

Armenia



650 B.C. - An ally of Troy in the Iliad

301 A.D. - The first nation to have Christianity as its official state religion

10th Century - The capital city, Ani – “the city of a thousand and one churches”

11th Century - Became part of the Ottoman Empire

Armenian Nationalism

- 1890's need for reform, the right to vote, end the Christian tax levied by the Turks
- 1894-1896 Ottoman Sultan responded by widespread pogroms, killing over 100,000
- 1913 The Young Turks began the plan for "Turan" – the great and eternal land.
- Christian Armenians branded as infidels and had to be destroyed!

Differences between Armenians and Turks

Armenians

- * Society of professionals, businessmen, lawyers, doctors, skilled craftsmen.
- * Open to new ideas from the West
- * Education very important

Turks

- * Illiterate peasants and workers
- * “Turanism” – the Turkish equivalent of Islamic Fundamentalism
- * Isolationism
- * Little or no emphasis on education

1914 - World War I begins, a solution to the “Armenian Question”

- Turkey joins Triple Alliance
- Turks disarm Armenian troops in their army
- Armenian soldiers used as human pack animals for Turkish army
- April 24, 1915
300 Armenian leaders and dignitaries rounded up, sent to jail, tortured, hung or shot
- Mass arrests of Armenian men, tied together by rope, taken out of towns and executed
- Women, children and elderly taken on death marches into the Syrian Desert, stripped bare, mutilated, buried alive or just left to die
- Armenian boys forced to convert to Islam

