Tell It Like It Is: The Case for the Armenian Genocide Resolution

By Vance Trefethen

OBSERVATION 1. Our DEFINITIONS 2

OBSERVATION 2. INHERENCY, or the conditions of the Status Quo. 2

FACT 1. Armenian Genocide. One hundred years ago, the Ottoman Empire, predecessor of modern-day Turkey, committed mass killing and deportation of its Armenian citizens. 2

FACT 2. Official Denial. The President and Congress yield to Turkish demands that we refuse to call it “genocide.” 2

OBSERVATION 3. The PLAN. 3

OBSERVATION 4. The JUSTIFICATIONS. Experts recommend our plan for several reasons. 3

JUSTIFICATION 1. Healing the Victims. Armenians need recognition and healing to replace the desire for revenge 3

JUSTIFICATION 2. Helping Future Generations. Forgetting a genocide dooms future minorities to the same treatment. Hitler even used the forgotten Armenian Genocide to justify his evil deeds 3

JUSTIFICATION 3. Promoting Reconciliation. Recognizing the Armenian genocide would help bring lasting peace between Turks and Armenians 4

JUSTIFICATION 4. Denial Perpetuates the Genocide. Dr. Gregory Stanton in 2008 describes the 8 Stages of Genocide to explain how we rationalize exterminating our fellow man: 4

2A Evidence: Armenian Genocide Resolution 5

TOPICALITY / DEFINITIONS 5

Definition of Middle East 5

Text of S. Res 410 5

OPENING QUOTES 5

Armenian Genocide is relevant to politics today 5

INHERENCY 6

Armenian genocide is accepted by almost all serious scholars 6

More than a million Armenians killed by Ottoman Turks in 1915-1916 6

History of the Armenian genocide 6

Obama blocks recognition of Armenian genocide 7

Pres. Obama resists labeling the Armenian atrocities as “Genocide” 7

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE 7

“It wasn’t genocide because it wasn’t premeditated – just unplanned consequence of war” – Response: Armenian massacre plans were known in advance 7

“It wasn’t genocide because it wasn’t premeditated” – Response: German officials at the time said the Armenian massacre was planned long in advance 8

“It wasn’t genocide because it wasn’t premeditated” – Response: Turkish documents admit it was planned in advance 8

“It wasn’t genocide, it was just a continuation of World War I” – Response: Both are true. It was part of World War I, but it was also a conscious decision to wipe out a race 9

“We need to wait ‘til more evidence is in before we can label it Genocide” – Response: Turkey is hiding the evidence. If it wasn’t genocide, why would they hide it? 9

Denial perpetuates the genocide 9

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY 9

Plan Advocate: Sen. Barack Obama in 2008 (he opposes it now) 9

US acknowledgement of Armenian genocide can lead to advancement of international recognition by the UN 10

Plan Advocate: French President Francois Hollande. Publically called out Turkey’s genocide, and now it seems Turkey may be ready to start listening 10

DISAD RESPONSES 10

“Turkish economic boycott” – Response: Didn’t happen when France recognized the genocide 10

“Lose Turkey as an ally” – Response: Non-unique. Turkey is already pursuing an independent foreign policy; the alliance is already unreliable 11

“Lose alliance with Turkey” – Response: Non-unique. Already huge gap between US/Turkey on foreign policy goals 11

Philosopher George Santayana said it best: “Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it.” It ought to be obvious that people of good will and moral standing should remember and condemn historical occasions of genocide with a loud and unequivocal voice. Refusing to do so makes us complicit in their crimes, and dooms us to repeat them. Please join us as we affirm that The United States should significantly reform its policy toward one or more countries in the Middle East.

OBSERVATION 1. Our DEFINITIONS

**Significant**: “large enough to be noticed or have an effect” (Merriam-Webster Online Dict. 2014<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/significant>)

**Policy**: “a high-level overall plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures especially of a governmental body”(Merriam-Webster Online Dict. 2014 <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/policy?show=0&t=1402599657>)

**Countries in the Middle East** is defined as all the countries listed under “Middle East” on the CIA World Factbook page, and we’ll make a copy of that page available on request. The countries named in our case today, Turkey and Armenia, are both on the list.

