

## Belmont resident pens first book about turmoil overseas

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Belmont resident Dr. Geoffrey Dutton started writing non-fiction years ago with an urgent mission to explain how and why politics, capitalism and technology were leading people astray. He began writing fiction to portray how and why ideals, ideas, and adverse life experiences can drive ordinary people from diverse backgrounds to commit to radical action.

“My motive was to make the political personal,” said Dutton in an interview with the Belmont Citizen-Herald about his first recently published book, “Turkey Shoot.”

“Turkey Shoot” is set in Greece and Turkey in the fall of 2015. It follows the revolutionary path of Mahmoud Al Ramadi, a war-orphaned, 23-year-old, ex-engineering student from Mosul to Syria to Turkey to Piraeus, Greece. He’s been tapped to take part in a conspiracy to decimate elites at the G-20 summit in Turkey, a plot he only learns of when he meets his new comrades. Mahmoud’s thousand-mile odyssey tests his metal, his wits, and his beliefs.

According to Dutton, “Turkey Shoot” is for adults of all ages who think the way the system works disadvantages too many people, want to change that, but aren’t sure how; antiwar and economic justice advocates and activists; devotees of political thrillers; and anyone concerned about recent turmoil in the Middle East, Europe and Turkey and its nightmarish causes and effects.

The Belmont Citizen-Herald asked Dutton a few more questions about his book in a recent email interview.

**What inspired you to write “Turkey Shoot?”**

The callow, fearful political rhetoric that greeted the 2015 Syrian refugee crisis rubbed against my humanitarian instincts until I caught fire. I vowed to create an “Islamic terrorist” along with an assortment of radical comrades that people would identify with and perhaps even root for. He’s an Iraqi refugee who washes up in Greece, where he meets the others and gets involved in their terrorist plot.

**What do you hope readers will gain from reading your book?**

I hope it will project readers beyond their comfort zones to better understand how and why political economies create needless destruction and misery that begs for radical remediation. Too, I hope that they will get to know people, places, beliefs, and practices that may be foreign to them. But mostly I hope the book will give them immense reading pleasure.

**What kind of research did you need to do for the book and how did you do the research?**

Four of my characters are Turkish and the last third of the book takes place there. Having married a Turk and traveled with her there, I’ve absorbed a sense of her land, compatriots, and some of their language. As I’ve never been in any of the cities or the Island of Chios where action takes place, I used Google maps and street views to put me in place. A background in geography and a longstanding interest in radical organizations helped me craft locations, backstories, dialog, and relationships for my characters. Keeping abreast of current events in Europe, Turkey and the Middle East informed the plot.

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