
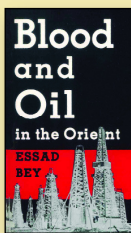
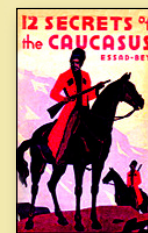

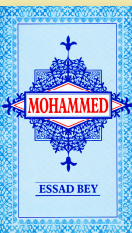




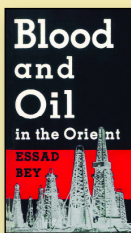
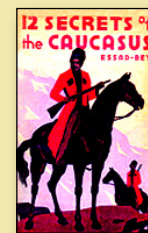
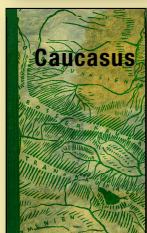



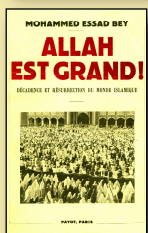
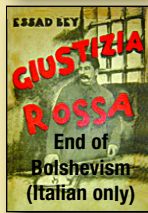


# Analysis WAS ESSAD BEY TOO PROLIFIC?

Did he really write all those books published under his name?

At Least 16 Books in 8 years—Not Counting the Books of Kurban Said!

	<p>"A dangerous book. The average reader not familiar with the Russian revolutionary movement may be misled."<sup>3</sup> <b>New York Times</b>, 1932</p>	<p>"This book should never have been written. Bad history, distorted facts, naive interpretations." <b>Moslem World</b>.<sup>4</sup> By far, this is the most popular of his books and has been republished the most times.</p>	<p>Considerable attention to details, facts, names, places. Many passages are quite unlike Essad Bey's style.<sup>5</sup></p>	<p>"How is it that Essad Bey knew the geography of Atchara in <i>Blood and Oil</i> (1929) but not here in <i>Love and Oil</i>?" (1934).<sup>10</sup> <b>Dr. Zaza Aleksidze</b></p>	<p>"His knowledge of Russian history is haphazard, casual and utterly inadequate."<sup>11</sup> <b>New York Times</b>, 1937</p>	<p>"Lacks clarity and consistency. The author contradicts himself. Reza Shah deserves better."<sup>12</sup> <b>Royal Institute of International Affairs, London</b>, 1939</p>  <p><b>Books under penname of Kurban Said that Essad Bey claimed that he had written.</b></p>					
<p><b>Books published under name of Essad Bey</b></p>	<p>"Lurid adventures in the Caucasus. Not serious as history."<sup>1</sup> <b>Christian Science Monitor</b>, 1932</p> 	<p>"Nonsense... Nonsense... It fails utterly in understanding the spirit of the Caucasus."<sup>2</sup> <b>New York Times</b>, 1931</p> 	<p><b>STALIN</b></p> 			<p><b>Love and Oil</b> (Polish only)</p>		<p><b>NICHOLAS II</b></p> 	<p><b>REZA SHAH</b></p> 	<p><b>Other biographies that Essad Bey claimed to have been involved with writing or planning to write:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>German Emperor Wilhelm II<sup>13</sup></li> <li>Gulbenkian<sup>14</sup></li> <li>Enver Pasha<sup>15</sup></li> <li>Harding<sup>16</sup></li> <li>Peter I<sup>17</sup></li> <li>Mussolini<sup>18</sup></li> <li>March on Rome and March to Madrid<sup>19</sup></li> <li>History of the Caucasus<sup>20</sup></li> </ul>	
					<p><b>Russia at the Crossroads</b></p>		<p><b>LENIN</b></p>  <p>(Italian only)</p>		<p>The co-author of this book was a well-known Zionist—Wolfgang von Weisl.<sup>23</sup> His name disappeared after the first edition, leaving Essad Bey as sole author.</p>		
			<p>This book seems to have been either strongly influenced, or written, by an Armenian point of view, especially chapters about Karabakh.<sup>6</sup></p>	<p><b>White Russia</b> DAS WEISSE RUSSLAND MENSCHEN OHNE HEIMAT ESSAD BEY</p>	<p>This book is about émigrés in Constantinople, sympathetic to the Czar who fled the Bolsheviks. It hardly mentions Azerbaijanis.<sup>7</sup></p>				<p>The original German title (1936) was <i>The End of Bolshevism</i>. But only the 1938 Italian edition can be found: <i>Giustizia Rossa</i> (<i>Red Justice</i>).<sup>24</sup></p>		
<p><b>Personal Life</b></p>	<p>From 1926 to 1933, Essad Bey was employed at the German literary magazine—<i>Die Literarische Welt</i> as their Orientalist specialist. More than 120 articles were published under the name of Essad Bey, but Azerbaijan is mentioned briefly in only three of them and often erroneously.<sup>8</sup></p>				<p>May 30, 1934: Lev's agent Werner Schendell warns him to take a break between books because it is impossible to write more than one book a year. Lev doesn't seem to listen.<sup>25</sup></p>	<p>Scandalous, nasty divorce written up in tabloids on both sides of the Atlantic.<sup>26</sup> If Essad Bey were the core writer of the novel <i>Ali and Nino</i>, it is likely that he would have been writing this love story at this chaotic period in his personal life.</p>		<p>Germany annexes Austria in March 1938. Essad Bey flees Vienna for Italy.</p>			
	<p>Scandal surrounds publication of <i>Blood and Oil in the Orient</i>. Heavily criticized by both the German military and the Caucasian emigrants led by Azerbaijani Hilal Munshi because of the lies and gross exaggerations in the book.<sup>9</sup></p>						<p>On April 6, 1935, Essad Bey was stripped of his membership in the German Writers' Association, which deprived him of the right to publish in German. He continued to use his name "Essad Bey" in Austria, Italy and Switzerland.<sup>27</sup></p>				
	<p>Between 1932-1936, he published 12 books</p>				<p>including four biographies: Mohammed, Nicholas II, Lenin and Reza Shah.</p>						
	<p>Lev Nussimbaum married Erika Loewendahl, daughter of a millionaire shoe manufacturer. March 7, 1932.</p>								<p>No more new books were published under Essad Bey's name after 1936. He died six years later at age 36, on August 27, 1942, in Positano.</p>		
	<p>Extensive travel with Erika throughout Europe, three voyages to New York between 1932-1935.</p>						<p>Lev's wife Erika left Lev for another writer—Rene Fülöp-Miller. Annulment of marriage was finalized in 1937 in Los Angeles.</p>				
<p><b>Residence</b></p>	<p><b>Berlin, Germany</b></p>			<p><b>Vienna, Austria</b></p>			<p><b>Positano, Italy</b></p>				
	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939

