

Aim #24: Why & How did the genocide of Armenians occur during WWI?



Genocide

The New York Times

New York Times headlines of 1915. In 1915 alone, the New York Times published 145 articles on the Armenian Genocide. The coverage stressed that what was happening to the Armenians was "government planned," "systematic" "race extermination." (Left to right: October 4, October 7, and December 15, 1915.)

800,000 ARMENIANS COUNTED DESTROYED
 Viscount Bryce Tells House of Lords That Is the Probable Number of Turks' Victims.

10,000 DROWNED AT ONCE
 Peers Are Told How Entire Christian Population of Trebizond Was Wiped Out.

MILLION ARMENIANS KILLED OR IN EXILE
 American Committee on Relief Says Victims of Turks Are Steadily Increasing.

POLICY OF EXTERMINATION
 More Atrocities Detailed in Support of Charge That Turkey is Acting Deliberately.

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.

The New York Times

TURKS ARE EVICTING NATIVE CHRISTIANS
 Greeks and Armenians Driven From Homes and Converted by the Sword, Assert Americans.

TURKS HARD PRESSED IN TURKISH ARMENIA
 Russians Attacking 30,000 East of Bitlis—More Armenian Massacres.

TURKS DEPOPULATE TOWNS OF ARMENIA
 Traveler Reports Christians of Great Territory Have Been Driven from Homes.

REPORT TURKS SHOT WOMEN AND CHILDREN
 Nine Thousand Armenians Massacred and Thrown Into Tigris, Socialist Committee Hears.

BURN 1,000 ARMENIANS.
 Turks Lock Them in a Wooden Building and Then Apply the Torch.

MISSION BOARD TOLD OF TURKISH HORRORS
 Correspondents Confirm Reports of the Wiping Out of Armenians.

SCATTERED OVER EMPIRE
 Christian Cities Cease to Exist as Such and Inhabitants Are Driven Far from Home.

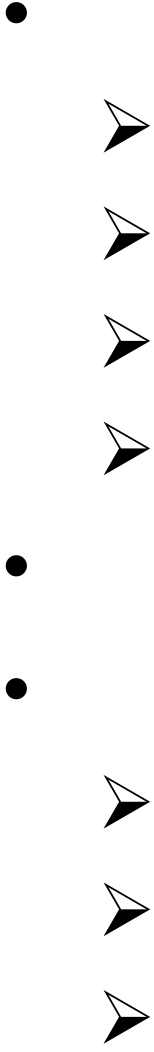
THE NEW YORK TIMES INTERNATIONAL FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005

Popular Turkish Novelist on Trial For Speaking of Armenian Genocide

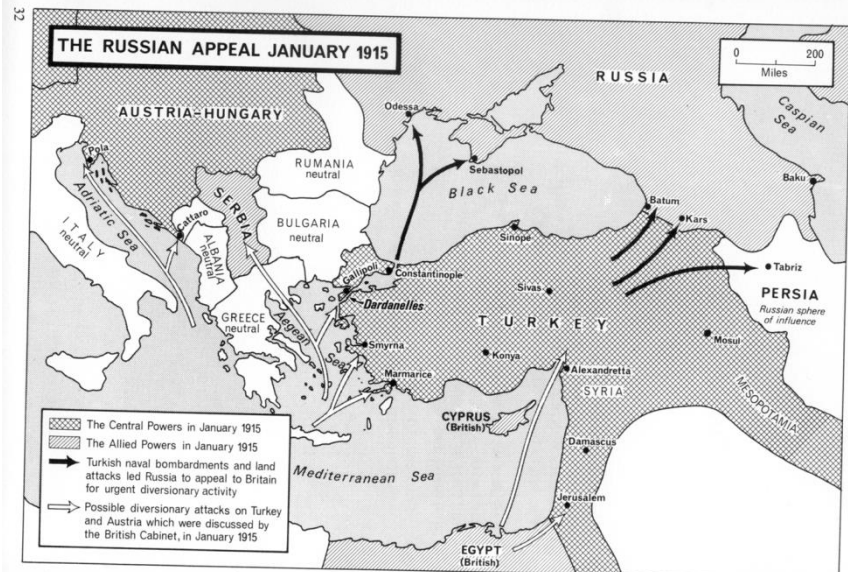
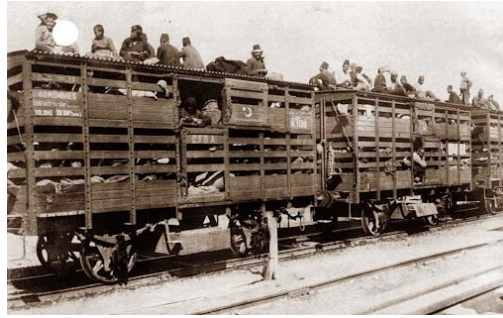
ANKARA, Turkey, Dec. 15 (Reuters) — Turkey's best-selling novelist...



