

GENOCIDE IN TURKEY



**"AFTER ALL WHO REMEMBERS TODAY THE
EXTERMINATION OF THE ARMENIANS"**

Adolf Hitler

GENOCIDE IN TURKEY

Compiled by:

The Union of Armenian Students
in Manchester

April 1975

APPEAL FOR JUSTICE

"The Turkish Government began and ruthlessly carried out the infamous massacre and deportaion of Armenians in Asia Minor. The clearance of the race from Asia Minor was about as complete as much as an act, on a scale so great, could well be."

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

"Since 1914 rhw Turks according to official testimony we have received, have slaughtered in cold blood one million and a half Armenians, men, women and children, and five hundred thousand Greeks without any provocation at all."

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE

(The then Prime Minister of Britain, 14.10.1922).

"I have given orders to my Death Units to exterminate without mercy or pity men, women and children belonging to the Polish speaking race. It is only in this manner that we can acquire the vital territory which we need. AFTER ALL WHO REMEMBERS TODAY THE EXTERMINATION OF THE ARMENIANS."

ADOLF HITLER - 22.8.1939

INTRODUCTION

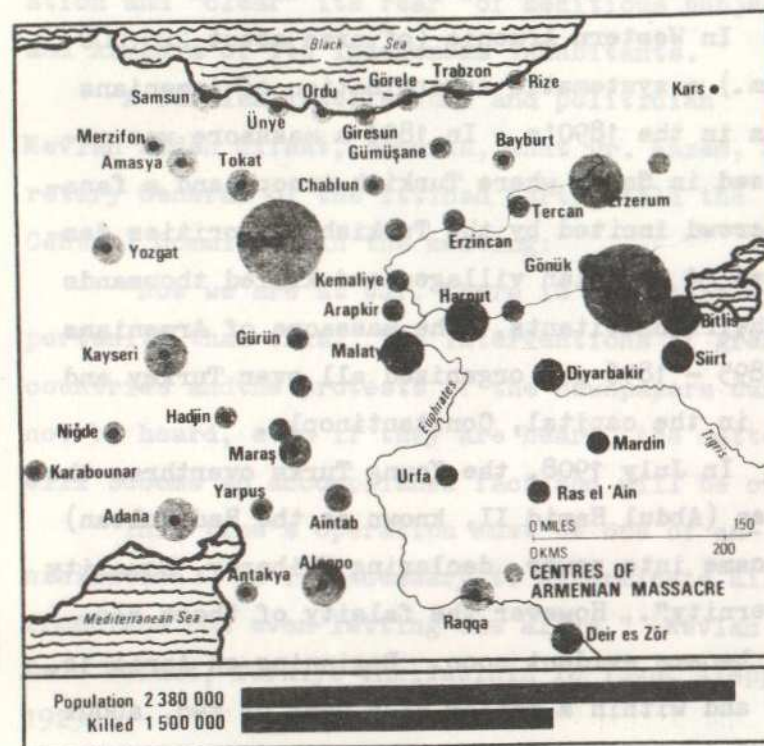
This year the Armenians of the world commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the first Genocide of the 20th Century premeditated, carefully organised and ruthlessly and cold bloodedly put into execution by the Turkish Government. The plan was meticulously carried out in 1915 resulting in the violent death of more than one million Armenians. Almost as many unfortunates found their death on the roads to exile in the arid deserts of Arabia, and in the waters of Tigris and Euphrates.

The Armenians, a Christian and relatively prosperous minority within the backward and Islamic Ottoman Empire became in 1915 the target of the first "final solution" in modern history.

Armenia, geographically speaking is the area extending from eastern Asia Minor to the Transcaucasian mountains, with a history of 3000 years. During their age-old history the Armenians went through a number of severe trials; it seemed that suffering and persecution had forever become part of their life. Even since the 5th century B.C., Armenia was subject to constant invasions. Alexander the Great, Pompey, Sassanid Persia and Arab Caliphate, Byzantium and the Seljuk Turks, came in succession to pillage the country, causing untold suffering to the people and destroying the remarkable monuments of Armenian culture.

Foreign invasions were cut short by brief spells of revival and development. The people's creative abilities, their indefatigable urge for cultural development were at work, even during the most grim periods of foreign oppression.