OBSERVATION 2. INHERENCY, or the conditions of the Status Quo.

FACT 1. Armenian Genocide. One hundred years ago, the Ottoman Empire, predecessor of modern-day Turkey, committed mass killing and deportation of its Armenian citizens.

Prof. Efraim Karsh 2013. (editor of the Middle East Quarterly; professor of Middle East and Mediterranean studies at King's College London) Ankara's Unacknowledged Genocide - Turkey, Past and Future, Winter 2013 MIDDLE EAST QUARTERLY <http://www.meforum.org/3429/ankara-unacknowledged-genocide>

Independent estimates of the precise extent of Armenian casualties differ somewhat, but all paint a stark picture of national annihilation. In his official report to the British parliament in July 1916, Viscount Bryce calculated the total number of uprooted Armenians during the preceding year as 1,200,000 (half slain, half deported), or about two thirds of the entire community. Johannes Lepsius, the chief of the Protestant Mission in the Ottoman Empire who had personally witnessed the atrocities and had studied them thoroughly, put the total higher, at 1,396,000, as did the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, which computed the number of deaths at about 600,000 and of deportees at 786,000. Aaron Aaronson, a world-renowned Zionist agronomist who set up the most effective pro-Anglo-French-Russian entente intelligence network in the Middle East during World War I, estimated the number of deaths at between 850,000 and 950,000

FACT 2. Official Denial. The President and Congress yield to Turkish demands that we refuse to call it “genocide.”

Bridget Johnson 2014. (journalist) 24 Apr 2014 “For Sixth Year, Obama Breaks Campaign Promise to Armenian Community <http://pjmedia.com/tatler/2014/04/24/for-sixth-year-obama-breaks-campaign-promise-to-armenian-community>

Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Executive Director Aram Hamparian noted that “Obama continues to outsource his policy on the Armenian Genocide, effectively granting Turkey a veto over America’s response to this crime against humanity.” Turkey hotly opposes any such recognition, and there’s even a large Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans, more than 150 lawmakers strong, to oppose the regular legislative efforts to officially use the term genocide. “It’s a sad spectacle to see our President, who came into office having promised to recognize the Armenian Genocide, reduced to enforcing a foreign government’s gag-rule on what our country can say about a genocide so very thoroughly documented in our own nation’s archives,” Hamparian continued.

**END QUOTE. Fortunately, we have a plan to fix that, which we present in…**

OBSERVATION 3. The PLAN.

1. Congress passes and the President signs legislation modeled on Senate Resolution 410, identifying April 24 as the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and calling on the President to make Armenian Genocide recognition part of our foreign policy.

2. Funding within current budgets of existing agencies.

3. Enforcement through the President and the State Department

4. Plan takes effect the day after an Affirmative ballot.

5. Affirmative speeches may clarify the plan as needed.

OBSERVATION 4. The JUSTIFICATIONS. Experts recommend our plan for several reasons.

JUSTIFICATION 1. Healing the Victims. Armenians need recognition and healing to replace the desire for revenge

Dr. Gregory Stanton 2008. (PhD; Research Professor in Genocide Studies and Prevention at George Mason University; President, International Association of Genocide Scholars; President, Genocide Watch. Elie Wiesel is a Holocaust survivor, professor and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize) “The Cost of Denial” (ethical disclosure: article is undated but refers internally to being written the same year as the death of Tom Lantos, who died in 2008) <http://www.genocidewatch.org/aboutus/thecostofdenial.html>

Denial harms the victims and their survivors. That is what the Turkish government today is doing to Armenians around the world. Elie Wiesel has repeatedly called Turkey’s denial a double killing, as it strives to kill the memory of the event. We believe the US government should not be party to efforts to kill the memory of a historical fact as profound and important as the genocide of the Armenians, which Hitler used as an example in his plan to exterminate the Jews. Around the world, victims of genocide ask first for recognition of the crime committed against them. It is as essential to healing as closing an open wound. Without such healing, scars harden into hatred that cripples the victim and cries out for revenge.

