

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

TURKISH METHODOLOGY *Deportation*

Demonization and Authorization: *Preparation for Both the Genocide and its Denial*
(U.S. State Department Translation, May, 1915)

Official Proclamation of the Young Turks

Our Armenian fellow countrymen, who form one of the Ottoman racial elements, having taken up with a lot of false ideas of a nature to disturb the public order, as the result of foreign instigations for many years past, and because of the fact that they have brought about bloody happenings and have attempted to destroy the peace and security of the Ottoman state, of their fellow countrymen, as well as their own safety and interests have to be sent away to places which have been prepared in the interior vilayets, and a literal obedience to the following orders, in a categorical manner, is accordingly enjoined upon all Ottomans:

1. With the exception of the sick, all Armenians are obliged to leave, within five days from the date of this proclamation, and by villages or quarters, under the escort of the gendarmery.
2. Although they are free to carry with them on their journey the articles of their movable property which they desire, they are forbidden to sell their lands and their extra effects, or to leave them here and there with other people.
3. To assure their comfort during the journey, khans and suitable buildings have been prepared, and everything has been done for their safe arrival at their places of temporary residence, without their being subjected to any kind of attack or affronts.
4. The guards will use their weapons against those who make any attempt to attack or affront the life, honor, and property of one or of a number of Armenians.
5. Since the Armenians are obliged to submit to this decision of the Government, if some of them attempt to use arms against the soldiers or gendarmes, arms shall be employed only against those who use force, and they shall be captured dead or alive.
6. As the Armenians are not allowed to carry any firearms or cutting weapons, they shall deliver to the authorities every sort of arms, revolvers, daggers, bombs, etc., which they have concealed in their places of residence or elsewhere.
7. The escorts of soldiers and gendarmes are required and are authorized to use their weapons against and to kill persons who shall try to attack or to damage Armenians in villages, in city quarters, or on the roads for the purpose of robbery or other injury.
8. Those who owe money to the Ottoman Bank may deposit in its warehouses goods up to the amount of their indebtedness.
9. Large and small animals that are impossible to carry along shall be bought in the name of the army.
10. On the road the vilayet, leva, kaza and nahieh officials shall render possible assistance to the Armenians.



Caravans to oblivion

"The manner in which the deportation was carried out by the [Turkish] government, the police officials and their organs, was a typical example of beastly brutality on the part of all the participating Turks."

Colonel Stange, *Dispatched to Turkey by the German Foreign Ministry, Comm., 8th Div., operating on the Russian border.*

May, 1915

The Temporary Law of Deportation is approved by the Ottoman Parliament, months after depopulation of the Armenian towns and villages.

June, 1915

The 86th Cavalry Brigade and the 2nd Reserve Cavalry Division of the Turkish Army participate in the slaughter of Armenian civilians.

July, 1915

The governor-general of Kharput province informs the Interior Ministry that roads are filled with the bodies of women and children, and time cannot be found to bury them.

August, 1915

US Ambassador Morgenthau reports that Talaat told him that the Ittihad Committee had carefully considered in all its details the matter of destroying the Armenians.

Instructions are sent out to the Ittihad committees to liquidate the 'abandoned goods' of the Armenians.

First convoys of survivors arrive in Aleppo.

September, 1915

On the fifty-third day of the Armenian resistance to Turkish killings in Musa Dagh, 4,058 survivors are rescued by English and French warships.

The **Law on Abandoned Goods** is ratified by the Ottoman Senate. A decree states that all Armenian assets now belong to the Turkish government.

October, 1915

Turkish Interior Ministry advises against opening new orphanages and prolonging the lives of "lost" Armenian children.

In the British House of Lords a general discussion of the Armenian situation takes place. Lord Bryce, Lord Crewe, and Lord Cromer condemn Turkish barbarities.

November, 1915

In response to international outrage and one year after initiating the atrocities, the Committee of Union and Progress orders the governors to create and forward reports to the Interior Ministry depicting Armenians as "traitors." Sir Robert Cecil protests the Turkish charges that the killings were a response to Armenian treachery or revolt.

A circulated telegram instructs that no Armenian is to be left alive in the eastern provinces.

January, 1916

Widespread reporting of Turkish atrocities leads to denials by Turkish authorities. A French translation of a book commissioned by Talaat's office charging the Armenians with treason and revolution is published.

