

But soon it dawned upon all that they had but changed an ignorant and fanatic despot for a set of clever knaves who, having seized the government, seemed to have no interest in anything but political adventures at Constantinople or their personal advantage. Many migrated to Egypt, and yearning hopes were freely expressed that France or England would do something to lift the darkening shadows from the land. The British Government had all along made it known that they had no desire for any change that would lead to dismemberment of the Turkish Empire, and all hopes that England would intervene were finally damped. Undoubtedly it was the wish of British Government circles to do nothing to break up the Empire or annex any part of it. At the beginning of the war with Germany, the British Ambassador was instructed to inform the Turkish Government that it would guarantee the integrity of the Turkish Empire at the end of the war if Turkey would remain neutral. There is no shadow of doubt that had the mass of people in Turkey been consulted, they would have given a vote by an immense majority against the war. Unfortunately, her rulers, stimulated by promises of the restoration of lost lands, especially Egypt—which had never been really hers for a century—and doubtless compensated more personally in the usual oriental method, determined to bring their resources to the help of Germany, who, they felt sure, would soon prove the winning side.