JUSTIFICATION 2. Helping Future Generations. Forgetting a genocide dooms future minorities to the same treatment. Hitler even used the forgotten Armenian Genocide to justify his evil deeds

Prof Gideon Boas 2012 (Associate Professor at the Monash Law Faculty. He was a Senior Legal Officer at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, where he was the senior adviser to the Trial Chamber in the Miloševic case) Remembrance is the most powerful weapon against genocide 27 Jan 2012 <http://theconversation.com/remembrance-is-the-most-powerful-weapon-against-genocide-5049>

It’s hard to imagine that a whole race of people can be forgotten. But if no one chooses to remember them, genocide can mean just that, leaving a large hole in our history and dooming future minorities to be treated in the same way. Before the invasion of Poland, Hitler is quoted as saying, “Who still talks nowadays about the Armenians?” He was referring to [the annihilation of over one million Christian Armenians](http://www.nytimes.com/ref/timestopics/topics_armeniangenocide.html) by the Ottoman Government in Turkey in the early 20th century. It is a solemn lesson that the failure to account for atrocity inflicted on a people, let alone remember it, is harmful to more than the affected communities. It is a message to future dictators and tyrants that they may be free to do the same.

JUSTIFICATION 3. Promoting Reconciliation. Recognizing the Armenian genocide would help bring lasting peace between Turks and Armenians

Zuber Hewrami 2014 (journalist) Near a Century Later, US Yet to Recognize Armenian Genocide, 8 Feb 2014 <http://rudaw.net/english/world/08022014>

The Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region (ANCA-WR) has been working to get through the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Act that was introduced by a group of bi-partisan Democratic and Republican Congressmen. The resolution asks the Obama administration to acknowledge the Armenian genocide as a precursor to improving Turkish-Armenian relations.  “It’s a different approach to the age old question,” ANCA-WR Executive Director Elen Asatryan told Armenpress. “There needs to be a just acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide by the Obama Administration. Without a clear and just resolution to the mass murder of 1.5 million Armenians, a lasting peace between the Turkish and Armenian people is near impossible.”

JUSTIFICATION 4. Denial Perpetuates the Genocide. Dr. Gregory Stanton in 2008 describes the 8 Stages of Genocide to explain how we rationalize exterminating our fellow man:

Dr. Gregory Stanton 2008. (PhD in cultural anthropology; Research Professor in Genocide Studies and Prevention at George Mason University; President, International Association of Genocide Scholars; President, Genocide Watch. Elie Wiesel is a Holocaust survivor, professor and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize) “The Cost of Denial” (ethical disclosure: article is undated but refers internally to being written the same year as the death of Tom Lantos, who died in 2008) <http://www.genocidewatch.org/aboutus/thecostofdenial.html>

The first is Classification, when we classify the world into us versus them.   
The second is Symbolization, when we give names to those classifications like Jew and Aryan, Hutu and Tutsi, Turk and Armenian. Sometimes the symbols are physical, like the Nazi yellow star.  
The third is Dehumanization, when perpetrators call their victims rats, or cockroaches, cancer, or disease; so eliminating them is actually seen as “cleansing” the society, rather than murder.  
The fourth is Organization, when hate groups, armies, and militias organize.   
The fifth is Polarization, when moderates are targeted who could stop the process, especially moderates from the perpetrators’ group.  
The sixth stage is Preparation, when the perpetrators are trained and armed, victims are identified, transported and concentrated.  
The seventh stage is Extermination, what we legally define as genocide, the intentional destruction, in whole or in part, of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. When I first outlined these stages in a memo I wrote in the State Department in 1996, I thought these seven stages are all there are. Then I realized there is an eighth stage in every genocide: Denial. It is actually a continuation of the genocide, because it is a continuing attempt to destroy the victim group psychologically and culturally, to deny its members even the memory of the murders of their relatives.

