

Praise for *Turkey's Modernization*

“In the story of the Righteous, there are many little-known aspects. One of these is the willingness of the Turkish Government of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and Ismet İnönü to take in German and Austrian Jews, and to use the talents of these victims of race prejudice and persecution to the benefit of the Turkish Republic in its academic, scientific, and medical endeavours[sic]. This book gives a detailed and revealing account of how this was done and who were its beneficiaries. It thereby adds to our knowledge of an important aspect of the Holocaust, and of the behaviour[sic] of Nation States in the modern world of woe and grief.”

- *Sir Martin Gilbert, Winston Churchill's official biographer and a leading historian of the modern world. His book *The Holocaust: The Jewish Tragedy* (published in the United States as *The Holocaust: A History of the Jews of Europe During the Second World War*) is a classic work on the subject.*

“This book should be on the ‘must-read’ list of books about World War II and the years preceding it. At first glance, the book is about a limited subject: the contribution of scientist refugees from countries under Nazi rule to the modernization of Turkish academic institutions. Yet, the author presents the personal stories within a global perspective that makes the book much more important than its main subject. . . . The book documents how the Turkish government welcomed these scientists while the United States had its doors closed to most refugees, even to these world-class professors. . . . The concluding chapter of the book presents a comparative analysis of the scientific and technological development of Turkey. . . .

Arnold Reisman has done a great service in documenting history and providing us with plenty of lessons for the

future.”

- *Dr. Israel Hanukoglu, Former Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of Israel. Currently Professor and Chairman of the Department of Molecular Biology, College of Judea and Samaria, Ariel, Israel.*

“Arnold Reisman’s scholarly and painstaking research is a very important contribution to the history of relations between Germany and Turkey during WWII, and to Holocaust studies as well. It also provides contributions to the history of science and higher education, and a case study to national development.

- *Rifat N.Bali, Independent scholar, and author of several books on Turkish Jewry. The most recent is Bali, R. (2005) The ‘varlik vergisi’ affair: A study of its legacy. Istanbul, Turkey.*

“It brings back so much of the past. All those names I remember, all those people we used to know. . . . Little is known about how these “cream of the crop” professors transformed Turkey’s higher education. So the appearance of your book is very timely.”

- *Elizabeth [Reichenbach] Austin. Sacramento, CA.*

“I believe I can speak for my late husband Hans Güterbock and his University of Chicago colleague Benno Landsberger, and say that they would have been pleased at the recognition of their contributions and those of other similarly situated German, Austrian, and Czech émigrés who, during the darkest years of the 20th century, created and developed the modern university system that now exists in Turkey.”

- *Frances Güterbock, Chicago, IL.*

“I am sure your book will be a source of rarely known information for those who want to know more about each of the very famous people you are mentioning. It is also of interest for those who want to learn more about the Diaspora of the Jewish people before and after the holocaust.” - *Miriam [Hellmann] Schmidt, Ramat Hasharon,*

Israel.

"This history is not well known in the English-speaking world. Reisman's book, therefore, is a significant and welcome addition to the existing literature on the subject, rich in documentation, memoirs and oral histories that provide precious first hand accounts of a dangerous and difficult period."

- *Dr. Lâle Aka Burk*, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, and author of "An Open Door: German Refugee Professors in Turkey" in Peter I. Rose, ed., *The Dispossessed-An Anatomy of Exile*.

"German-Jewish refugee scientists in Turkey is a fascinating topic and I have seen little good research about it, which makes it doubly appealing. The subject of this book is of enormous interest."

- *Noah Efron*, Chair Graduate Program in Science, Technology & Society Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel.

"This book involves five major topics: science, history, politics, economics, and the arts. It is the earliest comprehensive essay in the English language, on the German émigrés who, while taking refuge in Turkey after 1933, contributed to the modernization of its higher education, to implementation of research activities, and social reforms. Most of these scholars left Turkey as WWII came to a close, to carry their scientific activities in the US and other countries. Arnold Reisman's work, based on a large array of sources makes their history known to a public with a wide variety of interests.

- *Prof. Dr. Feza Günergun*, Chair for History of Science, Faculty of Letters, Istanbul University, Beyazit-Istanbul, Turkey.

"As I am working on German-Jewish interwar migration, it is most relevant and innovative, apart from its importance to the history of science development and transfer."

