

# HOW CAN THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE NOT BE A GENOCIDE?

The word 'GENOCIDE' was invented BECAUSE of this horror.

The Ottoman Turks, driven by the intolerance and supremacy of Islam, had no compassion for the infidel Christian Armenians.

Every horrible thing that ISIS is doing now was done by the Turks - but on a MUCH larger scale.

The **Armenian Genocide**, also known as the **Armenian Holocaust**, and, traditionally by Armenians, as **Medz Yeghern** (in Armenian: "Great Crime"), was the Ottoman government's systematic extermination of its minority Armenian population inside their own historic homeland, which lies within the present-day Republic of Turkey.

## JIHAD

It was an absolute Jihad - a 'holy' war by the Muslim Turks against the infidels (non-believers of Islam; derogatory term). As well, there was genocide against the Christian Assyrians and Greek Christians.

The Armenian death toll is between 1,000,000 - 1,500,000, the Assyrian Christians lost 750,000, and the Greeks suffered 348,000 deaths.



## A NEW WORD - GENOCIDE

Raphael Lemkin - a Polish lawyer and immigrant to the U.S. - was explicitly moved by the Armenian annihilation to coin the word *genocide* in 1944, and to define systematic and premeditated exterminations within legal parameters.

Lemkin combined the Greek word 'genos' (race, people) and the Latin term 'cīdere' "(to kill).

## Lemkin defined genocide as follows:

Genocide is the systematic destruction of all or a significant part of a racial, ethnic, religious or national group. Generally speaking, genocide does not necessarily mean the immediate destruction of a nation, except when accomplished by mass killings of all members of a nation. It is intended rather to signify a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves. The objectives of such a plan would be the disintegration of the political and social institutions, of culture, language, national feelings, religion, and the economic existence of national groups, and the destruction of the personal security, liberty, health, dignity, and even the lives of the individuals belonging to such groups.

Scholars point to the organized manner in which the killings were carried out in order to eliminate the Armenians (and Assyrians and Greeks), and those slaughters comprise the second-most studied case of massive systematic killings, after Hitler's Holocaust against Jews.

Lemkin, himself, lost 49 of his Jewish relatives and family due to the Holocaust.

## QUR'AN SUPPORT

Most of the deaths were horrendously cruel, and brutal - savage torture, beheadings, burnings, starvation, crucifixion, sexual atrocities, inflicted diseases, poisons, and more.

No one was spared: kids, babies, grandmothers, grandfathers, priests, girls, boys, men and women were all exterminated with the same savage cruelty - but the Turks believed their Islamic god - Allah - expects Muslims to 'cleanse' their land of infidels, and kill them brutally, take their women and kids for sex slaves and work slaves, and take any property of theirs, because as a Muslim the property of infidels is for Muslims - only. Muhammed transmitted the words of Allah into the Koran, and the Koran again and again supports and promotes killing, raping, and taking the properties of any infidel.

Recently a Pakistani mujahideen militant — 34-year-old Baitullah - very familiar with the Qur'an - and very brainwashed from it, proclaimed: "Allah on 480 occasions in the Holy Qur'an extols Muslims to wage jihad. We only fulfill Allah's orders".

## TURKISH DENIAL

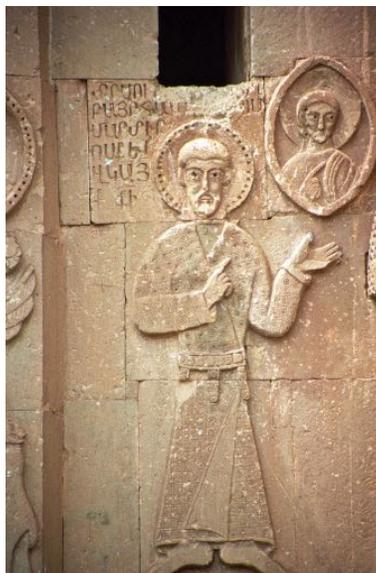
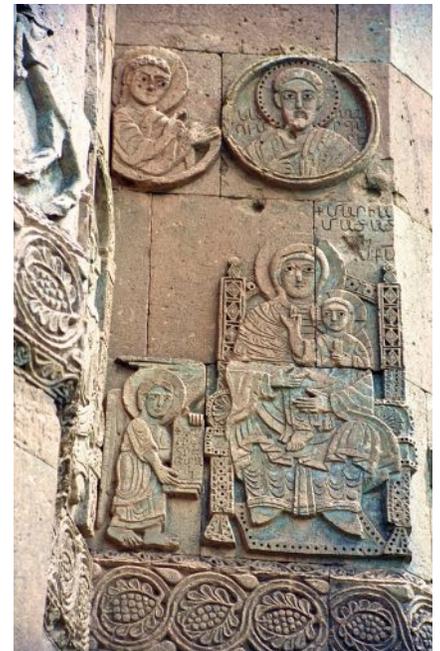
Turkey is adamantly opposed to the use of the term 'genocide' to describe this.....well, to describe this 'Genocide', and Turkey bullies and retaliates against nations and institutions that describe it correctly, as GENOCIDE. In 2007, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (still PM) ordered the government institutions to use the phrase 'Events of 1915' instead of responding to the 'so-called Armenian genocide'.