2A Evidence: Armenian Genocide Resolution

TOPICALITY / DEFINITIONS

Definition of Middle East

Central Intelligence Agency, World Factbook, accessed on 16 July 2014. (Undated. The main web site for the World Factbook is last updated in 2014) <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/wfbExt/region_mde.html>



Text of S. Res 410

Senate Resolution 410 as amended, April 2014. <https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-resolution/410>

Reported to Senate amended (04/11/2014)   
Expresses the sense of the Senate: (1) in remembrance of the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2014; and (2) that the President should ensure that U.S. foreign policy reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the U.S. record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

OPENING QUOTES

Armenian Genocide is relevant to politics today

Sossie Kasbarian 2014. (Lecturer in Middle East Politics at the University of Lancaster) 6 Aug 2014 A discourse of denial: memories of the Armenian genocide <https://www.opendemocracy.net/sossie-kasbarian/discourse-of-denial-memories-of-armenian-genocide>

What is obvious though is that the 100-year-old genocide of the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire is unlikely to be a subject that many deem as being of great relevance. And yet, over the years, it is this genocide and what it symbolises, that I keep returning to in my own research and politics. I am more convinced than ever that the Armenian Genocide, its denial and recognition, represent issues that are of vital importance in the study, research, teaching and practice of politics today.

INHERENCY

Armenian genocide is accepted by almost all serious scholars

Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian 2007. (PhD, was the  first holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA.) “The Armenian Genocide: Wartime Radicalization or Premeditated Continuum?” <http://books.google.com/books?id=K3monyE4CVQC&pg=PA432&lpg=PA432&dq=%22armenian+genocide%22+history+professor&source=bl&ots=fHsK-qGxsy&sig=ovbBS0lze3fjaXMqIi25Gy1qmLQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=vJnGU8DpGaLfsAT1rILoAw&ved=0CFkQ6AEwBTgK#v=onepage&q=%22armenian%20genocide%22%20history%20professor&f=false>

It was no longer irregulars and mobs that engaged in the operations, although they were always present, but rather the regular armed forces and the shady Special Organization that functioned under the Young Turk central committee and especially the Ministry of War (Enver Pasha) and Ministry of the Interior (Talaat Pasha). Now, the impact of total war struck with full force. Nearly all Armenians without regard to age, sex, economic status, or religious denomination were targeted for elimination while they were also dispossessed of everything they owned personally and communally. The result was genocide. Incremental Cleansing or Premeditated Genocide? To a large extent, the escalation of the massacres of the 1890s into the genocide of 1915 is accepted by almost all serious scholars.

More than a million Armenians killed by Ottoman Turks in 1915-1916

BBC News 2010. “Q&A: Armenian Genocide Dispute” last updated 5 Mar 2010 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/6045182.stm>

There is general agreement that hundreds of thousands of Armenians died when the Ottoman Turks deported them en masse from eastern Anatolia to the Syrian desert and elsewhere in 1915-16. They were killed or died from starvation or disease. The total number of Armenian dead is disputed. Armenians say 1.5 million died. The Republic of Turkey estimates the total to be 300,000. According to the International Association of Genocide Scholars, the death toll was "more than a million".

History of the Armenian genocide

Prof. Efraim Karsh 2013. (editor of the Middle East Quarterly; professor of Middle East and Mediterranean studies at King's College London) Ankara's Unacknowledged Genocide - Turkey, Past and Future, Winter 2013 MIDDLE EAST QUARTERLY <http://www.meforum.org/3429/ankara-unacknowledged-genocide>

The first step in this direction was taken in early 1915 when Armenian soldiers in the Ottoman army were relegated to "labor battalions" and stripped of their weapons. Most of these fighters-turned-laborers would be marched out in droves to secluded places and shot in cold blood, often after being forced to dig their own graves. Those fortunate enough to escape summary execution were employed as laborers in the most inhumane conditions. At the same time, the authorities initiated a ruthless campaign to disarm the entire Armenian population of personal weapons before embarking on a genocidal spree of mass deportations and massacres. By the autumn of 1915, Cilicia had been ethnically cleansed and the authorities turned their sights on the foremost Armenian settlement area in eastern Anatolia. First to be cleansed was the zone bordering Van, extending from the Black Sea to the Iranian frontier and immediately threatened by Russian advance; only there did outright massacres often substitute for otherwise slow deaths along the deportation routes or in the concentration camps of the Syrian desert. In other districts of Ottoman Armenia, depopulated between July and September, the Turks attempted to preserve a semblance of a deportation policy though most deportees were summarily executed after hitting the road. In the coastal towns of Trebizond, for example, Armenians were sent out to sea, ostensibly for deportation, only to be thrown overboard shortly afterward. Of the deportees from Erzerum, Erzindjan, and Baibourt, only a handful survived the initial stages of the journey.

