

The Armenian Genocide: Human Rights and Intervention in the “First Genocide of the 20th Century”

Answer Key

Main Sources:

A Shameful Act, by Turkish historian Taner Akçam

The Burning Tigris, by Armenian-American writer Peter Balakian

Survivors: An Oral History of the Armenian Genocide, Donald e. Miller and Loran Touryan Miller

The Armenian Genocide: History, Politics, Ethics, edited by Richard G. Hovannisian

What is Genocide?

Article II of the United Nation's “Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide:”

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

From December 9, 1948.

The Ottoman Context:

- 1) The Ottoman Empire was a multi-ethnic, multi-**confessional** empire under the leadership of the Ottoman Sultan who came from the house of Osman and which ruled through Islamic *sharia* law, **Kanun** law decreed by the sultan, and laws of convention.
- 2) While scholars debate its precise nature and time of establishment the **Millet** system organized non-Muslim minority groups religiously for purposes of government such as tax collection.
- 3) In Europe during the 19th century, the Ottoman Empire was derogatorily known as “The **Sick Man of Europe**” and hoped to parcel up the land between powers like the British Empire, France, and Russia.
- 4) Sultan Abdülhamid II, sometimes called in Europe the “**Bloody or Red**” Sultan, gave his name to the so-called “Hamidian” massacres of Armenians in 1894-1896.

The Committee of Union and Progress wing of the Young Turks

- 5) The three main “ideological supports” considered during the Late Ottoman Empire were **Ottomanism, Islamism** and **Turkism**.
- 6) Ziya Gökalp was the pen name of an important CUP thinker who espoused **Pan Turkism**.
- 7) The Committee of Union and Progress came to power on July 23, **1908**.
- 8) Armenians were killed in large numbers in the city of **Adana** in 1909 following the political confusion caused by the “Countercoup” of Sultan Abdülhamid II.
- 8) Eventually, after a military coup in 1913, the CUP was dominated by the “triumvirate” of Enver, Jemal (Cemal) and **Talat** Bey, or later, Pasha.
- 9) The Ottoman Empire entered World War I on the side of the **Central** Powers, which included the German Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