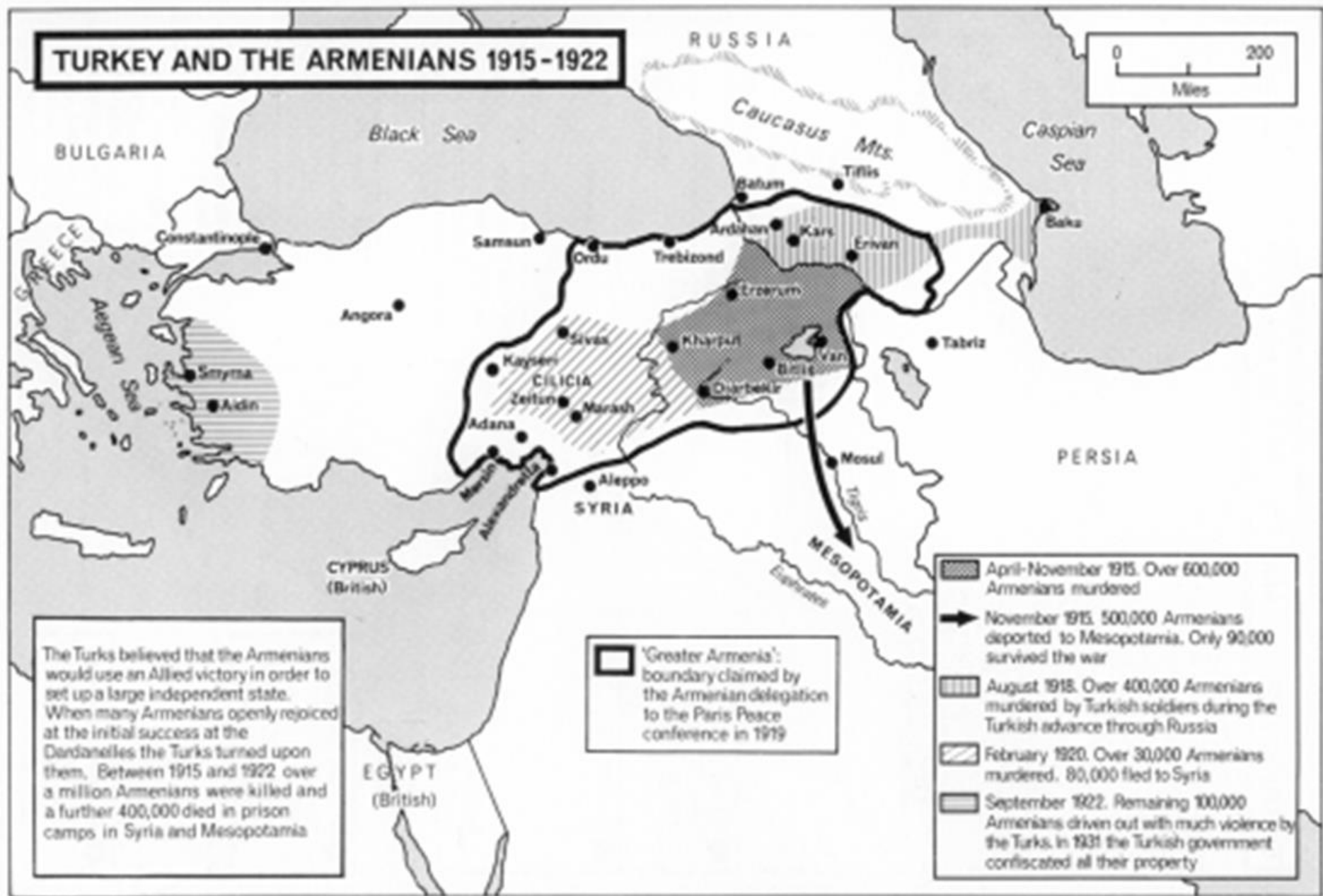
Treatment Pre-WWI



Treatment During & Post-WWI



TURKEY AND THE ARMENIANS 1915-1922



"It was knowingly and lightheartedly that Genghis Khan sent thousands of women and children to their deaths. History sees in him only the founder of a state.... The aim of war is not to reach definite lines but to annihilate the enemy physically. It is by this means that we shall obtain the vital living space that we need. Who today still speaks of the massacre of the Armenians?"

