

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Middle School Category

Mohammed Rabaa, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
West Hills Middle School

He sits by the pleasant warmth of his stone fireplace in anguish from fighting in a battle just a few days prior to now. The year is 1915. He reads in one of his local Austrian newspapers about a massacre against the Armenians administered by the Turkish government. Three years later, the attack seizes, yet thoughts of genocide on a certain race are still bubbling fresh in the young man's mind. He knows this is the only way to get rid of *them*. The man does many hours of research and pays close attention to how the Turks formed their army. Years later, he decides to execute the same plan, only this time, he would finish what he started. "My name is Adolf Hitler, and I do not see why man should not be just as cruel as nature."

By definition, propaganda is derogatory information of a bias or misleading nature. Both the Ottoman Empire and Nazi Germany used propaganda as the backbone of their campaign to take down an entire race. Using their wicked tactics, the Ottoman Empire did their best to convince Turks that Armenians were dangerous. Their campaigning must have been a mixture of propaganda and brainwash, because the Turks began to believe them. The Young Turks, more formally known as the Committee of Union and Progress controlled the government, and were very devious when it came to handing out information to their citizens. They did not want Turks to know the good things about the Armenians; only the things that would make them seem like the devil's advocates were revealed. This is why when the Young Turks made the decision to carry out a genocide against the Armenian people, the citizens thought nothing of it, they thought the government was only trying to represent what the people thought was best. In

reality, they had a sly and crafty plan all along. Had the Young Turks tried to start their campaign against Armenia without the use of propaganda, they most likely would not have succeeded. So, when the massacre did begin on the Armenians, not many citizens were incensed because all they knew were the bad things about the Armenians. Nazi Germany was also very successful because of their use of propaganda. Adolf Hitler, a prime leader of the massacre on people of the Jewish faith, would be nothing without his use of propaganda. Hitler once said, "Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it." This statement really shows how he "gathered up the troops" to begin his attack on the Jews. Hitler was also a very eloquent speaker, which made the propaganda he was verbalizing sound much more believable. In late 1939, when he did begin capturing, torturing and slaughtering Jews, no German did anything about it; because they were brainwashed into believing what Hitler was doing was right.

The Ottoman Empire and Nazi Germany used their malevolence along with skillful yet deceitful techniques to brainwash their people into believing only what was "necessary." Their dexterous use of propaganda could make one see a fiery pit as a heavenly destination or even paradise as a wretched place to be. The minds of Turks and Germans were programmed; it was as if they were mindless robots controlled by the government. But without the right software and programming, the plans of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust would fade.

## Bibliography

1. "Frequently Asked Questions About the Armenian Genocide." Armenian National Institute. 22 Mar 2009 <<http://www.armeniangenocide.org/>>.
2. "Adolf Hitler Quotes." Brainy Quote. 17 Feb 2009. Goovgle. <[http://www.brainvquote.com/quotes/authors/a/adolf\\_hitler.html/](http://www.brainvquote.com/quotes/authors/a/adolf_hitler.html/)>.