## U.S. PRESIDENT OBAMA

Despite his previous public recognition and support of Genocide bills, as well as the election campaign promises to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide, U.S. President Barack Obama, has thus far abstained from using the term 'genocide' in this matter.

On April 24, 2015, the 100 year commemoration of the beginning of the slaughters, President Obama spoke about it but DID NOT use the word 'Genocide'.

President Obama caved in to the shrill and bellicose warnings from Turkey - disappointing many - very many. And, he dishonored the millions whom genocide and jihad have killed.



An Armenian church that escaped destruction, on a tiny island in Lake Van, eastern Turkey.

## ARMENIANS UNDER THE TURKS

The Armenians have significant pre-Christian history many 1000s of years old, and they became Christians during the earliest days of Christianity 2000 years ago. The Turkish lands started becoming Muslim in the 11th and 12th centuries. The great Byzantine city of Constantinople finally fell to the Muslim conquest in the 15th century. The Armenians fell under the harsh rule of the Muslims. The Armenians were subject to the whims of their Turkish and Kurdish neighbors and rulers, who would regularly overtax them, subject them to confiscation of property, kidnap and force them to convert to Islam, exploit them in numerous ways, and subject them to humiliating and demeaning rules to live by, with harsh consequences for even trivial 'violations':

- Christians were not considered equals to Muslims
- testimony against Muslims by Christians and Jews was inadmissible in courts of law
- Christians were forbidden to carry weapons or ride atop horses
- Christian houses could not overlook or be higher than those of Muslims
- severe limits were imposed on their religious practices (ex: ringing church bells was strictly forbidden).

Violation of these rules could result in punishments ranging from exorbitant fines to execution.

## 1890s BRITISH WRITER

In the late 1890s after a visit to the Ottoman Empire,

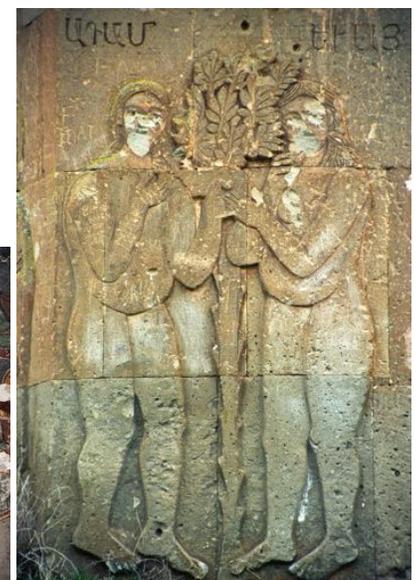
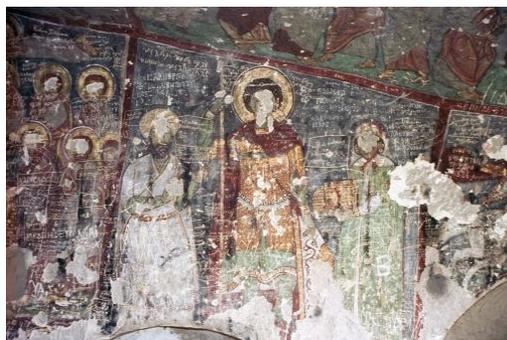
the British writer William Ramsay described the conditions of Armenian life as follows:

