

*To my mother and father*

THE TURKMENS IN THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM :  
A STUDY OF THE TURKMEN PEOPLE  
AND THEIR  
INCORPORATION INTO THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE

ATATÜRK SUPREME COUNCIL FOR CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND HISTORY  
PUBLICATION OF TURKISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Serial : VII — No. 103

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TURKISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRINTING HOUSE — ANKARA  
1989

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
ABSTRACT .....	VII
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	IX
INTRODUCTION TO THE SOURCES .....	X
CHAPTER 1 : TURKMENIA, THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE	1
CHAPTER 2 : EARLY HISTORY OF THE TURKMENS UP TO 1800 .....	14
CHAPTER 3 : THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE TURKMEN SOCIETY .....	23
CHAPTER 4 : HISTORY OF THE TURKMENS FROM 1800 TO 1860 : THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE ...	62
CHAPTER 5 : HISTORY OF THE TURKMENS FROM 1860 TO 1869 : ENJOYMENT OF SHORT-LIVED INDE- PENDENCE .....	83
CHAPTER 6 : RUSSIA'S ADVANCE IN TURKMENIA : THE TURKMENS LOOK FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE INVADING RUSSIANS .....	94
CHAPTER 7 : THE BRITISH REACTION TO THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN TURKMENIA .....	123
CHAPTER 8 : THE TURKMEN DEBATE ON THE DEFENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY .....	138
CHAPTER 9 : THE RUSSIAN EXPEDITION TO TURKMENIA IN 1879 : THE TURKMENS DEFEND THEMSELVES AT GÖK-TEPE .....	155
CHAPTER 10 : THE TURKMENS, RUSSIA AND BRITAIN AF- TER THE RUSSIAN RETREAT FROM GÖK- TEPE .....	175
CHAPTER 11 : THE SECOND RUSSIAN EXPEDITION TO TURKMENIA IN 1880-1881; AND THE COL- LAPSE OF THE TURKMEN DEFENCE AT GÖK- TEPE .....	183

	<u>Page</u>
<b>CHAPTER 12 : THE RUSSIANS ESTABLISH CONTROL OVER MERV BY INTRIGUES AND PRESSURE; THE END OF THE TURKMEN INDEPENDENCE .....</b>	217
<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	241
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	249
<b>INDEX .....</b>	259
<b>MAPS .....</b>	277

## ABSTRACT

This is primarily a detailed study of Turkmen history in the nineteenth century, or in the age of Imperialism, but it also deals with the Anglo-Russian rivalry in Central Asia, which affected greatly the fate of Turkmens.

The work begins with the study of Turkmenia, its country, and people; and then the early history of the Turkmen people up to 1800 in order to understand their position in the nineteenth century. The economic, social, and political structure of the Turkmen society, in particular their traditional unwritten law, *Tore*, are examined in detail in order to understand how the Turkmens were able to survive as a small nation. Then, the struggle of the Turkmens for independence against the Khivan and Persian yoke from the beginning of the nineteenth century up to 1860, the formation of a union among themselves, and their relations with the neighbouring nations are also studied in detail. However, the independence of the Turkmens was threatened by the rivalry between Britain and Russia in Central Asia. Because of this rivalry, the Russians, who had already conquered the Khanates of Central Asia, began to prepare for the conquest of Turkmenia in order to place themselves in an advantageous position in Central Asia against British India, in case of conflict with Britain. The rest of the work is a detailed study of the Turkmens and their remarkable resistance against the Russian invasion from 1869 to 1885.