

**TRAVELS AND REFLECTIONS**

**BY THE SAME AUTHOR**

**EUROPE AND THE TURKS  
WITH THE BULGARIAN STAFF**

*Joint Author of the following:—*

**THE WAR AND THE BALKANS  
TRAVEL AND POLITICS IN ARMENIA  
BALKAN PROBLEMS AND EUROPEAN  
PEACE**

**OPPRESSED PEOPLES AND THE  
LEAGUE OF NATIONS**

TRAVELS  
*and*  
REFLECTIONS

*By*

*The Right Hon.* NOEL BUXTON, M.P.

LONDON  
GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN LTD  
MUSEUM STREET

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1929

*All rights reserved*

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN BY  
UNWIN BROTHERS LTD., WOKING

TO  
MY WIFE

## P R E F A C E

IT HAS BEEN my good fortune to visit in many parts of the world scenes that lay outside the lines of ordinary travel: but in writing a volume of this kind one has to face the task of selection, and I must necessarily exclude some happy recollections—among them my days of camping in the New Zealand bush; the cattle-runs of Queensland; the sheep-runs of South Australia; and the opening of the first Turkish Parliament.

It would be attractive to describe my conversations with men whose ambitions disturbed the world's peace, such as Baron Aehrenthal and King Ferdinand of Bulgaria; to sketch the personality of foreign acquaintances whose activity brought them to a violent end—Djavid, the financial brains of the Young Turk junta which overthrew the Sultan, executed for supposed conspiracy against the dictatorship of Ismail Kemal; Enver, the popular hero of the Turkish Revolution, who murdered Nazim Pasha to prevent peace with Bulgaria, kept the Arab tribes fighting against Italy after peace was signed, and was finally killed fighting in Turkestan; Talaat, who brought Turkey into

## TRAVELS AND REFLECTIONS

---

---

the Great War, who organized the greatest crime of this age, the virtual extermination of the Armenians living in Turkey, and who after the war was assassinated by an Armenian in Berlin; Stambuliski, the burly Bulgarian peasant who denounced King Ferdinand's war policy, was imprisoned all through the war, became Premier and signed the peace with the Allies, imposed on Bulgaria a policy of pacifism and democracy, and was ousted by a military coup and hunted to death; Radich, the erratic Croat leader, beloved of his whole nation, who recklessly defied the Serbian tyranny, and was mortally wounded on the floor of the Parliament at Belgrade.

I might tell how I escaped the Turkish authorities at Adrianople and reached the ruined villages whose destruction they wished to conceal; how I saw the Rumanian army march across the bridge at Budapest to turn out the Communist Government of Hungary; and how I was arrested as a spy.

But one must select what is of most permanent interest, and in doing so, I have included the two kinds of journey which have fallen to my lot. I travelled first for travel's sake only, but these journeys roused my interest in political

## PREFACE

---

---

matters which, in turn, led me to travel with a purpose. I have not, therefore, rigidly excluded politics, but the reader will observe that where I have included them they refer to questions which are still alive or to conditions whose interest is only increased by the revolutionary changes which have supervened.

I desire to thank Messrs. John Murray, and the Editors of *The Contemporary Review*, *The 19th Century and After*, and *The Fortnightly Review*, for their kind permission to use material published by them.

NOEL BUXTON

12 RUTLAND GATE, S.W.

*April 1929*

# CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	7
CHAPTER	
I. AMONG THE KURDS	17
II. THE CHANGING NEAR EAST	49
III. MOUNTAINEERING IN JAPAN	71
IV. BALKAN HILLS	103
V. IN BUCAREST	123
VI. ROUND ABOUT ARARAT	133
VII. IN PERSIA	153
VIII. WAR	165
IX. VICTORY	181
X. THE SAHARA	199

# ILLUSTRATIONS

	TO FACE PAGE
A KURD'S HOME	24
OUR KURDISH HOST	40
A SERBIAN WEDDING PROCESSION	56
CELEBRATING THE TURKISH REVOLUTION	64
FUJI	80
BULGARIAN PEASANT TYPES	112
MOUNT ARARAT	136
IN THE ARMENIAN HIGHLANDS	144
KING FERDINAND SEES ADRIANOPOLE BOMBARDED	184
THE SAHARA DUNES	208

AMONG THE KURDS