- *Hagit Lavsky*, the Samuel L. and Perry Haber Chair in Post-

Holocaust Studies at the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A leading expert on the Jewish experience during and prior to the Holocaust, Prof. Lavsky is a Matthew Family Fellow at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies within the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is the author of five books including Before Catastrophe: The Distinctive Path of German Zionism, 1918-1932, which won the esteemed Arnold Wiznitzer Prize for best book of the year in the field of Jewish history.

“Turkey’s Modernization” is uniquely well researched and it describes a chapter of history not well known to the public. It illustrates in rare form and with great accuracy the significant contributions that the Jewish German, Austrian, and Czechoslovakian scientists; exiled by the Nazis made on emerging Turkey under the leadership of Atatürk’s vision. From a “Zeitzeuge” survivor my gratitude to Arnold Reisman for his tremendous work and for bringing this chapter of history to the public.”

- Robert R. Weiss, Organizer of some of the down the Danube, through the Bosphorus and on to Palestine refugee transports during the midst of WWII and author of *Joshko’s Children*.

“Many thanks for sending me the chapters that included information about my mother and v. Mises. I am truly impressed by all the work you did in pursuit of the topic.”
Magda (Geiringer-von Mises) Tisza. Chestnut Hill, MA.

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Foreword

As a sophomore at UCLA, I remember juniors and seniors excitedly discussing "the German professor's" philosophy lectures. I couldn't wait till I could take his course as an elective outside of my engineering major. Sadly for me, he died just before the semester I was to take his class. Little did I know then that over half a century later, I would be learning about *Hans Reichenbach's* life, talking via long distance to his 96-year-old widow, Maria, and his daughter, Elizabeth. As a first-year graduate student I was unaware that *Richard von Mises*, *William Prager*, and *Arthur von Hippel*, authors of seminal texts I was reading, would appear in the course of my research for a book manuscript on their forced exile years.

While moving away from mathematical dynamics of

fluid flow and the highly experimental materials science and beginning to read for my dissertation in the fast-emerging field of Operations Research, I quickly learned about America's pioneers in the science of management—the time studies of Frederick W. Taylor and the motions studies by Frank and Lillian Gilbreth (*Cheaper by the Dozen*, 1948). I was also impressed to learn that the modern American (as well as urban Turkish) home kitchen was designed to conserve limb motion and body movement. It was not until doing research for this book that I learned who had first converted these efficiency ideas into kitchen-design blueprints. In the 1920s *Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky*, an Austrian architect, integrated this concept into large multi-dwelling complexes that had been built in Austria and Germany for working-class families. I also learned that there was an anti-Nazi underground in Austria and that *Schütte-Lihotzky*, (and a fellow Austrian architect) left Turkey to join this movement. I did not understand that each time my doctoral advisor would invite me to have lunch at the UCLA Faculty Club, I would be sitting in the same room as the great Turkologist, *Andreas Tietze*, the superb sinologist/sociologist, *Wolfram Eberhard*, and the renowned theatrical producer and opera director, *Carl Ebert*.

Long after my student days, I listened to *Paul Hindemith's* music being performed by the Cleveland Orchestra. By the time the children of my children had reached young adulthood, I had spent many a Saturday morning at the Atatürk Arts Complex in the Taksim Square of Istanbul where the music was always good, as was the company of my Turkish friends, and the ticket price always low thanks to municipal subsidies. I have only recently learned that the original concert hall was designed by *Clemens Holzmeister* in collaboration with the very same *Carl Ebert* whose theatrical and operatic productions I had so enjoyed in Los Angeles back in the 1950s (Fig. 1).

In the late 1950s, I did not reflect on the possibility that the optical, solar, and radio telescopes I was helping design would be used over the coming decades by astronomers

who, like me, had been lucky to escape from the Nazis. Nor could I have known in the early 1940s that, in Istanbul, only one night's voyage away across the Black Sea from Feodosiya, there were young displaced persons like me. But, unlike me, they were living fairly normal, happy lives surrounded by family, and each was receiving a good education. They were under the protection of the "barbarian" Turks while I was in Feodosiya and elsewhere often just trying to be on the "right side" of the battle between armies of the "proletariat" Russians and those of the "civilized" Germans. It was the Germans that I feared most.

I was keenly listening to the news coming in from Europe when the Soviet Union cut off ground traffic in an attempt to starve the Allies out of Berlin during the first stand-off of the Cold War (1948), but I did not make the connection that Berlin's mayor at that time was *Ernst Reuter*, whose life had been saved by a Turkish invitation to help set up their universities and city planning organizations.

