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Armenian Genocide

MyWikiBiz, Author Your Legacy — Wednesday June 16, 2021

In 1915, leaders of the Turkish government set in motion a plan to expel and massacre Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire chiefly during World War I, 1915-1918. Though reports vary, most sources agree that there were about 2 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire at the time of the massacre. By the early 1920s, when the massacres and deportations finally ended, some 1.5 million of Turkey's Armenians were dead, with many more forcibly removed from the country. Today, most historians call this event a genocide—a premeditated and systematic campaign to exterminate an entire people. However, the Turkish government does not acknowledge the enormity or scope of these events. Despite pressure from Armenians and social justice advocates throughout the world, it is still illegal in Turkey to talk about what happened to Armenians during this era.

The Roots of Genocide: The Ottoman Empire:

The Armenian people have made their home in the Caucasus region of Eurasia for some 3,000 years. For some of that time, the kingdom of Armenia was an independent entity—at the beginning of the 4th century AD, for instance, it became the first nation in the world to make Christianity its official religion—but for the most part, control of the region shifted from one empire to another. During the 15th century, Armenia was absorbed into the mighty Ottoman Empire.

Did You Know?

American news outlets have also been reluctant to use the word "genocide" to describe Turkey's crimes. The phrase "Armenian genocide" did not appear in the New York Times until 2004.

The Ottoman rulers, like most of their subjects, were Muslim. They permitted religious minorities like the Armenians to maintain some autonomy, but they also subjected Armenians, who they viewed as "infidels," to unequal and unjust treatment. Christians had to pay higher taxes than Muslims, for example, and they had very few political and legal rights.

In spite of these obstacles, the Armenian community thrived under Ottoman rule. They tended to be better educated and wealthier than their Turkish neighbors, who in turn tended to resent their success. This resentment was compounded by suspicions that the Christian Armenians would be more loyal to Christian governments (that of the Russians, for example, who shared an unstable border with Turkey) than they were to the Ottoman caliphate.

These suspicions grew more acute as the Ottoman Empire crumbled. At the end of the 19th century, the despotic Turkish Sultan Abdul Hamid II—obsessed with loyalty above all, and infuriated by the nascent Armenian campaign to win basic civil rights—declared that he would solve the "Armenian question" once and for all. "I will soon settle those Armenians," he told a reporter in 1890. "I will give them a box on the ear which will make them... relinquish their revolutionary ambitions."

The First Armenian Massacre?

Between 1894 and 1896, this "box on the ear" took the form of a state-sanctioned pogrom. In response to large scale protests by Armenians, Turkish military officials, soldiers and ordinary men sacked Armenian villages and cities and massacred their citizens. About 200 000 Armenians were slaughtered.

The Rise of the murderous Young Turks:

In 1908, a new government came to power in Turkey. A group of reformers who called themselves the "Young Turks" overthrew Sultan Abdul Hamid and established a more modern constitutional government. At first, the Armenians were hopeful that they would have an equal place in this new state, but they soon learned that what the nationalistic Young Turks wanted most of all was to "Turkify" the empire. According to this way of thinking, non-Turks—and especially Christian non-Turks—were a grave threat to the new state

World War I:

In 1914, the Turks entered World War I on the side of Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. (At the same time, Ottoman religious authorities declared jihad, or holy war, against all Christians except their allies.) Military leaders began to argue that the Armenians were traitors: If they thought they could win independence if the Allies were victorious, this argument went, the Armenians would be eager to fight for the enemy. As the war intensified, Armenians organized volunteer battalions to help the Russian army fight against the Turks in the Caucasus region. These events, and general Turkish suspicion of the Armenian people, led the Turkish government to push for the "removal" of the Armenians from the war zones along the Eastern Front.

Genocide Begins!

On April 24 1915, the Armenian genocide began. That day, the Turkish government arrested and executed several hundred Armenian intellectuals.

After that, ordinary Armenians were turned out of their homes and sent on death marches through the Mesopotamian desert without food or water. Frequently, the marchers were stripped naked and forced to walk under the scorching sun until they dropped dead. People who stopped to rest were shot.

At the same time, the Young Turks created a "Special Organization," which in turn organized "killing squads" or "butcher battalions" to carry out, as one officer put it, "the liquidation of the Christian elements." These killing squads were often made up of murderers and other ex-convicts. They drowned people in rivers, threw them off cliffs, crucified them and burned them alive. In short order, the Turkish countryside was littered with Armenian corpses.