- Author?, August 1939

Armenian Genocide:

April marks the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. However, the current Turkish government refuses to acknowledge the event, and denies the genocide occurred. It is currently illegal in Turkey to mention the event.



"Box on the Ear"

Turkish Sultan Abdul Hamid said, "I will soon settle those Armenians. I will give them a box on the ear which will make them... relinquish their revolutionary ambitions."

1890

1895

1900

1905

1908

1915

1920

Casualties

Pre-war: 2 million Armenians
By 1922: less than 400,000

Armenian Massacre

Turkish soldiers sack villages and cities and massacre thousands of Armenians.

Young Turks

A group of reformers called "Young Turks" overthrow the Sultan and reform the government. However their purpose was to "Turkify" the country.

Turkey enters WWI

Turkey enters the War alongside Germany and Austria-Hungary. The Armenians start to aid Russia in the fight against Turkey in the Caucasus region.

Genocide Begins

The Turkish government starts the systemic killing. Armenians are forced on death marches through the Mesopotamian desert until they drop dead. The Young Turks start forming "killing squads," who drown, crucify and burn the Armenians.

WWI

Genocide

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

ANCIENT ARMENIA

The Armenian community, one of the world's oldest civilizations, existed in a vast region of the Middle East for nearly 3,000 years. Armenia was the first country to accept Christianity as its state religion.

1299

The Ottoman Empire, ruled by Muslim Turks, is founded and invades the Armenian homeland. Armenians are now governed according to Islamic law, which demoted non-Muslims to second-class citizens by denying them basic civil rights.

1894-1896

The first Armenian massacre takes place under the rule of Ottoman Sultan Abdul-Hamid II. A total of 300,000 Armenians are killed.

1908

The Young Turks come to power and establish a new constitution, promising to improve the treatment of minorities in the Ottoman Empire.

1914

The Young Turks enter World War I on the side of Germany, adopt an ultra-nationalist ideology and set out to convert the country's minorities. The Ottoman army uses the event of war to forcibly remove the Armenian population from its homeland.

APRIL 24, 1915

This marks the beginning of the Young Turk government's campaign to eliminate Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Hundreds of Armenian political leaders, educators, writers and dignitaries are taken from their homes, jailed, tortured and murdered.

1915-1917

Originally about 2 million Armenians lived in the Ottoman Empire at this time. A total of 1.5 million Armenians were killed. The 500,000 survivors were forcibly exiled from their ancestral home in Ottoman Turkey.

1918

World War I ends and the Ottoman Empire surrenders.

PRESENT DAY

In Turkey, it is still illegal to talk about what happened to the Armenians during the genocide.

Of the estimated 11 million Armenians in the world, only about 3 million live in Armenia.

Forty-three U.S. states have recognized the Armenian Genocide either by legislation or proclamation.

SOURCES:

Armenian National Institute, Armenian Assembly of America, United Human Rights Council, Armenian National Committee of America, CIA The World Factbook

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 1915-1939

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT CONCEDES VAST NUMBERS OF ARMENIANS WERE KILLED BETWEEN 1915-1923, BUT THEY DENY THERE WAS EVER A SYSTEMATIC PLAN TO WIPE THEM OUT. HERE IN THE US, 43 STATES HAVE PASSED RESOLUTIONS RECOGNIZING THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ARMENIANS, WAS GENOCIDE.



TALAT PASHA
WAS 1/3 OF THE PASHA TRIO AND RULED THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR. HE WAS ALSO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE.

1915 MARCH

12th Mass arrests of Armenians are carried out in Deriyol and a public proclamation is made that those arrested would be sent to work on road construction near Aleppo. They are never heard of again.

19th 6 Armenian soldiers from the town of Gazur are publicly hanged in Sivas to frighten the Armenian population.

31st Deportation of Armenians from Zetun begins. Some of the inhabitants are sent to the Pomis Desert in central Anatsolia. The rest are sent to Der-el-Zor in the Syrian Desert.