Obama blocks recognition of Armenian genocide

Prof. Efraim Karsh 2013. (editor of the Middle East Quarterly; professor of Middle East and Mediterranean studies at King's College London) Ankara's Unacknowledged Genocide - Turkey, Past and Future, Winter 2013 MIDDLE EAST QUARTERLY <http://www.meforum.org/3429/ankara-unacknowledged-genocide>

When in March 2010 a U.S. congressional committee passed a resolution branding the Armenian massacres as "genocide," over the objections of the Obama administration, Turkey recalled its ambassador for "consultations." In his 2008 election campaign, presidential hopeful Barack Obama stated that "America deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about the Armenian Genocide and responds forcefully to all genocides. I intend to be that President." As president, he chose to make Turkey the site of his first overseas trip ignoring the Armenian genocide altogether in his address to the Turkish parliament.

Pres. Obama resists labeling the Armenian atrocities as “Genocide”

WASHINGTON TIMES 2013. (journalist Dave Boyer) 25 Nov 2013 Obama won’t acknowledge Armenian genocide by Turkey, protesters say <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/nov/25/obama-wont-acknowledge-armenian-genocide-turkey/>

In a pattern common to the last three presidents, Mr. Obama pledged, as a candidate stumping for Armenian-American votes in the 2008 campaign, that he would recognize the genocide if he became president. But since taking office, he has resisted labeling the episode as a “genocide,” a move which would anger NATO ally [Turkey](http://www.washingtontimes.com/topics/turkey/). In April, Mr. Obama marked the anniversary of the Armenian deaths with a statement that called it “one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century” but never used the word “genocide.” The word is a specific term under international law, both for its symbolic value and because it imposes duties upon other states and penalties upon the perpetrating country.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

“It wasn’t genocide because it wasn’t premeditated – just unplanned consequence of war” – Response: Armenian massacre plans were known in advance

Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian 2007. (PhD, was the  first holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA.) “The Armenian Genocide: Wartime Radicalization or Premeditated Continuum?” <http://books.google.com/books?id=K3monyE4CVQC&pg=PA432&lpg=PA432&dq=%22armenian+genocide%22+history+professor&source=bl&ots=fHsK-qGxsy&sig=ovbBS0lze3fjaXMqIi25Gy1qmLQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=vJnGU8DpGaLfsAT1rILoAw&ved=0CFkQ6AEwBTgK#v=onepage&q=%22armenian%20genocide%22%20history%20professor&f=false>

Conditions became worse after the Balkan wars of 1912-13. A Russian diplomat reported from Erzerum in December 1913: “Secret meetings are being held here, and people are talking about the forthcoming Armenian massacres. Everything is ready to start the carnage; they are only waiting for orders from the capital” Turkish scholar Taner Akcam has also noted that by the end of the Balkan wars, decisions had been taken to diminish the Armenian concentration in the Asiatic provinces by limiting the number of Armenians in any given district to 5 or 10 percent." Still, it may be argued that such goals may have been a part of a "wish list," but that neither the precise means nor time for fulfillment of the objective was foreseen. It took the Great War to present the welcome opportunity and to transform desires for ethnic cleansing to actions for ethnic annihilation.

“It wasn’t genocide because it wasn’t premeditated” – Response: German officials at the time said the Armenian massacre was planned long in advance

Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian 2007. (PhD, was the first holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA.) “The Armenian Genocide: Wartime Radicalization or Premeditated Continuum?” <http://books.google.com/books?id=K3monyE4CVQC&pg=PA432&lpg=PA432&dq=%22armenian+genocide%22+history+professor&source=bl&ots=fHsK-qGxsy&sig=ovbBS0lze3fjaXMqIi25Gy1qmLQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=vJnGU8DpGaLfsAT1rILoAw&ved=0CFkQ6AEwBTgK#v=onepage&q=%22armenian%20genocide%22%20history%20professor&f=false>

There are also the reports of German and Austrian officials and even of Turkish notables regarding the planned annihilation of the Armenians. In August 1915, a German officer who was in command of a unit of the Special Organization reported from Erzrum to the German military mission in Constantinople that the massacre of the Armenians was part of "a plan conceived a long time ago."