References from chart from previous page

1. W.H.C., "Red Revolution—Two Views." *Christian Science Monitor* (June 3, 1932), p. 16. The critic compares two books: *Blood and Oil in the Orient* by Essad Bey (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1931), \$2.50, and *From the February Revolution to the October Revolution 1917*, by A.F. Ilyin-Genevsky (New York, International Publishers), \$1.
2. Alexander Nazaroff, "The Legendary Region of the Caucasus," in *The New York Times Book Review* (January 24, 1932), p. 10. Review of *Twelve Secrets of the Caucasus* by Essad-Bey. Translated from the German by G. Chychele Waterston, 323 pp. (New York: The Viking Press, 1932), \$3.
3. Joseph Shaplen, "Stalin, Symbol of Asia's 'Cruelty and Power.' Essad-Bey Paints Him as an Anti-Intellectual Who Strangled the 'Prima Donna' Trotsky," in *The New York Times Book Review* (March 27, 1932), p. 10. Review of *Stalin—the Career of A Fanatic* by Essad Bey. Translated from the German by Huntley Patterson (New York: Viking, 1932), \$3.50.
4. Nabih Amin Faris, *The Moslem World: A Christian Quarterly Review of Current Events, Literature and Thought Among Mohammedans*, Editor: Samuel M. Zwemer, Princeton, New Jersey. Vol. 27:2 (April 1937), p. 204. Mohammad by Essad Bey (New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1936), 376 pages, \$2.50.
5. *Flüssiges Gold: ein Kampf um die Macht* (Liquid Gold: Struggle for Power)(Berlin: Etthofen, 1933), 429 pages. No English edition. See Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 66: "What about Essad Bey's *Flüssiges Gold*? Are Azerbaijani Oil Barons mentioned?" and FAQ 67: "Is Flüssiges Gold written from an Azerbaijani perspective?"
6. *Der Kaukasus: Sein Berge, Völker und Geschichte* (The Caucasus: Its Mountains, People and History) (Berlin: Deutsche Buch-Gemeinschaft, 1931), 345 pages. No English edition. FAQ 65: "What about the book *Der Kaukasus* (The Caucasus)?"