19th To date 200,000 Armenians had been slain in Aleppo Province another 200,000 Armenian deportees are reported in transit to the desert.

2nd 4,750 Armenians are murdered in Jezze.

22nd / 23rd Weekly reports on the number of Armenians dead is requested. 300 Armenians are killed in a massacre at Ush. 11,000 Armenian deaths are observed in Aleppo-Karabakh.

7th By this date the number of deported Armenians still being is estimated at 360,000 minimum, and the number of Armenians dead is estimated at 600,000 minimum.

1st 600 Armenian orphan boys are Turkified in Harak.

28th A circular telegram advises that all Armenian property now belongs to the Turkish government.

11th The deportation of 25,000 Armenians from Adilshahr begins. 20,000 deportees arrive in Aleppo. Mass torture is inflicted on 500 Armenians in the prison of Adilshahr.

28th All the roads are filled with the bodies of women and children there is no time to bury them. The government-general of Ezerum Province reports of widespread looting and rape. The deportation of the Armenians of the towns of Adabab, Kizil, and Adshaman begins.

30th 3,000 Armenians from the city of Ezerum are murdered while being deported.

15th 16th 17th 12 Armenian community leaders are publicly hanged in Sivas. 3,500 Armenian men are seized in a mass arrest in Sivas Province. 1,213 Armenian men are arrested in Marsovak.

27th The vice-governor of 'Bagrat reports that 68,000 Armenians had been slain in the district.

14th From June 22 to July 22 a stream of 12 days a steady stream of bodies of massacred Armenians floats down the Euphrates River.

14th 5th 7th 10th 2,000 Armenian soldiers in the Turkish Army used as laborers are massacred near the city of Kharpuz. In October 2,000 Armenian soldiers working in their own area are killed. The male members of 600 Armenian families in Kharpuz are killed. 2,700 women are killed in a recent massacre in Harak.

28th The Commander of Aleppo's 4th Army Corps protests to the government general of Diyarbakir about the dumping of dead bodies in the Euphrates River and advises burial.

12th 180,000 Armenian refugees from Turkey who had reached Tiflis are reported to be in dire conditions.

1st The fields around the village of Memore are reported filled with several thousand corpses of starved or murdered deportees who had been traveling through.

6th A circular telegram instructs that no Armenians is to be left alive in the eastern provinces.

15th Orders are issued for the killing of Armenian priests. A circular telegram declares that the purpose of the deportations is annihilation.

29th On this date of the estimated 250,000 refugees who had reached the Caucasus, only 172,000 are reported still being, almost 83,000 having died as a result of starvation and disease.

6th 14,000 Armenians are massacred in Ras-el-Ain, while 24,000 deportees there are reported to be still alive.

14th By this date, 70,000 Armenians are reported massacred at Ras-el-Ain.

16th The New York Times reports that German Catholics had plotted the murder of massed Armenians at 1,000,000, and that they held England at fault for the great crime.

21st Regular Russian Army forces arrive in Van and begin cremating the dead bodies in the city and in the villages of the province. 15,000 dead are identified as Armenians.

19th Armenians in the Khnus region of Ezerum are massacred.

18th Until the end of April, 32,000 more Armenians are slain in the village of Van Province, including the inhabitants of remote villages.

20th The deportation of the 25,000 Armenians of Zetun is completed.

3rd 4th General robbery and arrests of Armenians are reported. Regular attacks begin on Armenian villages with increased brutality. Mass arrests and a search for weapons are carried out in Marash and Hadjin. Numerous rapes during the house searches are reported.

24th 2,000 remaining Armenians are massacred in Kara-Kilise in Turkey.

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

AUGUST

16th The fields in Balich District were reported littered with the corpses of many thousands of Armenians who had starved to death while being deported through there.

13th On this date, 10,000 Armenian deportees were reported in Harak and 150,000 deportees were diseased-wrecked and starving. A circular telegram is sent ordering the deportation of Armenian children.

JULY

MAY

JUNE

NOVEMBER

13th Doctor Schacht, a German army physician, stationed near the village of Der-el-Zor, reports counting 7,000 starved Armenian heads in Balicha District near the Euphrates River.

16th Lord Bryce remarks that Germany could stop the massacres if it ended the death. 20,000 Armenian deportees in Harak are murdered in the city of Ufa.