“It wasn’t genocide because it wasn’t premeditated” – Response: Turkish documents admit it was planned in advance

Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian 2007. (PhD, was the first holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA.) “The Armenian Genocide: Wartime Radicalization or Premeditated Continuum?” <http://books.google.com/books?id=K3monyE4CVQC&pg=PA432&lpg=PA432&dq=%22armenian+genocide%22+history+professor&source=bl&ots=fHsK-qGxsy&sig=ovbBS0lze3fjaXMqIi25Gy1qmLQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=vJnGU8DpGaLfsAT1rILoAw&ved=0CFkQ6AEwBTgK#v=onepage&q=%22armenian%20genocide%22%20history%20professor&f=false>

Mkrtich Nersisyan, Ruben Sahakyan, Jon Kirakosyan, and Ervand Sargsyan, who were among the first Soviet Armenian historians to write on what had been a taboo subject in the Soviet Union, point to a continuum since the 1870s and, using various Western sources and documents, argue that the specific groundwork for the genocide during World War I had been laid as early as 1910. Sargsyan states that "in principle, the Young Turkish clique had decided to annihilate the entire Armenian population of Turkey before World War I." He cites what is said to be one of Talaat's communiqués to the provincial authorities in April 1915, declaring: "Although the elimination of the Armenian element in Turkey was decided upon earlier, circumstances did not allow us to accomplish this sacred duty."' Such assertions are not limited to Soviet Armenian authors: British historian David Marshall Lang draws similar conclusions: At secret meetings of the Committee of Union and Progress, the fate of the Armenians had been discussed in principle months, it not years, before the outbreak of war…Right in the middle of the projected pan-Turkic empire lay a monstrous blot on the horizon—the Armenian tableland, inhabited by well over two million Christian non-Turks. They were in the way—and were duly scheduled for elimination. The fact that the Armenian genocide was planned by the Young Turk junta well before the outbreak of the First World War is shown by the skillfully laid plans for the scheme and its lightning execution when the signal was given in the late spring of 1915. From 1913 onwards, in all towns and villages inhabited by Armenians, governors and police chiefs had been appointed who were known for their devotion to the aims and dictates of the Young Turk regime."

“It wasn’t genocide, it was just a continuation of World War I” – Response: Both are true. It was part of World War I, but it was also a conscious decision to wipe out a race

Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian 2007. (PhD, was the first holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA.) “The Armenian Genocide: Wartime Radicalization or Premeditated Continuum?” <http://books.google.com/books?id=K3monyE4CVQC&pg=PA432&lpg=PA432&dq=%22armenian+genocide%22+history+professor&source=bl&ots=fHsK-qGxsy&sig=ovbBS0lze3fjaXMqIi25Gy1qmLQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=vJnGU8DpGaLfsAT1rILoAw&ved=0CFkQ6AEwBTgK#v=onepage&q=%22armenian%20genocide%22%20history%20professor&f=false>

This substantial evidence of premeditation and continuum does not directly contradict the views of scholars who connect the genocide with total war and the escalation and degeneration of conflict into mass killing. Winter, Suny, and others agree that once the decision for eradication had been made it was carried out ruthlessly and mercilessly. This follows the conclusion of the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, Henry Morgenthau (1913-16), who wrote: When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact.

“We need to wait ‘til more evidence is in before we can label it Genocide” – Response: Turkey is hiding the evidence. If it wasn’t genocide, why would they hide it?

HUFFINGTON POST 2010. (journalist Elmira Bayrasli ) Turkey's Answer to the Armenian Question 24 Dec 2010 <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elmira-bayrasli/turkeys-answer-to-the-arm_b_800919.html>

There is no doubt that something horrible happened to over 1.5 million Armenians in eastern Anatolia in the spring of 1915. It is a vexed issue, fraught with intense emotion. Armenians and their sympathizers maintain that it was genocide. It is a charge the Turks deny. Given that the Turkish government hasn't made public archived material on the matter or been willing to debate the issue, it is difficult to defend them. The heart wrenching stories of Armenians who survived deportations, starvation and executions make it impossible to do so.

