

## Author Biographies

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# Contributors

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**Taner Akçam** was born in Turkey in 1953. As the editor-in-chief of a student political journal, he was arrested in 1976 and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment; Amnesty International adopted him as a prisoner of conscience. A year later, he escaped to political asylum in Germany. In 1988 he undertook research in sociology at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. His first topic was the history of political violence and torture in the late Ottoman Empire and early Republic of Turkey. In 1995 he earned his doctorate from the University of Hanover; since 2002 he has been visiting Associate Professor of History at the University of Minnesota. Professor Akçam has since lectured and published extensively on the Armenian Genocide; his eleven books and numerous articles in English, French, German, and Turkish include *Armenien und die Völkermord* (2nd ed. 2005); *Dialogue across an International Divide: Essays Towards a Turkish–Armenian Dialogue* (2001); *From Empire to Republic: Turkish Nationalism and the Armenian Genocide* (2004); and the forthcoming *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and Turkish Responsibility*. He is currently working on a book with Vahakn N. Dadrian, entitled *The Protocols of the Istanbul Military Tribunals on the Investigation of the Armenian Genocide*, forthcoming in Turkish and English in 2006.

**Matthias Bjørnlund** is a freelance historian who specializes in the Armenian Genocide. He wrote his MA thesis on the Armenian Genocide as documented in Danish sources and is currently continuing research on the subject in Danish foreign ministry and missionary archives. Previously he has researched, and co-authored articles on the concept of genocide and on aspects of the Rwandan genocide.

**Vahakn N. Dadrian** received his undergraduate education in Europe studying philosophy, mathematics, and international law at the Universities of Vienna, Berlin, and Zürich, respectively, and earned a PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago. After serving as visiting professor and professor at universities including Harvard, MIT, Duke, Wisconsin, Florida Atlantic, and SUNY, he retired to pursue full-time research on the Armenian Genocide. That research was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the H.F. Guggenheim Foundation, resulting in two monographs published in the *Yale Journal of International Law* and the books *The History of the Armenian Genocide* (now in its seventh printing); *German Responsibility in the Armenian Genocide*; and *Warrant for Genocide: Key Elements of the Turko-Armenian Conflict* (now in its third printing). Currently he is Director of Genocide Research at the Zoryan Institute.

**Simon Payaslian** holds the Kaloosdian/Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History at Clark University. He holds PhDs in political science (Wayne State University, 1992) and Armenian history (UCLA, 2003). He is the author of *United States Policy toward the Armenian Question and the Armenian Genocide* (2005); *The Armenian Genocide, 1915–1923: A Handbook for Students and Teachers* (2001); *U.S. Foreign Economic and Military Aid: The Reagan and Bush Administrations* (1996); and *International Political Economy: Conflict and*

*Cooperation in the Global System*, co-authored with Frederic S. Pearson (1999), as well as articles on the United Nations, international law and human rights, peace studies, the Kurdish Question, and US foreign policy.

**William A. Schabas** is director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway, where he also holds a professorship in human rights law. Before moving to Ireland in 2000, he chaired and taught in the law school of the Université du Québec à Montréal and was a member of the Quebec Human Rights Tribunal. He has also been a visiting or adjunct professor at universities in Canada, France, and Rwanda and has lectured at the International Institute for Human Rights (Strasbourg), the Canadian Foreign Service Institute, and the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre. He was a senior fellow at the US Institute of Peace (1998–1999) and served on the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2002–2004). Professor Schabas holds post-graduate degrees in history and law from universities in Canada; he is the author of eighteen monographs and more than 175 articles in English and French dealing with such subjects as the abolition of capital punishment, international criminal prosecution, and issues of transitional justice, which have been translated into many languages. He has lectured around the world on international humanitarian and human-rights law and has participated in human-rights fact-finding missions on behalf of international non-governmental organizations. William Schabas is an Officer of the Order of Canada.

**Roger W. Smith** is Professor Emeritus of Government at the College of William and Mary. He is a co-founder of the International Association of Genocide Scholars and a past president. He is currently Chair of the Academic Advisory Committee, International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute), and director of its Genocide and Human Rights University Program.

**Uğur Ü. Üngör** studied sociology and history and graduated *summa cum laude* with an MA degree in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from the University of Amsterdam in 2005. Currently he is pursuing his PhD degree at the University of Amsterdam and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam; his dissertation will be titled “Demographic Engineering in Anatolia, 1910–1950.” His major areas of interest are mass violence and nationalism.