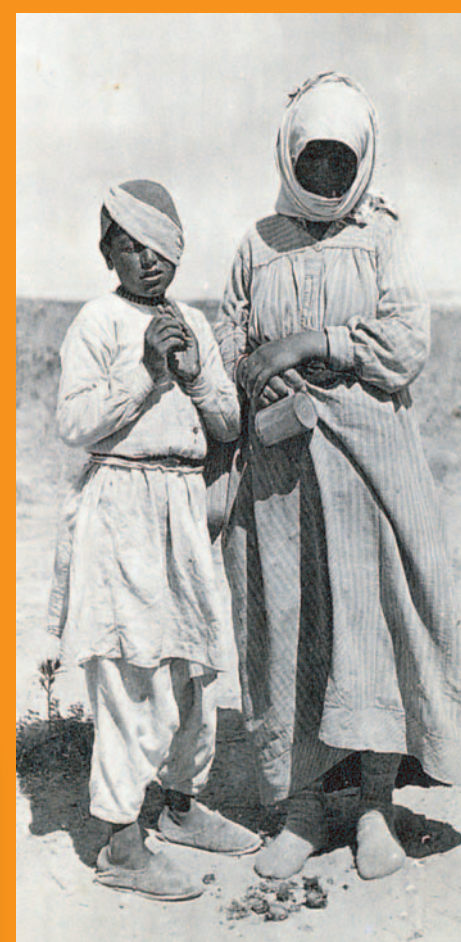
February, 1916

According to Lord Bryce, 486,000 Armenian deportees are still living and in dire need.



Armenian Deportations as seen through the window of the American Consul in Harput

Refugees crossing Euphrates river.



An Armenian refugee woman whom we picked up on the road. And brought into Aleppo with us.

June 30, 1915

"I have the honor to report to the Embassy about one of the severest measures ever taken by any government and one of the greatest tragedies in all history. . . . Practically, every male Armenian of any consequence at all here has been arrested and put in prison. . . . Another method was found, however, to destroy the Armenian race. This is no less than the deportation of the entire Armenian population, not only from the Vilayet, but, I understand, from all six Vilayets comprising Armenia. . . . The full meaning of such an order can scarcely be imagined by those who are not familiar with the nature of this peculiar region. A massacre, however horrible the word may sound, would be humane in comparison with it."

Leslie A. Davis,
American Consul, Maamuret-Al Aziz (Harput)

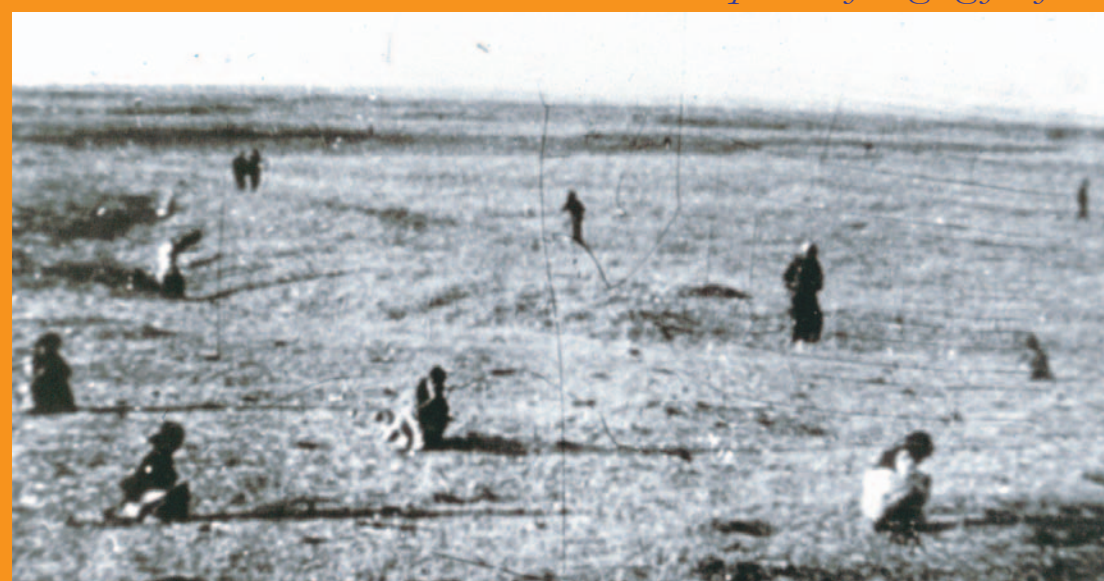


Deportees from Harput

"It was not to my mind the deportation [of the Armenians] which was objectionable but the horrible brutality which attended its execution. It is one of the blackest pages in the history of this war, and I think that we were fully justified in intervening."

US Secretary of State, **Robert Lansing**,
In a letter addressed to President W. Wilson, November 21, 1916.

Deportees foraging for food



"Two Turkish officials appeared in Urfa. The rumor was that they hurried out in order to drive forward the extermination of the Armenian people with all their might, and they had the sanction of the highest [governmental] authority for doing so."

Jakob "Papa" Kunzler,
Swiss Missionary.