

THE IRAQI TURKS YESTERDAY AND TODAY...

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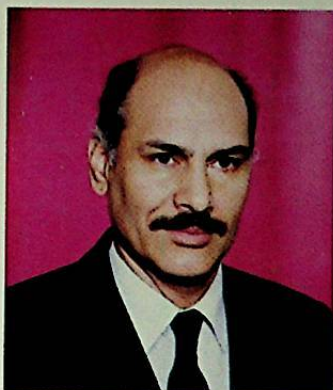
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FOREWORD

The manuscript of the present volume was prepared well before the Gulf-Crisis. It is dedicated to the Turkish Community in north Iraq, who have been endeavouring to preserve their ethnic identity, their customs and traditions, at the cost of their lives in the face of the incredibly brutal assimilationist policies of successive governments in Iraq.

The chain of events unleashed with the invasion and annexation of Kuwait on August 2, 1990 by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, culminated in the Gulf War, once again proved how menacing has been the Iraqi Ba'athist regime to the peoples of Iraq and to the world at large.

The author strongly condemns Saddam Hussein, for his invasion of Kuwait, in the first instance; his rejection of all peace initiatives to ensure Iraqi withdrawal from that country in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council; and thereby his undermining of international peace; and hopes that the peoples of Iraq would soon regain their chance of leading a decent and peaceful life under a democratic regime.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fazil DEMIRCI was born in Tavuk (Tauq) a district of Kirkuk; received his primary school education in Tuz Khurmatu, secondary school education at El-Hikme and Kirkuk High School. He completed university education at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Ankara, where from he received his B.Sc.degree in 1970 and M.Sc.(Statistics) in 1976.

He served as a visiting faculty member at El-Mustansiriyeh, Baghdad; and at Omar El-Muhtar and Garyunus Universities in Libya. He became an Associate Professor in 1981.

Demirci struggled in Iraq and abroad for restoration of human rights denied to the Iraqi Turks; wrote numerous articles, conducted studies, and delivered lectures relevant to political, social and cultural aspects of the problem. He joined his colleagues in the struggle against repressive and assimilationist policy of the Ba'ath regime toward the Iraqi Turks.

Demirci sought asylum in the Republic of Turkey in 1984. Presently he is serving as a member of teaching staff at the Faculty of Agriculture, Ankara University.