DECEMBER

APRIL

MAY

SEPTEMBER

JUNE



58% PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION DEAD
1,500,000 MEN, WOMEN, & CHILDREN

90% PERCENT OF LAND AND PROPERTY LOST
NEARLY ALL OF HISTORIC ARMENIA

On April 24, 1915, the Turks rounded up and murdered the Armenian intellectuals in Istanbul. Over the next eight years, over 1.5 million Armenians – more than half of all Armenians – died at the hands of the Ottoman Empire and their Turkish successors.

We demand that the world community, including the United States and especially Turkey, recognize these historic atrocities and take immediate steps toward peace, understanding, restitution and respect.



WHILE ADDRESSING HIS MILITARY COMMANDERS AT OBERSALZBURG AND THE START OF WORLD WAR I, ADOLF HITLER SPEAKS OF HIS ORDERS TO KILL WITHOUT PITY OR MERCY ALL MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN OF POLISH BIRTH OR LANGUAGE. AND CONCLUDES HIS REMARKS BY SAYING "WHO STILL TALKS NOWADAYS OF THE EXTERMINATION OF THE ARMENIANS?"



1939

13th The burning of Smyrna by the Turks occurs. Within 24 hours, 50,000 houses, 24 churches, 28 schools, 5 consulates, 7 clubs, 3 banks, and an unknown number of stores and warehouses are destroyed.

1922

5th 2,000 remaining Armenians are massacred in Kara-Kilise in Turkey.

SEPTEMBER

FEBRUARY

1920

The Armenian Genocide

By: *Sophie Celormo, Heather Mussen, Rene Anderson, Chloe Connolly and Jaelyn Hartshorn*

What Made Them Do This?

- 1894-1896- Armenians wanted independence from the Ottoman empire.
- Sultan Abd al-Hamid wanted to suppress them.
- He saw them as Christian weaklings and agents of foreign powers.
- Sultan encouraged bandits to attack Armenians.

Their Goal?

- He wanted to stop them by whatever means possible such as using old style Muslim fanaticism* and new style nationalism.

(*The Armenian Genocide Begins*) is a piece with an extreme and uncritical enthusiasm, as an evidence of politics.



April 24th of 1915 was the official starting date of the Armenian Genocide

The violence begins

- Two hundred Armenian leaders in Istanbul were arrested, exiled, and killed (Adalian).
- Between April 24th-25th, 23,405 thousand Armenians were arrested, deported or murdered ("Armenian Genocide").



What Methods were used to torture the Armenians?

- During the first year, Ottomans harassed the Armenian population, carrying out random searches for arms, causing a large amount of injuries and deaths were committed mostly with special cudgels or sticks that were fitted with the piece of iron ("The Armenian Genocide Begins").
- These massacres were significant in many ways as they were performed mostly with special sticks that were fitted with a piece of iron that allowed them to beat their victims to death (Dadlian).
- These wholesale massacres were also occasion for the abduction of children and younger women. Eyewitness accounts mention rape, physical mutilations, and the massacres of women, children, and newborn babies.
- Those who escaped were forced to struggle with severe hunger and thirst in the middle of the summer.



How Many Died?

Out of 2 million people, 1.5 million Armenians died throughout this genocide (Adalian).



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POLICY OF EXTERMINATION

More Atrocities Detailed in Bulgaria at Charge That Turkey is Acting Deliberately.

TELL OF HORRORS DONE IN ARMENIA

Signs of Death Everywhere Here That are Reported in a Thousand Parts. TURKISH FEROUS SYSTEMS A Policy of Genocide Has Been Made Against a People's Fate. INTERNETLY RECORDED. See also How Research Shows and How Turkey and the World's Reaction.

Why does Turkey refute the Armenian Genocide as a genocide even today?



1. **Controversial**
This has been a controversial topic for some countries, including Turkey ("The Armenian Genocide Begins").
2. **How many have accepted?**
First to acknowledge this, was the European Parliament in 1987 followed by the U.S. much later in 2000 (Poye-Jean).
3. **What's up with Turkey?**
As of 2014, Turkey's government has continued to deny and argue that the deportations were necessary because of Armenians being in the league with the Russians during the war ("Armenian Genocide").

How can you prevent something like this from happening again?

- People can be more accepting to each other and less violence should be used to persuade. We should question signs of discrimination from prominent leaders. We should question our own discrimination and ask if its necessary.