7. *Das Weiss Russland: Menschen ohne Heimat* (White Russia: People Without a Homeland). Berlin: Kiepenheuer, 1932), 220 pages. No English edition. FAQ 68: "What about Essad Bey's *White Russia*, are Azerbaijanis mentioned?"
8. See FAQ 69: "What about Essad Bey's articles? What did he write about Azerbaijan?"
9. German State Secret Police records regarding Leo Noussimbaum (pseudonym Essad Bey) Stapo 6. N. 58.35-25, April 1935. Thanks to Dr. Wilfried Fuhrmann for a copy of this report.
10. Essad Bey, *Milos and Oil* (Love and Oil)(Lodz, Poland: Respublika, 1934). From the Russian translation by Charkaz Gurbanli. Dr. Zaza Aleksidze, Georgian Historian, Email to author, March 5, 2008.
11. Michael T. Florinsky, Review about Nicholas II of Russia, in the *New York Times* (April 11, 1937), p. 118. *Nicholas II: Glanz Und Untergang Des Letzten Zaren* (The Rise and Fall of the Last Czar)(Berlin: Holle & Co., 1935), 408 pages. In English, *Nicholas II: Prisoner of Purple*, translated by Paul Maerker Branden and Elsa Branden (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1937), 360 pages.
12. Ann K.S. Lambton, "Review of *Reza Shah* by Mohammed Essad-Bey," translation by Paul Maerker Branden and Elsa Branden (London: Hutchinson, 1938), 272 pages, in *International Affairs* (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1931-1939), Vol.18, No. 4 (July–August 1939), p. 593.
13. Essad Bey claimed that he did write about German Emperor Wilhelm II but that George Sylvester Viereck's name was attached to the book since it would be more profitable. Evidence would suggest otherwise. *The Kaiser on Trial*. Preface by James W. Gerard and Colonel House, with a letter from Bernard Shaw (London: Duckworth, 1938). FAQ, Note 86.
14. Glyn Roberts noted that Essad Bey made an offer to write an autobiography about the Armenian oil entrepreneur, Calouste Gulbenkian (Mr. Five Percent) but that he was turned down "on grounds that 'G' is one of the dangerous ones." See Glyn Roberts, *The Most Powerful Man in the World: The Life of Sir Henri Deterding* (New York: Covici Friede Publishers, 1938), p. 418.
- 15-17. Enver Pasha, U.S. President Warren B. Harding, and Peter the Great. Warren Schendell, wrote that he had finished proofreading and editing these biographies for Essad Bey. A few weeks later, Schendell again wrote Essad Bey and mentioned that he should slow down and not appear to be so prolific. FAQ, Note 86.
18. Mussolini. Tom Reiss, *The Orientalist* (New York: Random House, 2005), p. 319.
- 19-22. Giamil Vacca-Mazzara. "Mohammed Es'ad-Bey: Scrittore Musulmano dell'Azerbaijan Caucasicco," in *Oriente Moderno* 22:10 (1942), p. 443. 23 FAQ 139, also FAQ Note 225.
- 24 See FAQ Note 226.
25. FAQ, Note 86.
26. "Gerichtssaal: Scheidungsprozess gegen den Schriftsteller Essad Bey," (Divorce Suit Against the Author Essad Bey) *Neues Wiener Journal*, No. 15 (October 31, 1937), p. 33. "Annulment Case Proceeds in Suing Wife's Absence." *Los Angeles Times*, November 19, 1937, A12.
27. Gerhard Höpp. "Mohammed Essad Bey: Nur Orient Für Europäer?" *Asien Afrika Lateinamerika*, Vol. 25: 1 (1997), page 85, Note 111. ■



Elda Gjirkondi, 22, Tirana, Albania.  
Graphic designer of the Albanian cover of *Ali and Nino*, published October 2009.