Denial perpetuates the genocide

Sossie Kasbarian 2014. (Lecturer in Middle East Politics at the University of Lancaster) 6 Aug 2014 A discourse of denial: memories of the Armenian genocide <https://www.opendemocracy.net/sossie-kasbarian/discourse-of-denial-memories-of-armenian-genocide>

The need to articulate one’s story, where one came from, is essential to the dignity of the human being. Gayatri Spivak, when asking “Can the Subaltern speak?”, argues that a narrative of identity is a necessary condition for agency and subjectivity. Hannah Arendt says that the need to hear one’s story from others is key to constructions of identity and also to social relations. Michel Foucault and Edward Said have brilliantly deconstructed epistemological projects, revealing the power structures and agendas they reflect and perpetuate.  By denying the genocide that killed our ancestors and dispersed the remnants all over the globe, the Turkish state continues its genocide of Armenians, negating their right to have a clear and undisputed past.

SOLVENCY / ADVOCACY

Plan Advocate: Sen. Barack Obama in 2008 (he opposes it now)

Bridget Johnson 2014. (journalist) 24 Apr 2014 “For Sixth Year, Obama Breaks Campaign Promise to Armenian Community <http://pjmedia.com/tatler/2014/04/24/for-sixth-year-obama-breaks-campaign-promise-to-armenian-community/>

For the sixth year, President Obama broke his campaign promise to recognize the mass killing of 1.5 million Armenians as century ago as genocide. “The facts are undeniable,” Obama said in a Jan. 19, 2008, statement. “An official policy that calls on diplomats to distort the historical facts is an untenable policy. As a senator, I strongly support passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.106 and S.Res.106), and as president I will recognize the Armenian Genocide.”

US acknowledgement of Armenian genocide can lead to advancement of international recognition by the UN

Naira Hayrumyuan 2014 (journalist) Armenian Genocide Recognition: Timid reaction in Turkey as world leaders speak on 1915 events 31 Jan 2014 (the first sentence should read “even in Turkey” but “in” is missing in the original) <http://www.armenianow.com/genocide/51687/armenia_genocide_turkey_statements_assad_hollande_ocalan>

There are few even Turkey today who deny that recognition of the genocide is inevitable. The question is in what form it will happen. If Turkey receives guarantees that Armenia will not make any material, territorial and other claims, it may itself admit the genocide in 2015, limiting itself to apologies and private compensation. But there is also an option for Armenia to turn to international courts or the United Nations with the support of the countries that have recognized or will recognize the genocide, for example, the United States, if President Barack Obama continues the policy of containment of Turkey’s expansion and recognizes the Armenian genocide in 2015.

Plan Advocate: French President Francois Hollande. Publically called out Turkey’s genocide, and now it seems Turkey may be ready to start listening

Naira Hayrumyuan 2014 (journalist) Armenian Genocide Recognition: Timid reaction in Turkey as world leaders speak on 1915 events 31 Jan 2014 <http://www.armenianow.com/genocide/51687/armenia_genocide_turkey_statements_assad_hollande_ocalan>

The second unprecedented statement was made by French President Francois Hollande in Ankara. During a joint press conference with Turkish President Abdullah Gul earlier this week Hollande essentially reiterated that France has long recognized the genocide and urged Turkey to “uncover history” rather than deny it. The senior Turkish officials sitting in the front rows during the press conference could only exchange puzzled glances. A letter of Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan, who is serving a life sentence in a Turkish prison, was published recently. Ocalan for the first time described the events of 1915 as genocide and said that now the Kurds are fighting not only for themselves but also for the Armenians and other peoples who were subjected to genocide. He said that he always had brotherly feelings towards Armenians. The recognition of the Armenian genocide by politicians of a wide range shows that the international community not only itself is preparing for the 100th anniversary of the genocide in 2015, but is also preparing the Turks for that. Turkey apparently is also ready, judging by the fact that these high-profile statements did not elicit official reactions.

