver or Enver Pasha's role in the battle plan or leadership he played. These factors may have been a big contributor to what happened during this period of time. Note that I am not an expert in history of this time period or region of the world, just a forever student of historical events. I found it very interesting and will read it again at some future date.

Eric Bogossian may not be a professional historian, but his work is better than most "scholars" out there today. He does far more than retell a fascinating story. He considers the wider world around the assassination plot hatched by Operation Nemesis, giving the reader a good idea of the historical forces at work in world in 1918-1920. For example, Bogossian uses the possibility of British help for the assassins as a stepping stone for discussing Britain's wider strategic vision in the Middle East--the consequences of which are still felt to this day. He provides ample background information for those unfamiliar with the story of the Armenian Genocide and the fall of the Ottoman Empire, but he does so concisely and without making too much of the book mere description. He masterfully matches the exploration of individual personal dramas with discussions of "grander" political issues. As his endnotes show, Bogossian conducted a wealth of research from a vast array of historical sources. This is truly a first-class book on history, at once entertaining and informative.

I realize that I am out of the mainstream here but it was a struggle to get thru this book. About half of the book delves into the history of Turkey, from the far ancient to modern. For someone who loves history, this was bone dry. The modern history, post World War II, is tinged with the author's bias. The one aspect of the book which I found to be well written and informative, was the section pertaining to the Armenian genocide. Unfortunately, very little of the book actually pertains to Operation Nemesis, and only one of many participants is well portrayed; the others are unidimensional at best.

The book is about Operation Nemesis but also gives in depth detailed information about the history of Armenia. I learned so many facts I never knew before. The book is very informative yet very exciting to read, I can't put it down. The prologue had me on the edge of my seat.

This is a very timely, thoughtful and captivating book. I didn't expect this kind of book from Eric Bogosian, whom I admire for his Talk Radio and his plays. I actually met him in Los Angeles over 20 years ago as I was starting my own radio talk show and was seeking advice from people who had anything to do with that industry. He stuck in mind as a very modest man, willing to listen and share his thoughts just before his one-man show at the Mark Taper Forum.

Bogosian has done a marvelous job of marrying history and mystery writing. The historical part of the book is a must read for anyone who wants to know who Armenians are and where they come from. The rest of the book was suspenseful and heart stopping (even though I knew Talaat Pasha

would be killed). One of the best, if not the best, books on the Armenian Genocide.

An incredible historic event, narrated in great detail. It reads like an action novel, but everything is true history. From the grandfather's words at the book's beginning, if you ever meet a Turk...kill him, you will be transported into another world!

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