As an amateur sculptor, I enjoyed seeing a *Rudolf Belling* sculpture every time I went to give guest lectures at the Maçka campus of Istanbul Technical University. The older I become, the more X-rayed, CTed, and MRied I get. So when that happens, I think of physicist, *Friedrich Dessauer*, an early X-ray researcher, and *Carl Weissglass*, his engineer. I also think of radiologist *Max Sgalitzer*, a victim of excessive exposure over a lifetime of pioneering this wonderful diagnostic medium, and his Istanbul wing-mates, *Walter Reininger*, the engineer and inventor of an early dosimeter, and *Margarethe Reininger*, an early radiological nurse, one of a husband-and-wife team.

As I researched material for this book, I came to the conclusion that *Erica Bruck's* research publications and laboratory manuals/standards have influenced the health care I received in California, Wisconsin, and Ohio. The same is true for my children and grandchildren who are scattered around the globe. Also, with age, many more of my friends have to fight off cancer, a dreadful disease

indeed. Each time the word comes up, I think that if a cure is ever found, zoologist *Curt Kosswig* will have played a role in that outcome.

Ignorant as I am of immunology, I cannot help but wonder whether the work in this field by immunologist *Felix Haurowitz* influenced the use of *Bacillus Calmette-Guerin* vaccine (BCG), an anti-tubercular agent, widely used to prevent reoccurrence of bladder cancer. As I followed the controversy surrounding the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's exhibit entitled "The Crossroads: The End of World War II, the Atomic Bomb and the Cold War" and the uproar in 1995 regarding the refurbishment of the warrior plane *Enola Gay*, all to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the war, I had no idea the museum's director at the time was *Dr. Martin Harwit*, the son of *Felix Haurowitz*. And to my great, although pleasant, surprise, while in the final stages of getting the manuscript ready for the publisher, one of its guest copy editors, *Jean Hull Herman* who spent sixteen years as editor-in-chief of *MÖBIUS The Poetry Magazine* was shocked to learn that *Erich Auerbach*, one of her literary idols, wrote his classic account of the genesis of the novel, *Mimesis*, while in Turkey.

Being interested in the history of science, I was delighted to read in **Albert Einstein's own words that astronomer *E. Finlay Freundlich* "was the first among fellow-scientists who has taken pains to put the [relativity] theory to the test."** But I was shocked to read Albert Einstein's letter of May 2 1936, saying, "he was told explicitly that they did not want to hire Jews at Princeton [University]." On the other hand, as a survivor of the Holocaust I was delighted to learn that an invitation from the Turkish government extracted dentistry professor *Alfred Kantorowicz* from nine months of concentration camp incarceration, that ENT specialist *Karl Hellmann* was able to yank his brother Bruno out of *Buchenwald* and bring him to safety in Turkey, and that pediatrician *Albert Eckstein* was influential in persuading ministers of Turkey's government to let European Jews go through Turkey, thus saving over

20,000 Jews from extermination, including a train load of 233 souls that came out of *Bergen-Belsen* in July of 1944.

It is sad but true that when I contacted professionals teaching Holocaust history at the local schools, and colleges, as well as some of the rabbis who had recently presented sermons on the subject, none had any knowledge whatsoever of Turkey's role in saving so many intellectuals. Of the larger issue of Turkey and the Holocaust, they either had fragmentary knowledge (such as the sinking of the refugee ship *Struma* in the Black Sea with great loss of life), were grossly misinformed, negatively predisposed (particularly in the *Struma* incident), or all of the above.

Likewise, each time I run into a Turkish intellectual, academic, or practicing physician, engineer, musician, artist, or lawyer, I can't help but think about how profoundly their educations were influenced by their "German" professors.

But above all, I think of the men and women whose stories of forced but life-saving exile are the very essence of this book. And each time I read of a scientific or technological development affecting all of us, I can't help but consider possible linkages back to the work of the émigrés in Turkey, their progeny, their students, and the ensuing generations of all of the above.

Sleep in peace! Turkish medicine is grateful to you.

So reads *Alfred Erich Frank's* gravestone at a cemetery overlooking the Bosphorus. It was erected by the Medical Faculty of Istanbul University.

The work of these émigrés and their advancements, as well as the work they each inspired in their students and colleagues worldwide, boggles the imagination. Had that been lost, a large range of disciplines would have certainly been impacted, some irreparably.