DISAD RESPONSES

“Turkish economic boycott” – Response: Didn’t happen when France recognized the genocide

Colin Tatz 2013. (ANU Visiting Fellow, Politics and International Relations at Australian National University) 19 Dec 2013 Turkey, the Armenian genocide and the politics of memory <http://theconversation.com/turkey-the-armenian-genocide-and-the-politics-of-memory-20747> (ellipses in original)

France’s parliament not only recognised the genocide, but under former president Nicolas Sarkozy, denial of the Jewish and Armenian genocides was criminalised. Turkish prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan [attacked](http://www.france24.com/en/20120124-turkish-pm-erdogan-hits-out-racist-french-genocide-bill-france-senate) the statute as a “discriminatory, racist” bill, and a: *…grave, unacceptable and historic mistake…which denigrates Turkish history.* That bill was declared unconstitutional in February 2012, though current French president Francois Hollande asserts he will re-introduce the legislation. When France officially recognised the genocide in 1998, Turkish sanctions were threatened. In 2012, France retained its position yet [bilateral trade](http://www.economy.gov.tr/index.cfm?sayfa=countriesandregions&country=FR&region=8) with Turkey was worth US$13.5 billion.

“Lose Turkey as an ally” – Response: Non-unique. Turkey is already pursuing an independent foreign policy; the alliance is already unreliable

Dr. Ted Galen Carpenter 2012. (Ph.D. in U.S. diplomatic history; senior fellow of foreign policy studies at The Cato Institute) 20 Jan 2012 The End of the U.S-Turkey Alliance? <http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/end-usturkey-alliance>

Deferring to the United States may have made sense in the bipolar strategic environment of the Cold War, when Soviet power and intentions appeared to pose a serious threat to Turkey’s security and the United States was the only country that could provide effective protection. But the situation in the twenty-first century is much different. The possible threats are both less serious and more diffuse. Therefore, blindly following Washington’s policy lead is not only unnecessary, it could be counterproductive to Turkey’s interests. Turkey is not the only mid-size regional power that seems to have reached that conclusion. One sees manifestations of similar behavior on the part of such countries as Brazil and Indonesia. The policies of all three countries appear to reflect a drive for the twin goals of greater policy independence and greater prestige. Without the existence of a mutual, great-power security threat to keep allies in line, Washington will find the kinds of policy deviations that Ankara is exhibiting to be more and more the norm. The bottom line is that Turkey is likely to be a somewhat unpredictable, independent regional power rather than a reliable ally of the United States in future years — notwithstanding the boilerplate professions of solidarity coming from the Turkish embassy and the U.S. State Department.

“Lose alliance with Turkey” – Response: Non-unique. Already huge gap between US/Turkey on foreign policy goals

Dr. Ted Galen Carpenter 2012. (Ph.D. in U.S. diplomatic history; senior fellow of foreign policy studies at The Cato Institute) 20 Jan 2012 The End of the U.S-Turkey Alliance? <http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/end-usturkey-alliance>

The gap between U.S. and Turkish goals regarding Iraq has become a chasm in the years since Saddam Hussein’s ouster. Both civilian and military Turkish leaders view the autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq as a political magnet for Turkey’s own Kurdish population and, therefore, as a potential threat to the unity of the Turkish state. Disagreements about policy in Iraq have served as a catalyst for a deepening chill in overall Turkish-U.S. relations. There are other manifestations of estrangement between the two countries. Ankara seems to be de-emphasizing ties with its traditional NATO allies, including the United States, and is placing a priority on strengthening links with Muslim countries. There are several developments over the past four or five years that highlight that policy pivot. The shift is perhaps most evident with respect to policy toward Iran. Ankara and Washington are on rather different pages about how to deal with Tehran’s nuclear program. The Turkish government is especially wary of ever-deepening economic sanctions without the United States also providing opportunities for more constructive dialogue. Although Iran’s continuing intransigence has caused the once-promising rapprochement between Ankara and Tehran to fade over the past year, the Erdogan government remains highly critical of the U.S./NATO policy of all sticks and no carrots toward Iran.