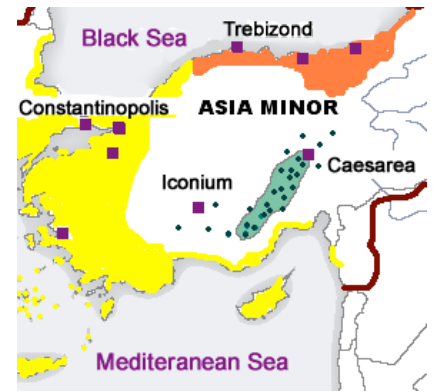


Thoughts on the Armenian Genocide

From the New York Times: <https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/16/teaching-the-armenian-genocide-with-primary-sources-from-the-new-york-times/>

Between 1 and 1.5 million Armenians were killed by the Turks during World War I along with about 678,000 Greeks and 275,000 Assyrians because they were a different ethnicity and largely Christian. The question of whether or not this should be called a genocide is an important topic in today's politics as well.

1. Denying Denial: More than a [dozen European nations](#), including Germany, prohibit the denial of the Holocaust against Jews during World War II. Some countries, such as [Switzerland](#), have adopted similar laws against denying the Armenian genocide. Meanwhile, for years Turkey had taken the opposite path — [making it a crime](#) to label the Armenian massacres as a “genocide,” though since 2008 prosecutions have [stopped being a regular event](#). Still, the Turkish government continues to deny that what happened to the Ottoman Armenians constitutes genocide. The Times [writes](#), “Even now, Turkish textbooks describe the Armenians as traitors, call the Armenian genocide a lie and say that the Ottoman Turks took ‘necessary measures’ to counter Armenian separatism.”



MASSACRES KEPT UP

20,000 Christians Killed or Missing in Persia.

TURKS AND KURDS SLAYERS

Thousands More Are in Peril at Urumiah and Elsewhere.

Bishop and Four Clergymen Hanged.

Assyrian Men Tied in Groups of Five and Put to Death in Cemetery—Dr. Packard With American Flag Stops Massacre at Geogtapa—State Department Seeking Information.

•Read and take notes on the following links:

- Turks express remorse enough? [Letter to the Editor](#) (check in Mr. Davey's Canvas under WW1)
- [Opinion | Denying the Right to Deny](#) (Feb. 23, 2012) (check in Mr. Davey's Canvas under WW1)

Group Discussion: What do you think about the questions below?

A. Should governments criminalize historical viewpoints, no matter how prejudiced or unfounded those viewpoints might be?

B. Are there certain circumstances where these laws might be necessary?

C. Does the prohibition of free speech do more harm than good?

TELL OF HORRORS DONE IN ARMENIA

Report of Eminent Americans Says They Are Unequaled in a Thousand Years.

TURKISH RECORD OUTDONE

A Policy of Extermination Put in Effect Against a Helpless People.

ENTIRE VILLAGES SCATTERED

Men and Boys Massacred, Women and Girls Sold as Slaves and Distributed Among Moslems.

2. Debating United States Policy on Armenian Genocide: [Forty-three states](#)

have officially recognized the Armenian genocide, but the United States has refused to do so — fearing reprisal from Turkey, a strategic ally at the crossroads of Europe and the Middle East. In fact, when a House of Representatives committee voted in 2007 to condemn the Armenian genocide in a largely symbolic vote, Turkey [reacted angrily](#) (check in Mr. Davey's Canvas under WW1) “in uncharacteristically strong

language,” and the Bush administration vowed to try to defeat the resolution on Capitol Hill. With next week's centennial anniversary, President Obama is [under added pressure](#) to label the atrocities as a “genocide” during his customary, annual statement April 24, even more so after the Pope's recent decision to use the term. But in 2019, the American House of Representatives, angry at the betrayal of our American Allies the Kurds and the ethnic cleansing of them finally passed a resolution to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Group Discussion:

- Should the United States officially recognize the genocide?
- Should the Senate pass the bill too?
- Is it worth angering a strategic ally?
- Are government proclamations recognizing genocide significant? Do they help promote peace and correct past injustices?

The New York Times, Oct. 10, 1915

TURKISH STATESMAN DENOUNCES ATROCITIES

***Cherif Pasha Says Young Turks
Long Planned to Exterminate
the Armenians.***

3. Word Choice: Today Turkey does not deny that thousands of Armenians were killed during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. Recently the Turkish president characterized those deaths and forced relocations as [“inhumane consequences”](#) (check in Mr. Davey’s Canvas under WW1) of war and chaos. [Until 2004](#) The New York Times did not officially use the term “genocide” to describe what happened to the Armenians in 1915, instead using terms like “tragedy” or “Turkish massacres,” even though The Times itself [reported](#) in 1915 that “the Armenian people are being exterminated as a result of an absolutely premeditated policy elaborately pursued by the gang now in control of Turkey.”