These oppressions and insecurity of life has led a part of the Armenian population to leave their homeland and live in Cilicia on the shore of the southern gulf of the Mediterranean in Asia Minor. Cilicia the last independent Armenian state between the 11th and 13th centuries



was occupied by the Egyptian Mameluk sultanate in 1375.

In 1827 part of Eastern Armenia, about 80 thousand sq.km., fell under Russian rule, being saved from extermination.

In Western Armenia (of area about 220,000 sq.km.) a systematic extermination of Armenians began in the 1890's. In 1894 a massacre was organised in Sasun where Turkish troops and a fanatic crowd incited by the Turkish authorities destroyed 24 Armenian villages and killed thousands of their inhabitants. The massacre of Armenians in 1895 - 1896 was organized all over Turkey and even in the capital, Constantinople.

In July 1908, the Young Turks overthrew the Sultan (Abdul Hamid II, known as the Red Sultan) and came into power, declaring "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity". However the falsity of these slogans became evident soon. Beginning on April 14, 1909 and within a matter of a week or two, about 30,000 Armenians of all ages were ruthlessly massacred.

However, all former crimes were reduced to nought as compared with the bloody nightmare that fell to the lot of the Armenians during the years

of the First World War. Having entered on the side of the Austro-German bloc, provoked and supported by German imperialism, the Turkish government decided to take advantage of the war situation and "clear" its rear "of seditious subjects" and Armenia of its indigenous inhabitants.

A Turkish intellectual and politician Mevlan Zadeh Rifaat, reports, what Dr. Nazem, Secretary General of the Ittihad party, told the Central Committee in the meeting:

"Now we are at war, there is no better opportunity than this. The interventions of great countries and the protests of the newspapers can not be heard, even if they are heard, the matter will become an accomplished fact and will be over.

This time's operation must be one of annihilation. It is necessary to exterminate all Armenians not even letting one alive." (Mevlan Zade Rifaat, Turkiye Inkilabinin Ic Yuzu, Aleppo, 1929).

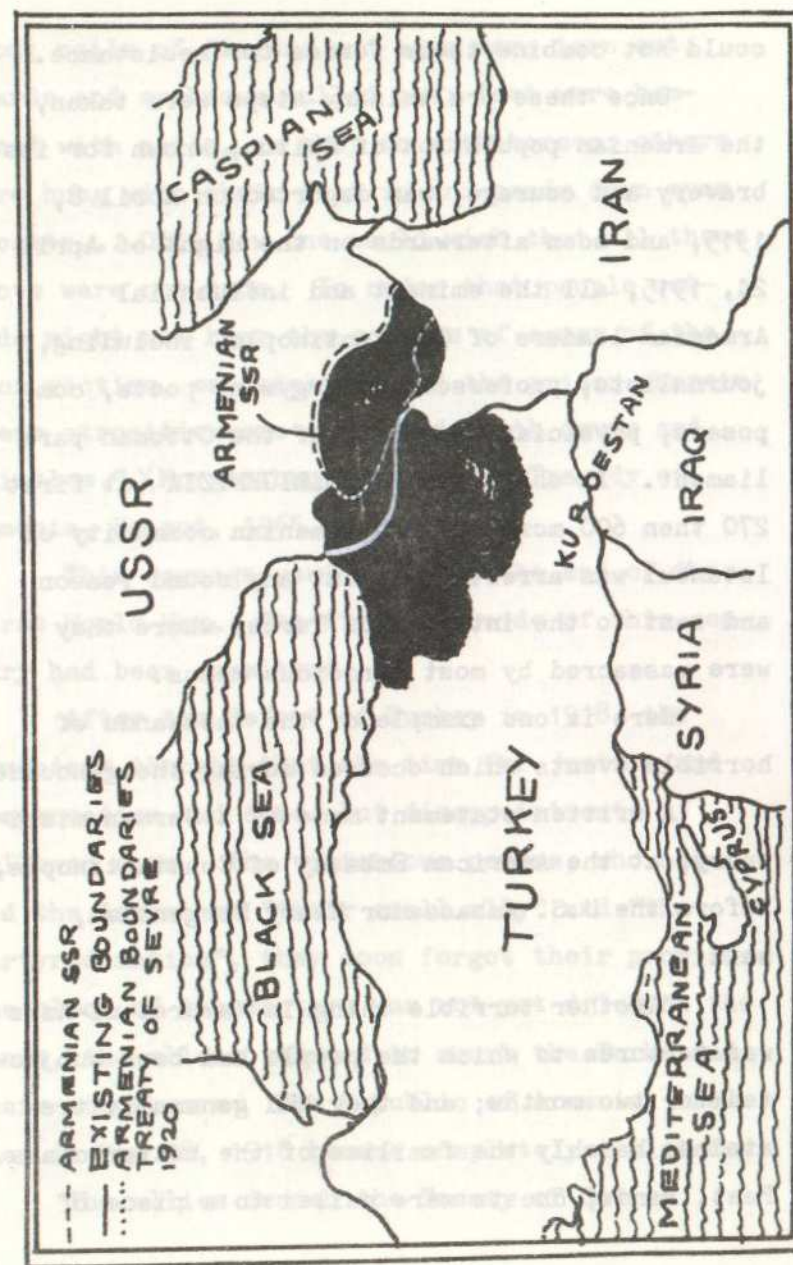
Guided by the racialist theory of Pan-Turkism, the government of the Young Turks began in April 1915, the massacre and deportation of the Armenian population of Western Armenia. Reactionary Turkish elements continued by sys-