*"We must, however, go back to an older time, if we want to appreciate what uncontrolled Turkish rule meant. It did not mean religious persecution; it meant unutterable contempt ... Christians were dogs and pigs; and as Christians they were to be spat upon; if their shadow darkened a Turk he can be outraged, and the Christians will be the mats on which he wipes the mud from his feet."*

## ARMENIAN INTELLECTUALS EMERGE AND QUESTION

In the later 1800s an intellectual class began to emerge among Armenian society. Educated in the European university system or in American missionary schools in the Ottoman Empire, these Armenians began to question their second-class status in society and initiated a movement that asked for better treatment from their government. Instead, there were more massacres, including the Hamidian massacres, 1894–1896, a series of pogroms, which killed between 100,000 and 300,000 Armenians - which is genocidal itself - and this was 20 years before the ultimate genocide.

Destroyed Armenian church, defaced wallpaintings of saints, defiled Adam and Eve.



## APRIL 24, 2015 - GENOCIDE, RAPE, OUTRAGE

The starting date is conventionally held to be April 24, 1915, the day Ottoman authorities rounded up and arrested, and subsequently executed, some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople.

The genocide was implemented in two phases:

- 1) the wholesale killing of the male population through massacre and subjection of army conscripts to forced labor. The Turks were savage, heinous, and exhibited despicable brutality.
- 2) the deportation of women, children, the elderly and the infirm on death marches pushing them far into the Syrian desert and abandoning the hungry, exhausted Armenians who then were without water, and food, and would soon die under those horrific conditions.

Rape was an integral part of the genocide; military commanders told their men to *"do to the women whatever you wish"*, resulting in widespread violent sexual abuse. Women and girls were displayed naked in Damascus, Mosul and other places and sold as sex slaves according to European and Americans who observed the horror.



The slaughter of Armenians outraged much of the western world, as accounts and pleas for help came to light. In the U.S., *The New York Times* reported almost daily on the mass murder of the Armenians, describing the process as 'systematic', 'authorized' and 'organized by the government'. *'Naturally, the death rate from starvation and sickness is very high and is increased by the brutal treatment of the authorities, whose bearing toward the exiles as they are being driven back and forth over the desert is not unlike that of slave drivers. With few exceptions no shelter of any kind is provided and the people coming from a cold climate are left under the scorching desert sun without food and water.'*



## U.S. DIPLOMATS ARE EYEWITNESSES

As the deportations and massacres were growing and expanding, many U.S. consular officials (The U.S. had consulates throughout the Ottoman Empire) reported what they were witnessing to U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau. He was one of the most prominent and knowledgeable Americans concerning the Armenian situation and his dispatches on the mass slaughter of Armenians exposed the horrors and galvanized much support for his efforts to help the victims in all ways possible.

HENRY MORGANTHAU, SR., American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, 1913-1916

*"I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."*

ABRAM ISAAC ELKUS, the next American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, 1916–1917.

*"From report by eyewitness sent by Consul Jackson and from other reliable sources it appears that deportations accompanied by studied cruelties continue. Families are separated and scattered among Moslems. Clergy separated from their people, forced conversions to Islam perseveringly pushed, children and girls from deported families kidnapped. In order to avoid opprobrium of the civilized world, which the continuation of massacres would arouse, Turkish officials have now adopted and are executing the unchecked policy of extermination through starvation, exhaustion, and brutality of treatment hardly surpassed even in Turkish history."*

LEWIS EINSTEIN, American, Charge d'Affairs in Constantinople

*"The murder of Armenians has become almost a sport, and one Turkish lady passing one of these caravans, and thinking she too would relish killing an Armenian, on the guards' invitation took out a revolver and shot the first poor wretch she saw. The whole policy of extermination transcends one's capacity for indignation. It has been systematic in its atrocious cruelty, even to the extent of throwing blame for the murders on the Kurds, who are instigated by the Government to lie in wait in order to kill and pillage. Its horrors would be unbelievable if less universally attested. For scientific cruelty and butchery it remains without precedent. The Turks have willfully destroyed the great source of economic wealth in their country. The persecution is madness, but one wonders when the day will come, and if it is close enough at hand still to save the few remnants of this wretched community."*



Fundraising poster for the American Committee for Relief in the Near East. Established in 1915 just after the slaughters and forced death marches began, it contributed a significant amount of aid from U.S. citizens to help Armenians during the systematic campaign of elimination against them. The organization was championed by Henry Morgenthau, Sr., American

Note: all three of these diplomats were Jewish American.