The term “genocide” denotes a systematic policy to murder a group, as opposed to a series of unfortunate events that happened to a people. It is a loaded word, not to be used lightly. A consensus of historians believe the events of 1915 did not just happen, but that instead they were a premeditated government policy of extermination and ethnic cleansing. In contrast, only [9 percent of Turks](#) think their government should label the atrocities a genocide, according to an Istanbul research organization.

- A. *Does word choice matter?*
- B. *B. Is it enough that the Turkish president offered [his condolences](#) to Armenians? Or, is it important to recognize the events of 1915 as a genocide, since that is what most historians agree they were?*
- C. **We will discuss this as a barometer when you have concluded your discussion.**

4. Dangers of Forgetting: Millions of [Armenians around the world](#) trace their flight from historical Western Armenia in the Ottoman Empire to the Armenian genocide during World War I. Many have worked hard to make sure that the Armenian genocide is [not forgotten](#) or erased from memory. Next week ceremonies and concerts will be [held in Yerevan](#), the capital of Armenia, and Istanbul, as well as in capitals around the world to honor the dead. Students might be aware that Kim Kardashian, who is of Armenian descent, [recently visited Armenia](#) with her husband, Kanye West, to highlight the genocide.

But recognizing the Armenian genocide in Turkey has at times been either [illegal](#) (check in Mr. Davey’s Canvas under WW1) or dangerous. The prominent Armenian journalist Hrant Dink campaigned relentlessly for official recognition of the Armenian genocide in Turkey until he was [shot dead by ultranationalists](#) in Istanbul in 2007.

- A. What are the dangers of forgetting?
- B. What happens when history is erased or denied?
- C. Is it important for schools around the world to teach about the atrocities against Ottoman Armenians? Read the two American textbooks on the Armenian Genocide. Grade each of them and explain why you gave them the grade you did.

Textbook 1 <http://mrdaveyspage.com/worldhistoryfiles/ww1/Textbook1Armenia.pdf>

Textbook 2 <http://mrdaveyspage.com/worldhistoryfiles/ww1/Textbook2Armenia.pdf>

- D. Remember that many students only get their 'facts' from textbooks. Are the accounts enough?
- E. Is it important for Turkish textbooks to acknowledge the Armenian genocide?
- F. Israel, of all countries, has as yet not recognized the genocide. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/04/24/israels-refusal-to-recognize-the-armenian-genocide-is-shameful-and-immoral-netanyahu-turkey-azerbaijan-yad-vashem-tsitsernakaberd/> Why do you think this is the case?

5. Read the article regarding Trump's position on the Armenian Genocide. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50828179> Write either Trump or Kamala Harris and give them your opinion on whether or not the country should officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Sample Memorial: For Extra Credit: *Open up photoshop and design your own virtual memorial to remember the Armenian genocide.*

THE SECRET GENOCIDE

The Truth Behind the Ethnic Cleansing of Armenians in Turkey during World War I

The History

Death, ignorance destruction, **terror**, genocide, cold-blooded murder. The Armenian Massacre was an incomprehensible tragedy that has stayed successfully hidden from public knowledge by the denial of the Turkish government. This is widely viewed as the first modern genocide.

On April 24th, 1915, Ottoman leaders arrested and **killed as many as 300 Armenian leaders**. Following these murders, they pulled remaining Armenian men, women, and children out of their homes and forced them to walk across the desert. The victims, deprived of water, food, and shelter, were murdered, raped, abused, and tortured by authorities. Some were loaded onto barges and brutally **sunk into the Black Sea**. The Ottoman Turks killed an estimated **1.5 million Armenians**. These horrors were completed systematically, **proving the young Turk government** committed this act of inhumanity.



“The Armenian Massacre was an incomprehensible tragedy that has remained hidden from the public”



The Results

Consequently, the Armenian population lowered significantly and culture, religious buildings, and homes were destroyed. It has been said that there would **not have been the World War II Holocaust** of the Jewish without the Armenian Genocide because the Turkish authorities successfully got away with it without punishment. Today, the Turkish government **denies any affiliation** with the genocide and refuses to compensate or apologize for this merciless act. Not only did it shape World War II but has had long-lasting affects on today's politics. Due to the fact that Turkey has not acknowledged the massacre, Turkey and Armenia **do not have diplomatic relations** still today. The Armenian massacre destroyed lives, culture, and has **left a stain on Armenian history** that will not fade until this horrible tragedy is awknowledged by Turkey.



1.5 Million Armenian were killed