tematic extermination and persecution of the Armenians.

Minister of the Interior, Talaat cabled to the government of Aleppo saying: "It was first communicated to you that the government, by the order of the Jamiet, had decided to destroy completely all the Armenians living in Turkey.... An end must be put to their existence, however criminal the measures taken may be, and no regard must be paid to either age, or sex nor to conscientious scruples. (The Memoires of Naim, London, 1920, p.64).

At first the Armenian men (ages 18 to 45), had been drafted in the Ottoman army, leaving women, children and old men back at home.

Second, the remaining Armenian populace was disarmed of self-defensive weapons. Third, by heavy taxation the Armenian communities were economically ruined. Forth, under the pretext of war, the Armenian villages and towns were isolated from one another and all communication was broken between the provinces and Constantinople. This was done so that Armenians could not know what was being prepared for them, second, they would ignore each other's fate and third, they



could not combine their forces for resistance.

Once these preliminary steps were taken, the Armenian population of Zeitun, known for its bravery and courage, was deported on April 8, 1915, and soon afterwards on the night of April 24, 1915, all the eminent and influential Armenian leaders of Constantinople, including, journalists, professors, clergyman, poets, composers, physicians, members of the Ottoman parliament. In short, the INTELLIGENTZIA (at first 270 then 600 more) of the Armenian community of Istanbul was arrested without any sound reason and sent to the interior of Turkey where they were massacred by most atrocious means.

Here is one example of the thousands of horrible events which occurred during the genocide.

A written statement made by a German missionary, at the American Embassy of Constantinople, before the U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, said:

"Another terrible thing in Mamuret-ul-Aziz was tortures to which the people had been subjected for two months; and they had generally treated so harshly the families of the better class. Feet, hands, chests were nailed to a piece of

wood; nails of fingers and toes were torn out; beards and eyebrows pulled out; feet were hampered with nails, as they do with horses; others were hung with their feet up and heads down over closets....Oh! How one would wish that all these facts were not true. In order that people outside might not hear the screams of agony of the poor victims, men stood around the prison wherein these atrocities were committed, with drums and whistles." (Morgenthau, Henry, The Tragedy of Armenia, Beirut, 1965, p.11).

This carnage went on until the end of the First World War. The first genocide of this century had been committed.

After the defeat of Turkey in 1918, the Armenians thought that the time for justice and compensation had come, but disappointment followed soon. The victorious powers, who called the Armenians "their small ally" and "the martyred nation", they soon forgot their promises. The blood of the martyrs was not yet dried on the sands, the allies started to court the Turks and their successors. The Republic of Armenia, created in May 28, 1918 became completely isolated.

The allies denied the Treaty of Sevres

(1920 Aug. 10, see map on page 4) which they had signed, and they had accepted the creation and the establishment of an independent Armenia. They had promised to return the territories that were occupied by the Turks, to their real masters. They were under obligation to compensate the immense human and material losses to the Armenians.

However that treaty remained on paper. The Kemalist Turks, with their slogan "Turkey for the Turks", took advantage of the political rivalries between the allies, took advantage of the situation and attacked the Republic of Armenia on Aug. 1920. Their purpose was the creation of a Pan-Turkist empire extending from the Aegean sea on the West to Central Asia, to include all other Turkic nations of Azerbaijan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Kirkizistan and Kazakstan. Armenia, was an obstacle.