## MORE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS

MAX IRWIN VON SCHEUBNER-RICHTER, German German Vice-consul in Erzurum

*"I have conducted a series of conversations with competent and influential Turkish personages, and these are my impressions: A large segment of the Ittihadist party maintains the viewpoint that the Turkish empire should be based only on the principle of Islam and Pan-Turkism. Its non-Muslim and non-Turkish inhabitants should either be forcibly Islamized, or otherwise they ought to be destroyed".*

CLARENCE USSHER, American Physician and missionary. His accounts of the Armenian Genocide are considered some of the most detailed in the English language.

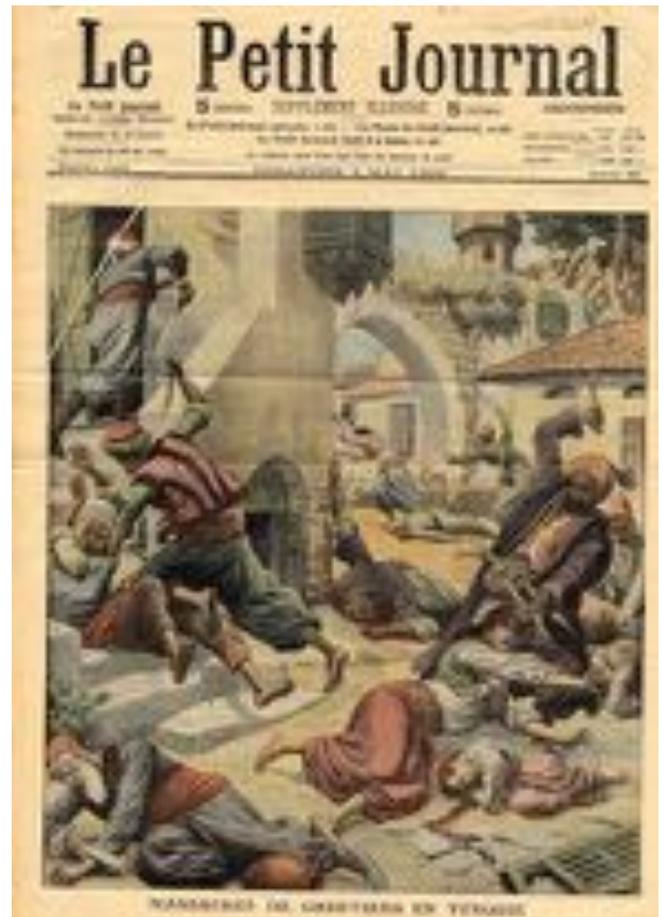
*"Monday the governors' attitude seemed changed. He was more quiet and urged the Armenians to return to their deserted shops in the market-place, assuring them that there would be no further molestation of Christians. Little did they know that throughout the province at that very hour thousands of defenseless men, women, and children were being slaughtered with the utmost brutality. Turkish soldiers had been quartered in every Armenian village with instructions to begin at a certain hour. The general order read: "The Armenians must be exterminated. If any Muslim protects a Christian, first, his house shall be burned; then the Christian killed before his eyes, and then his own Muslim family killed, and then he."*

FREDRICK G. COAN, was an American missionary who served in Persia for over 50 years.

*"There was a trench full of human bones, and I was told of the brave fight that 2,000 Armenians - protecting their homes, and protecting the honor of their wives and daughters - had waged with their flintlock rifles against the Turkish troops. They held off a Turkish regiment for two weeks, until their ammunition was exhausted. Then the Turkish officer, taking an oath on the Koran - the most binding of all oaths to Moslems - promised the Armenian fighters that if they surrendered, he would - in deference to their courage - allow them to go unharmed. These 2,000 men accepted his word and surrendered. They were then given picks and spades and told to dig a trench. When they had dug it they were shoved in with bayonets and killed."*

MARTIN NIEPAGE, was a German schoolteacher in Aleppo. He wrote an account of his experiences in Aleppo entitled 'The Horrors of Aleppo'. He was later sentenced to death in absentia by the Turkish government for publishing the account.

