

3rd Place High School Category

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Genocides throughout history seem to have a reverberating pattern by using similar strategies and ideas to follow through with genocide. The atrocities committed against the Armenians were one of the first genocides to occur during the twentieth century. As the leading genocide, there seemed to have been familiar patterns of events with the upcoming massacres, including the Holocaust. As if there was a handbook on how to commit genocide, both the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust had parallel procedures creating havoc for those victimized. Although the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust happened on separate occasions, they both follow a familiar pattern of events that led to both genocides.

Most of the Armenian Genocide was happening amidst World War I, as the Holocaust was during World War II. As Turkey entered into the war, nationalism increased and the idea so did the idea that "Turkism" should replace "Ottomanism." This further created hate against the Armenians, for they were seen as interference to their goal. During the Holocaust, the stance that propelled Hitler to power was the idea that Jews were the reason for their downfall during World War I, and with this came the idea of extreme anti-Semitism. Both wars created an intense war crisis environment among the people, further aggravating the situation. With war as on a fueling factor for both genocides, later events became uncanny in similarity. On February 21, 1914, there was an official Turkish boycott of Armenian business. Boycotting of business was not uncommon, especially during the Holocaust. Boycotting businesses not only made the owners suffer financially, but it also stripped them of their social or political power, which helped to slowly turn the gears of genocide.

Isolating the victims of genocide is crucial to the plan. During the Armenian Genocide, there was a censorship of all telegraphic communication that was announced by the government on August 8, 1914. This controlled their main source of communication and edited out any ideas of revolt or protest. Censoring telegraphic communication kept victims unaware of what was happening. On August 18, 1914 started the lootings in Sivas, Diyarbakir, and other provinces during the Armenian Genocide. Stores owned by Armenians and Greek merchants were vandalized during the same time. This incident is equal to what happened to Jews during the Holocaust. Jewish stores and business were destroyed and robbed under Hitler's power. The similarities of demolishing shops in both genocides create fear among victims for now the events are turning more violent.

As shops were under attack and still little killed, the male population between the ages of 20-45 was conscripted by Turkish armed forces. This began on August 22, 1914 and there started the slow and steady process of taking and killing the Armenians. The Turks had a specific order of killings. They would first kill the leaders and intellectuals, and then the able bodied men, then the women, children, and elderly. This differed from the Holocaust for Hitler had no precise arrangement to kill. For him, it was kill whoever and as much as you can. This slight difference in massacring had no matter on the cause for in the end, both genocides had a single goal: kill the enemy.

News of starvation, spread of disease in the Sivas Province, and desperate conditions conducted against Armenians were being heard and horrified people. Although people heard of these atrocities, no further action was truly taken to stop the torture put against the Armenians. During the Holocaust, extermination camps were created to do just that: torture and kill Jews by the masses. The camps fulfilled their job as thousands of Jews were being hauled into gas chambers and killed immediately, or shot into ditches, or simply

dying from lack of health and nutrition. Both groups committed to putting the victims through a torturous death.

The Armenian genocide has another name, "The Forgotten genocide." There is still no real recognition that the atrocities committed against the Armenians ever happened. The Turkish Government continually denies that genocide ever occurred. As Hitler once said while addressing military commands to his public, "Who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians," this statement proves how the Armenian genocide was completely overlooked, when in fact; it was one of the first. The true amazement is the similarities between the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust. Words of "never again" have been spoken about genocides, but apparently, history does repeat itself.

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