SULTAN ABDUL HAMID II'S ANCESTRY

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Category: Did You Know?

Enemies of Sultan Abdul Hamid II (responsible for the massacre of Armenians in the 1890s and one of the bloodiest Ottomans) was nicknamed “the Armenian” by his Turkish enemies because, it was said, his dark, doleful features must have come from his Armenian mother, although she was a Circassian. Others questioned his paternity, by suggesting that it was his father from whom he inherited an Armenian cast. Both the suggestions are ironic given his reputation as a killer of Armenians. Although an incompetent ruler, he knew a great deal about finance, which he had learned from an Armenian banker who handled his personal fortune.

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