

NAME:

BLOCK:

- CENTRAL HISTORICAL QUESTION(S) -

HOW & WHY DID THE OTTOMAN-TURKS SCAPEGOAT THE ARMENIANS?
WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TOTAL WAR & GENOCIDE?

FEATURED BELOW: poster advocating for Turkish recognition of Armenian genocide.



LESSON OBJECTIVE(S)

- 1.) **EXPLAIN** the relationship between Total War and Genocide
- 2.) **EVALUATE** evidence supporting the historical event of the Armenian genocide

HISTORIAN / SCHOLAR DISCUSSION

DIRECTIONS: As you watch the video of the historians & scholars, (at 55:55) discussing the issue of whether or not the Armenian massacres qualify as moments of genocide, take notes on each side and be prepared to discuss the reasons as to why one would discount the massacres as genocide and why one would argue that the massacres were, indeed, actions of genocide.

POINTS FOR GENOCIDE	POINTS AGAINST GENOCIDE
<p><i>What are the flaws in the argument against the scholars who argue against the idea that the Armenian massacres are examples of genocide?</i></p>	

HOMework

MINI-DBQ:

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

PART III: GENOCIDE OR MASSACRE?

DIRECTIONS: Read the following documents and respond to the following question.

DOCUMENT A: U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

Have you received my 841? Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eye witnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion.

Protests as well as threats are unavailing and probably incite the Ottoman government to more drastic measures as they are determined to disclaim responsibility for their absolute disregard of capitulations and I believe nothing short of actual force which obviously the United States are not in a position to exert would adequately meet the situation.

SOURCE: July -1915, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Morgenthau, writing from Istanbul, Turkey.

DOCUMENT B: FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT FROM TURKISH OFFICER

The men kept behind, were taken out of town in batches of 15 and 20, lined up on the edge of ditches prepared beforehand, shot and thrown into the ditches. Hundreds of men were shot every day in a similar manner. The "Shotas," the armed bands organized by the Turkish Government who attacked them and seized a certain number attacked the women and children on their way. After plundering and committing the most dastardly outrages on the women and children they massacred them in cold blood. These attacks were a daily occurrence until every woman and child had been got rid of. The military escorts had strict orders not to interfere with the "Shotas". The children that the Government had taken in charge were also deported and massacred.

The infants in the care of the American Consul of Trebizond were taken away with the pretext that they were going to be sent to Sivas where an asylum had been prepared for them. They were taken out to sea in little boats. At some distance out they were stabbed to death, put in sacks and thrown into the sea. A few days later some of their little bodies were washed up on the shore at Trebizond.

In July 1915 I was ordered to accompany a convoy of deported Armenians. It was the last batch from Trebizond. There were in the convoy 120 men, 700 children and about 400 women. From Trebizond I took them to Gumish-Khana. Here the 120 men were taken away, and, as I was informed later, they were all killed.

SOURCE: Lieutenant Sayied Ahmed Moukhtar Baas, 1916.
Baas was a Turkish officer in WWI.

DOCUMENT C: COMMITTEE OF UNION & PROGRESS'S TEN COMMANDMENTS OF ARMENIAN ORGANIZATION

- (1). Profiting by Arts: 3 and 4 of Comité Union and Progres, close all Armenian Societies, and arrest all who worked against Government at any time among them and send them into the provinces such as Bagdad or Mosul, and wipe them out either on the road or there.
- (2). Collect arms.
- (3). Excite Moslem opinion by suitable and special means, in places as Van, Erzeroum, Adana, where as a point of fact the Armenians have already won the hatred of the Moslems, provoke organised massacres as the Russians did at Baku.
- (4). Leave all executive to the people in the provinces such as Erzeroum, Van, Mumuret ul Aziz, and Bitlis, and use Military disciplinary forces (i.e. Gendarmerie) ostensibly to stop massacres, while on the contrary in places as Adana, Sivas, Broussa, Ismidt and Smyrna actively help the Moslems with military force.
- (5). Apply measures to exterminate all males under 50, priests and teachers, leave girls and children to be Islamized.
- (6). Carry away the families of all who succeed in escaping and apply measures to cut them off from all connection with their native place.
- (7). On the ground that Armenian officials may be spies, expel and drive them out absolutely from every Government department or post.
- (8). Kill off in an appropriate manner all Armenians in the Army - this to be left to the military to do.
- (9) All action to begin everywhere simultaneously, and thus leave no time for preparation of defensive measures.
- (10). Pay attention to the strictly confidential nature of these instructions, which may not go beyond two or three persons.

SOURCE: December, 1914. The above document was received in an assortment of four documents. The first document of the assortment, "Ten Commandments," is unsigned and is the rough draft, although the handwriting is alleged to be that of Essad Bey, who was at the time one of the confidential secretaries keeping secret archives in the Ministry of the Interior.

1.) To what extent is this collection of evidence useful in supporting the claim that the Ottoman Empire committed genocide against the Armenian people?

2.) What type of evidence would further support the argument that the Ottoman Empire is guilty of genocide?