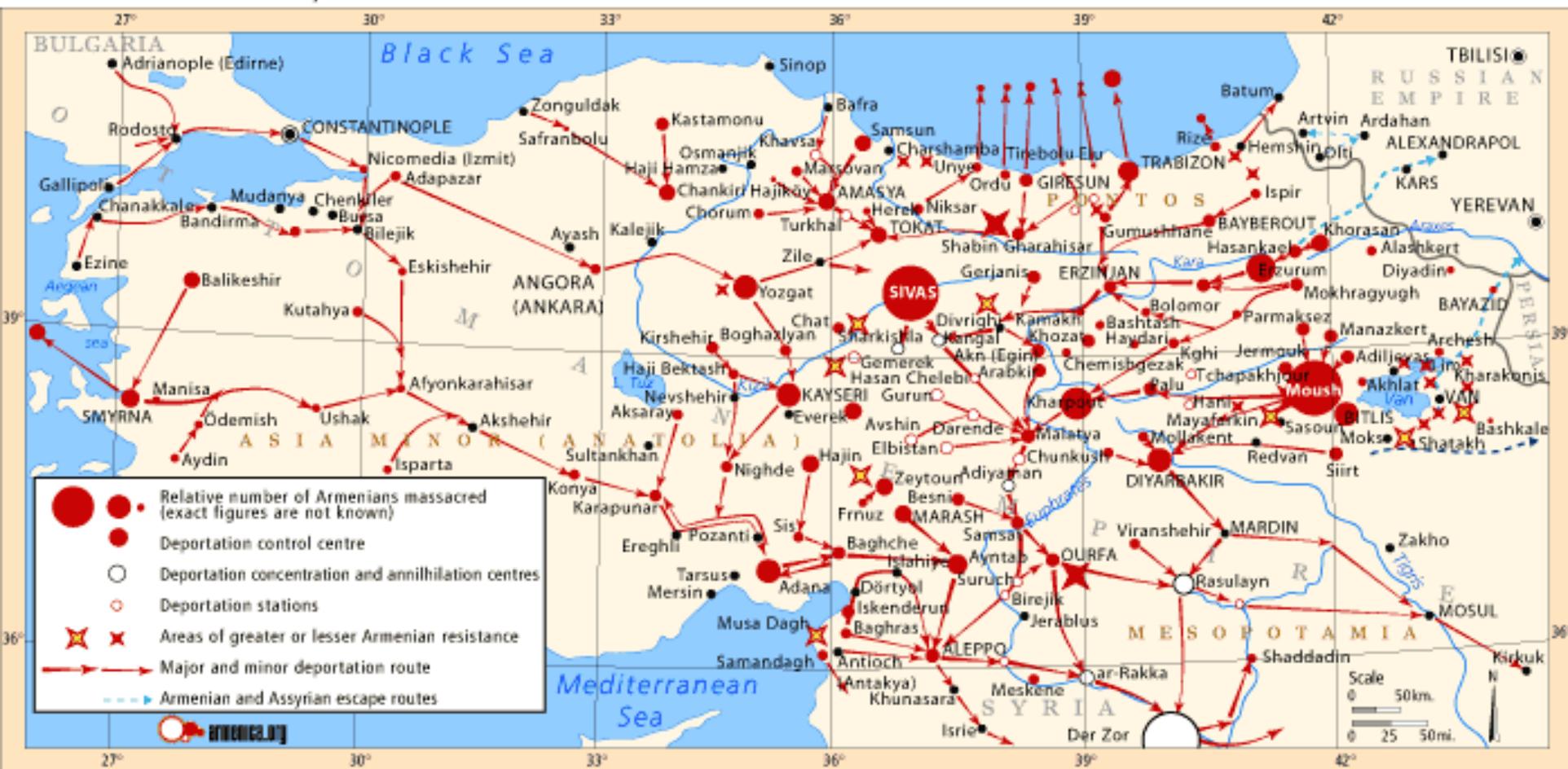


The world becomes aware

- The Triple Entente warns Turkey that they will hold their leaders responsible for this genocide and they must stop the killings immediately.
- The warning has no effect, the killings continue

- 1916 Russia advances into Turkey, some 500,000 Armenians liberated and move into Russia.
- 1917 Russia pulls out of World War I
- 1918 Turkey counter-attacks and kills over 100,000 Armenians

Armenian Genocide, 1915



World War I ends

- U.S. President Wilson wants Armenia as a protectorate.
- U.S. Congress rejects his request.
- August 10, 1920
Woodrow Wilson has the Treaty of Sevres signed. Armenia now an independent state within its old borders



It is still not over!

- In the late 1920's Turkish nationalism again rises up. The new leader, Mustafa Kemal refuses to accept the treaty.
- Turks demolish all remnants of Armenian culture
- All traces of a 3,000 year old civilization disappear
- No Allied power comes to the aid of the Armenian Republic and it collapses.

Turkish Genocide of the Armenians 1914-1922

	<u>Population in 1914</u>	<u>Population in 1922</u>
Western Armenia	1,185,000	112,800
Other Areas in Turkey	948,190	275,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	2,133,190	387,800

- Henry Morgenthau Sr., the **neutral American ambassador** to the Ottoman Empire, sent a cable to the U.S. State Department in 1915: "...it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion."
- Ambassador to Turkey, Abram Elkus, cabled the U.S. State Department in 1916 that the Young Turks were continuing an **"... unchecked policy of extermination through starvation, exhaustion, and brutality of treatment hardly surpassed even in Turkish history."**
- Only one Turkish government, that of Damad Ferit Pasha, has ever recognized the Armenian genocide. His Turkish government held war crimes trials and condemned to death the major leaders responsible.

German consuls stationed in Turkey, including Vice Consul Max Erwin von Scheubner-Richner of Erzerum [Erzurum] who was Adolf Hitler's chief political advisor in the 1920s, were eyewitnesses.

Hitler said to his generals on the eve of sending his Death's Heads units into Poland, "Go, kill without mercy . . . who today remembers the annihilation of the Armenians."

- **The European Parliament voted to recognize the Armenian Genocide on June 18, 1987.**
- **President George Bush Sr. issued a news release in 1990 calling on all Americans to join with Armenians on April 24 in commemorating "the more than a million Armenian people who were victims."**
- **President Clinton issued a news release on April 24, 1994, to commemorate the "tragedy" that befell the Armenians in 1915.**
- **The Russian Duma (the lower house of the bicameral Russian legislature) vote on April 20, 1994, to recognize the Armenian Genocide.**
- **Israel officially condemned the Armenian Genocide as Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin proclaimed on the floor of the Knesset (the Israeli legislature), on April 27, 1994, in answer to the claims of the Turkish Ambassador, that "It was not war. It was most certainly massacre and genocide, something the world must remember."**

Armenia



Thank you Arlene for teaching me and giving me the strength to teach those who do not know what took place. Happy April 24th!