



# ARMENIAN MEMORIAL

In memory of the [Armenian Genocide](#) of April 24, 1915  
By Pierre Beaudry, April 24, 2015



A hundred years ago, on April 24, 1915, began in Constantinople, Turkey, the extermination of the Armenian people, the first genocide of the Twentieth Century. The extermination amounted to between 1 and 1.5 million victims throughout the entirety of the nation of Turkey. Thus, Turkey became the first nation in the world to eliminate the majority of its Christians.

The concept of « *genocide* » was created by the Polish lawyer, Raphael Lemkin, in 1943, based on the Armenian experience at the hands of the Ottoman Turks in 1915, and the Assyrians massacred in Iraq during the 1933 Simele Massacre. The term was later applied to the Nazi extermination of European Jews during 1941-1945, and later, to the massacres of the Cambodians in 1975, and the Tutsis in 1994. The Ukrainian famine of 1932 was also of the same category. Genocides are a deliberate and premeditated form of mass murder considered as a *crime against humanity*, a concept which also came out of World War II.

Thus, the Twentieth Century can be remembered as the century of genocides which all have one thing in common: they were experiments developed by the modern Zeusian form of the British Empire in its plan to reduce the human population down to about 1 billion people. This Armenian Memorial, therefore, is intended as a reminder that the British Empire, or any other empire for that matter, must never again be permitted to commit such atrocities against mankind.

Twenty-four countries have officially recognized the Turkish mass killing as a crime against humanity. Turkey, however, still refuses to recognize that the genocide ever took place.

## April 24, 1915: REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

For centuries, the Ottoman Empire had a great number of Christian Slavs, Greeks, Armenians, and others who played an important role of cross-cultural enrichment of the Turkish civilization. Located in the Caucasian Mountains of Western Asia, the Republic of Armenia was the first ancient eastern kingdom in history to become Christian. While the Greeks became orthodox, the Armenians became monophysites, in accordance with the Council of Chalcedony of 451. Monophysites believed that Christ did not have a dual nature, human and divine, but only a divine nature. By the end of the nineteenth century, the Armenian population represented 2 million out of 36 million people of the Ottoman Empire.



**Figure 1** Armenians being marched to the prison of Mezireh by armed Turkish soldiers, 1915.

After the death of Sultan Mourad V in 1876, Abdul-Hamid II, a favorite of the British Royal family and a visitor to the Balmoral Castle, replaced his brother on the throne and initiated a series of religious hatred campaigns in order to consolidate his absolute monarchy over a decadent and fracturing state. Known as “Abdul the Damned,” Hamid II initiated a systematic government-sanctioned massacre against the Armenian population. Between 1894 and 1896, the

sultan had 250,000 Armenians massacred with the help of the Kurds. In 1896 alone, in the historical region of Van, the original location of Armenia, he had 350 villages destroyed. But, this was just a foretaste of the genocide to come.

With the electoral victory of the Young Turks in 1908, the British Empire had gained complete control of the new government. British Admiral, Sir Arthur Limpus was in command of the Turkish Fleet of the Bosphorus. In spite of their “modernization” cover, the Young Turks movement was nothing else but a creation of British Intelligence under Alexander Parvus. As Turkey entered World War I on the side of the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria), a systematic plan to carry out the [Armenian Genocide](#) was put into action.



**Figure 2** An Armenian mother kneeling beside her dead child in a field near Aleppo.

When World War One was declared in August 1914, the Turks entered the war against Russia and were defeated at the battle of Sarikamish on December 29, 1914. Their retreat gave them the opportunity to systematically slash and burn Armenian territories and make the land claim for Turkey. Meanwhile, Winston Churchill was sent by the British Lord of the Admiralty to take control of Constantinople.

On April 24, 1915, Minister of Interior, Talaat Pasha, had 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders of Constantinople assassinated. The genocide was systematically carried out in two phases during and after World War I. Firstly, the able-bodied male population was

massacred, and secondly, the women, children, elderly, and disabled were put on death marches into the Syrian Desert without food and water.



**Figure 3** Interior Minister Talaat Pasha who ordered the [Armenian Genocide](#) . The three Pashas who committed this Genocide were: 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).

The telegram transmitted by the Ministry of the Interior to the Turkish officers read as follows: ***“The Government has decided to destroy all of the Armenians residing in Turkey. We must put an end to their existence, no matter how criminal the measures are to be considered. You must not take into account the age or the sex. Scruples of conscience have no place here.”*** ([HERODOTE](#))

The American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., in 1915 alerted the world to this genocide and his efforts resulted in the creation of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief (ACASR) also known as the Near-East Relief.

In an article dated December 15, 1915, *The New York Times* reported that one million Armenians had been either deported or killed by the Turkish government. On August 18, 1914, *The New York Times* reported again that "the roads and the Euphrates are strewn with corpses of exiles, and those who survive are doomed to certain death. It is a plan to exterminate the whole Armenian people." However, in 1918, the Armenian forces were able to turn the situation around and succeeded in stopping an assault of the Turkish Army at Sardarapat. That became the chosen moment to proclaim the independence of the Republic of Armenia on May 28, 1918.

On August 5, 1920 the Armenian National Union declared itself an Armenian Autonomous Republic under French Protectorate and, on April 26, 1921, the Republic of Mountainous Armenia was proclaimed. On March 1922, Armenia was annexed by Bolshevik Russia to become the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic. On August 23, 1990, Armenia became the first non-Baltic republic to secede from the Soviet Union and declare its independence from the USSR. The attempt of unification of Armenia with the Armenian populated Nagorno-Karabakh led to a war against Azerbaijan that ended in 1994 after the Russians brokered a cease-fire. Peace talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan continue to this day and are mediated through the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The status of Karabakh remains to be determined.

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