

## REPORTS FROM *THE TIMES* NEWSPAPER CONCERNING SAMSUN AND SURROUNDING REGIONS (BLACK SEA AREA) 1908 – 1925

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[This article is a critique and analysis of articles in *The Times* between 1908 and 1925 concerning Turkish political, military, economic and social issues, and how those articles relate to the British government's foreign policy at the time]

[*Extract from page 224*]

*The Times* newspaper having been published since 1785, reached the highest levels in its role of representing British government policy and from time to time speaking directly on the government's behalf. Thus *The Times* publishing policy did not develop independently from the British government's own foreign policy.

Consequently, after the signing of the Lausanne Treaty, which resulted in the "normalisation" of the relationship between Turkey and Britain, the publishing policy of *The Times* also changed and naturally became more normal too.

The reporting of news from Samsun and surrounding cities in terms only of "war and genocide" now ended, as the newspaper's approach to the issues changed.

It was in this spirit that **immediately after the Lausanne Treaty of 24th July 1923, the British government sent Mr WLC Knight to Turkey as its Ambassador (or Envoy), to represent the British government in the following cities: Trabzon, Sinop, Samsun, Giresun, Rize, Artvin, Çorum, Amasya, Tokat, Karahisar-ı Şarkı, Gümüşhane, Erzurum, Ardahan, Yozgat, Sivas, Erzincan, Kars and Bayezit.**

**Mr Knight, his duty being to be the representative of Great Britain throughout this large area comprising the whole Black Sea and Eastern region of Turkey, was found a residence in Trabzon (Trebizond).**

From this time onwards the winds of war stopped between the two countries.

This new situation radically affected the publishing policies of *The Times*. After this period, as never before, the newspaper started covering the news from Samsun and the surrounding regions in a much more objective and truthful way.

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[*Footnote about the author*: **Dr Enis Şahin** is a well-known modern Turkish historian. Books include:

***Diploması ve Sınır* (Diplomacy and Borders)** published in Istanbul 2005

and

***Atatürk İlkeleri ve İnkılap Tarihi* (History of Atatürk's Principles and Revolutions)** re-published in Istanbul 2006]