*"The German Consul from Mosul told me that, in many places on the road from Mosul to Aleppo, he had seen children's hands lying hacked off in such numbers that one could have paved the road with them."*



EITAN BELKIND, Israeli, was one of the founding members of NILI, an organization that fought against the Ottoman Empire through the support of the British forces.

*"The Armenian camp was one kilometer away from our house. The screaming continued all night. We asked what was happening, they told us that children were being taken from their mothers to live in dormitories and continue their education. However in the morning when we set off and crossed the bridge across the Euphrates, I was shocked to see the river red with blood, and beheaded corpses of children floating on the water. The scene was horrible, as there was nothing we could do."*

*"In my trips in the south of Syria and Iraq I saw with my own eyes the extermination of the Armenian nation, I watched the atrocious murders, and saw children's heads cut off and watched the burning of innocent people whose only wrongdoing was to be Armenian."*

*"After a three day ride I reached the heart of Mesopotamia where I was a witness to a terrible tragedy...The Circassian soldiers ordered the Armenians to gather thorns and thistles and to pile them into a tall pyramid...afterwards they tied all the Armenians who were there, almost five thousand souls, hand to hand, encircled them like a ring around the pile of thistles and set it afire in a blaze which rose up to heaven together with the screams of the wretched people who were burned to death by the fire...Two days later I returned to this place and saw the charred bodies of thousands of human beings."*



*"It is the Turkish Government, not the Turkish people, that has done all this. The Government has tried to deceive its Mohammedan subjects and arouse their hatred against the Christians. It was reported that the Armenians in Van rose up in rebellion. The fifty-five thousand slaughtered Armenians in that province were reported as fifty-five thousand Mohammedans massacred by Christians. The reports described in revolting detail actual atrocities - women and children, ranging from six years to eighty, brutally violated and mutilated to death, but the reports made one diabolical change in the accusations: they said those women were Moslems thus tortured and killed by Christians."*



TRACY ATKINSON was a American missionary stationed in Harput, and is considered an important eyewitness to the Armenian Genocide.

*"A boy has arrived in Mezreh in a bad state nervously. As I understand it, he was with a crowd of women and children from some village who joined our prisoners and went out June 23. The boy says that in the gorge this side of Bakir Maden the men and women were all shot and the leading men had their heads cut off afterwards. He escaped and came here. His own mother was stripped and robbed and then shot. He says the valley smells so awful that one can hardly pass by now."*

*"Today large crowds have gone from the city. We are told that the people who started Tuesday were taken to Hulakueh only two hours distant. There the men were killed, the girls carried away, and the women robbed and left ... We do not know what is still coming. Large crowds of women and children are coming in today. I don't know where from and those who are here are dying as fast as they can, and are being thrown out unburied. Vultures that are usually so thick everywhere all are absent now. They are all out feasting on dead bodies. The women started out today were followed by a large crowd of Kurds and gendarmes."*



GRACE KNAPP, American missionary

Born to missionary parents in Bitlis, Grace Knapp was a Christian missionary and teacher who served in the Ottoman Empire. At the time of the genocide, Knapp was stationed in Van.

*"The police seemed to have gone mad in their thirst for Armenian blood. ... The screams of women and children could be heard at almost any time during the day. The cries that rang out through the darkness of the night were even more heartrending."*

## **AFFIRMATION OF GENOCIDE**

- The International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS), consisting of the world's foremost experts on genocide, unanimously passed a formal resolution affirming the fact of the Armenian Genocide. According to IAGS, "Every book on comparative genocide studies in the English language contains a segment on the Armenian Genocide.
- Leading texts in the international law of genocide such as William Schabas's *Genocide in International Law* cite the Armenian Genocide as precursor to the Holocaust and as a precedent for the law on crimes against humanity.
- The Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide (Jerusalem), and the Institute for the Study of Genocide (NYC), have affirmed the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide.
- The killings of Armenians is genocide as defined by the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
- 126 leading scholars of the holocaust including Elie Wiesel, and Yehuda Bauer placed a statement in the *New York Times* in June 2000 declaring the "*incontestable fact of the Armenian genocide*" and urging western democracies to acknowledge it.

by Rick Heizman, San Francisco, April 27, 2015

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