Thus the only hope of the Armenians for their existence was to become Soviet. So on Nov. 29, 1920, a part of Eastern Armenia became one of the 15 Soviet Socialist Republics of the USSR, with an area of 11,500 sq. miles or 1/10 of the total Armenian territories, agreed upon by the treaty of Sevres. The latter was transferred from

one congress to another; from Sevres to London and to Lausanne where it was finally buried in the parcel of papers.

The first genocide of history remained unpunished and it became an encouragement for further exterminations of human masses and new barbarous acts were committed in various parts of our planet.

"There are some who claim that the basic character of the Turk has changed for better. There is evidence to refute the contention and to show that the Turk of today is not different from the Turk of 1915, that the so-called democratic state established by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk with its basic objective of Pan-Turanism remains the same."

The incident of September 6, 1955, in Istanbul, cannot be dismissed. Frederick Sondon, Jr. writes in the May, 1956 issue of the Readers Digest: "In six terrible hours, the frenzied Turkish crowds wrecked 2000 houses, 4,000 shops, burned 29 churches to the ground and badly damaged 31 others. Before it was over, 100,000 people were made jobless." And all that was done when Turkey was a respectable member of the United Nations. What justification was offered by the Turks for this demonic act? Greek terrorists had

defiled Ataturk's birthplace, was their excuse. Greeks and Armenians had to be taught a lesson. And the Turkish Yeni Gazette of January 25, 1967 under the pen of Hikmet Bill wrote: let Armenians keep in mind that the Armenians of Istanbul, are hostages in the hands of Turks. Let them forget the past, if not, not a single Armenian will live in Istanbul. It is true now it is not easy to commit genocide again, but we can make the atmosphere unbreathable for the Armenians. (Bil Hikmet, "Bugun genosid nasil oluyor?", Yeni Gazette, Istanbul January 25, 1967.

These facts are only few of the many other events showing that democracy does not exist in Turkey. A military regime operates behind a facade of democracy which for too long has either fooled foreign governments or has provided the excuse for supporting an associate member of the EEC, a member of NATO and CENTO. The best example showing the quality of Turkish democracy and civilization is the partition of CYPRUS by the Turkish "peace-making" military force in 1974 and extermination of 200,000 Greek Cypriots. Death, destruction, rape and looting by the Turks were the order of the day.

There is no forgetfulness for just cases.

Armenians, now scattered by the Turks in the four corners of the world, or in Soviet Armenia, desire peace, but a peace based on justice. The guilt of Turkey is clear, Sir W. Churchill in his The Aftermath wrote: "The Turkish government began and ruthlessly carried out the infamous massacre and deportation of Armenians in Asia Minor." (Churchill, Winston, The Aftermath, London, p.430).

We would like to see the modern Turks: government, intellectuals, students and people, have the moral virtue and courage to condemn these massacres, assume the guilt for it and do territorial and financial reparations for losses suffered by Armenians. The occupied Armenian lands are desolate now, the number of people living on it are very limited and the land has become arid. We want Turks to say like the great German Statesman Konrad Adenauer said, alluding to the Nazi genocide.

"The crimes were committed by the regime which was then in power and which exercised its domination on the German people - a regime whose establishment was favoured or tolerated by the unforgivable blindness of one section of this people.

That is why the German people as a whole is

responsible. They ought to be made conscious of this responsibility. It is not only the duty of each one to repair and to expiate, but also the duty of the entire German people to make sure that the state will never again commit such crimes."

(Adenauer, Konrad, statement published in Paris-Match 13, 1965).

Let Turks heed the advice of Bohdan Gebarski, a Polish historian, who in an open letter addressed to his Turkish Friend wrote in 1961:

"I am neither a Turk nor Armenian but I know that during this era of ours of self-obtained freedom by the persecuted and tortured peoples, the Armenian Question also will undoubtedly arise. It will be more honourable for you if you yourselves become the judges instead of remaining the condemned. I can't understand your indifference towards a crime, which for 42 years, has weighed on your people." (Gebarski, Bohdan, A letter to my Turkish Friend, published in "kierunki" November 26, 1961).

Armenians declare today: There are a thousand and one difficulties on our path to reach our goal but let people know that we shall overcome, if not now, after a decade, a century or a millenium if necessary but we shall overcome! FOR JUSTICE shall prevail.

The Union of Armenian Students in Manchester
229 Upper Brook Street,
MANCHESTER.