Records show that during this "Turkification" campaign government squads also kidnapped children, converted them to Islam and gave them to Turkish families. In some places, they raped women and forced them to join Turkish "harems" or serve as slaves. Muslim families moved into the homes of deported Armenians and seized their property.

In 1922, when the genocide was over, there were just 388,000 Armenians remaining in the Ottoman Empire.

The Three Pashas responsible for Armenian Genocide, aka Triumvirate:

The "Three Pashas" (Turkish: Üç Paşalar, also known as the "dictatorial triumvirate") of the Ottoman Empire refers to the Grand Vizier (prime minister) and Minister of the Interior, Mehmed Talaat Pasha (1874–1921); the Minister of War, Ismail Enver Pasha (1881–1922); and the Minister of the Navy, Ahmed Djemal Pasha (1872–1922). They were the dominant political figures in the empire during World War I, largely responsible for its entry into the war & they were main architects of the Great Armenian Genocide. Mehmed Talaat Pash is the most responsible for the genocide, because he gave the order to kill Armenians. They wanted Turkey to be clean of other ethnicities & strictly muslim.

All three pashas were assassinated by Armenian Avengers. Talaat was assassinated in Berlin on March 15 1921 by Soghomon Tehlirian, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. He is considered a great national hero among Armenians. But it was not just about assassination. When Soghomon shot Talaat in the head, killing him almost instantly, he stood on the dead body, waiting to be arrested while people were hitting him for killing an "innocent man". He & his people wanted to show what Young Turks & Ottomans did to Armenians. In court he told his mother appeared to him in his dreams & said: "Are you going to stand by idle or are you going to avenge us?" Tehlirian was tried and acquitted of all charges by the German court. The jury found him not guilty by reason of temporary insanity. It's clear jury was on his side.

Soghomon Tehlirian (Armenian: Սողոմոն Թեհլիրյան) (1897–1960) was a native of Erzinjan, an Armenian Evangelical (Protestant) and Armenian Genocide survivor. During the Genocide he watched his sisters raped and family butchered by Turks while on the extermination marches, and although he too was injured and believed dead, he escaped and recovered. With the organization and direction of Shahan Natalie, Tehlirian assassinated the former Turkish Grand Vizir Talat Pasha in Berlin, Germany in broad daylight and in the presence of many witnesses as an act of vengeance for his main role in orchestrating the Armenian Genocide.

There are monuments of Soghomon in both at his grave site in Ararat Cemetery, Fresno, California and in Yerevan, Armenia.

On June 20 2005, Catholics of all Armenians Garegin II held a requiem service by the grave of Soghomon Tehlirian in Fresno. Upon finishing the service, Garegin II gave a sermon dedicated to justice and unbending will of the Armenian people and blessed the guests.

***Talaat Pasha was assassinated
in Berlin on March 15, 1921***

***"I do not consider myself guilty
because my conscience is clear ..."***

Soghomon Tehlirian

*Armenian Genocide survivor who
assassinated Talaat Pasha, the organizer
of the Armenian Genocide.*



The Armenian Genocide Today:

After the Ottomans surrendered in 1918, the leaders of the Young Turks fled to Germany, which promised not to prosecute them for the genocide. (However, a group of Armenian nationalists devised a plan, known as Operation Nemesis, to track down and assassinate the leaders of the genocide.) Ever since then, the Turkish government has denied that a genocide took place. The Armenians were an enemy force, they argue, and their slaughter was a necessary war measure. Today, Turkey is an important ally of the U.S. and other Western nations, and so their governments have likewise been reluctant to condemn the long-ago killings. In March 2010, a U.S. Congressional panel at last voted to recognize the genocide.

External Link:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/why-does-no-one-remember-assyrian-victims-europes-christian-holocaust-1472128> [WHY ARE ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN VICTIMS ALMOST FORGOTTEN TODAY?](#)

<http://www.cilicia.com/armo10c-nyt19210316.html> [Newspaper accounts on Talaat's assassination from March 1921](#)

<http://Encyclopediasupreme.org/abduhamid2.txt> [Encyclopedia Supreme page about Abdul Hamid](#)

The Arch-Murderers

Mehmed Talât



Talaat Pasha, the Ottoman Empire's Minister of the Interior in 1915, who was chief director of the genocide of the Armenians. (From Ambassador Morgenthau's Story by Henry Morgenthau)

Ismail Enver



Ahmed Djemal



See Also:

[Srebrenica Massacre](#)