"For me, books are like grandma's treasured jewelry. You never discard them. I have the childhood books of my parents and my grandmother. Future generations will read them, too. That's why I love creating the art for book covers."

Essad Bey - 16 Books

Essad Bey's main works—all published between 1929 and 1936—were non-fiction with the exception of two novels in 1934. Five works which he claimed were biographies, featured world leaders—Stalin, Mohammed the Prophet, Lenin, Nicholas II, and Reza Shah.

In addition, Essad Bey wrote more than 140 articles for *Die Literarische Welt* (The Literary World), a prestigious literary journal in Berlin, between 1926 and 1933 before moving to Vienna. Several other articles were also published under Essad Bey's name in other German and English journals.

- (1) 1929. *Öl und Blut im Orient* (Oil and Blood in the Orient). Stuttgart: Anstalt, 304 pages. The copyright indicates 1930, but the book was printed in 1929 with reviews coming out in November for the holidays.
- (2) 1930. *Zwölf Geheimnisse im Kaukasus* (Twelve Secrets of the Caucasus). Berlin: Deutsch-Schweizerische, 272 pages.
- (3) 1931. *Stalin*. Berlin: Kiepenheuer, 440 pages.
- (4) 1931. *Der Kaukasus: Sein Berge, Völker und Geschichte* (The Caucasus: Its Mountains, People and History). Berlin: Deutsche Buch-Gemeinschaft, 345 pages.
- (5) 1932. *Mohammed*. Berlin: Kiepenheuer, 428 pages.
- (6) 1932. *OGPU: Die Verschwörung Gegen die Welt* (OGPU: The Conspiracy Against the World). Berlin: Etthofen, 359 pages.
- (7) 1932. *Das Weiss Russland: Menschen ohne Heimat* (White Russia: People Without a Homeland). Berlin: Kiepenheuer, 220 pages.
- (8) 1933. *Flüssiges Gold: ein Kampf um die Macht* (Liquid Gold: Struggle for Power). Berlin: Etthofen, 429 pages.
- (9) 1934. *Manuela* (Only in Polish).
- (10) 1934. *Liebe und Erdöl* (Love and Oil). Only in Polish.
- (11) 1935. *Lenin*. Milan: Fratelli Treves. Only in Italian. 265 pages.
- (12) 1935. *Nicholas II: Glanz Und Untergang Des Letzten Zaren* (Rise and Fall of the Last Czar). Berlin: Holle & Co., 408 pages.
- (13) 1936. *Allah ist Gross: Niedergang und Ausstieg der Islamischen Welt* (Allah is Great: The Decline and Rise of the Islamic World). Essad Bey and Wolfgang von Weisl, Vienna: Passer, 350 pages.
- (14) 1936. *Reza Shah: Feldherr, Kaiser, Reformator* (Captain, Emperor, Reformer). Vienna: Passer, 250 pages.
- (15) 1936. *Russland am Scheideweg* (Russia at the Crossroads). Berlin: Etthofen, 52 pages.
- (16) 1936 / 1938. *Das Ende des Bolschewismus* (The End of Bolshevism) (Vienna: Passer, 1936), according to Alice Schulte, Essad Bey's governess. The Italian edition definitely appeared as *Giustizia Rossa: I Processi Politici nell' URSS* (Red Justice: Political Processes in the USSR). Florence, Italy: Sansoni, 1938, 257 pages. ■

1. Blood and Oil in Orient	2. Twelve Secrets	3. Stalin	4. Caucasus
5. Mohammed	6. OGPU	7. White Russians	8. Liquid Gold
9. Manuela (Polish)	10. Love and Oil (Polish)	11. Lenin (Italian)	12. Nicholas II
13. Allah is Great	14. Reza Shah	15. Russia at Crossroads	16. End of Bolshevism