

## THE PERILS OF THE ETHNIC POLITICS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

By: Ayhan Ozer

On June 5th the House passed a measure that would eliminate \$25 million in assistance to Turkey, citing its -alleged- attempts to prevent aid to reach Armenia. Another amendment was also discussed that would cut aid to Turkey by \$3 million unless it acknowledges the mass killing of the Armenians in 1915. Rightfully, the Turkish Embassy reacted vigorously to this farce and rejected the \$25 million aid even before the Senate had taken up the measure. This will not, in any way, harm Turkey, but it is a disgrace to see that this respected body being turned to a Dark Age Inquisition at the grips of the parochial ethnic politics.

Obviously, a great panic has overtaken the Armenian community in the United States, and makes them do foolish things. They target some congressmen who are well-meaning but painfully ignorant of the world history, or whose goal is to secure their reelection. When the Turks have had an army of the eminent scholars in this country who refute the so-called "Armenian genocide", the Armenians, not to be outdone, rounded up Norman Mailer, Susan Sontag, William Styron, John Updike, Arthur Miller...to speak in their behalf. Although they are good fiction writers, none of them is a historian. Yet, the choice is very apt; only good fiction writers can speak about a historical fiction!

The reasons for the panic in the Armenian camp are several: The first and the foremost being that the Armenian-American community is losing credibility with the Armenian people in the Armenia proper. These Armenian diaspora "evangelists" have become an absolute nuisance for the Armenians in Armenia. They do not trust them any more, they do not want them around, they even barred them from the recent elections in Armenia. Because, they are snobbish, know-it-all trouble-makers. The fair-minded Armenians have had enough of the Dashnak adventurism that has caused them untold troubles, death, humiliation, miscalculations for more than a century. No one, no country in the world did more harm to the Armenians than their own Dashnaks did, and they still keep deceiving them with lies and utopic goals and dreams. Some fair-minded Armenian-Americans try to deliver something tangible to Armenia to help them to see the real world, like financial aid, business opportunity, know-how, educational assistance, big-brother guidance, etc. We hope that one day they will break loose from the grips of the Dashnaks who has ran a vicious show for so long harming the Armenians the most. That will be their deliverance. To normalize the relations with Turkey they should stop this nonsense of genocide accusation they invented to unite the Armenians around a common cause at the expense of Turkish people. The Armenians invented a "cause", because they do not have a "case." To expect any Turkish government to admit those spurious genocide allegations is an outrage and utopia.

Another reason for the panic in the Armenian camp is that we are at the threshold of the 21st century. In this fast-paced world, a century-old grievance, notwithstanding its being a sheer lie, will be too distant and too obscure an event to which people can relate. However, this is not to suggest that the Turks count on the statute of limitations for this issue to die down as it is being heated and inflated for decades. The Turks have faith that one day the Armenians will come to terms with the reality, and the common sense will prevail. The Armenian allegations have been proved baseless and outright lies resoundingly, not once, not twice, but several times throughout the decades. The recent stance of the White House has dealt a blow to the Armenian aspirations. President Clinton politely declined to commit himself to the Armenian cause. And the Armenian community issued a thuggish statement threatening President Clinton by withholding their votes in the next election. On one hand, they claim that Turkish government is using its geopolitical and strategic capacity as a leverage, and on the other hand, the Armenian-Americans use their votes to take the president hostage, and hijack history. Being an incurable "smart Alec", this time too they bet on two horses. They will secure a commitment from President Clinton, yet they will vote for Bob Dole. Mr. Dole's new Armenian campaign manager has to work a miracle to re-package and sell him, but who would buy it? Speaking of Bob Dole, let me open a paranthesis here about his latest resignation. To my view, Mr. Dole did not resign of his own volition, he was persuaded to resign by the G.O.P. brass or hardliners; as lately, with his dreadful show in the polls and his pathetic speeches and statements he becomes a liability and a deadwood for the Republican party. They conveniently got rid of him before he further tarnishes the prestige of the G.O.P.

The Armenian-Americans need courage, wisdom and honesty to turn around their fate. They have to make persistent soul-searching to emerge from that quagmire in which they keep wallowing for a century. They lost the time-tested friendship of the Turks who have been a true benefactor to them for centuries. Unless they come to terms with their past mistakes they will never find solace.

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## THE DESECRATION OF ELLIS ISLAND

By: Ayhan Ozer

The vicious anti-Turkish campaign mounted by some Armenians in this country continues to defile the American landscape. The latest episode was staged at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum on account of an exhibit which opened on the first weekend of September. The Armenians show one of their familiar false displays featuring decapitated heads and public hanging to feed their "genocide" lore. The National Park Service, which runs the Museum, objected to this gory showing claiming that it is too gruesome for the American public, citing precedents such as the reactions to the 1995 photo exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute depicting the Hiroshima bombing, the complaints about the show on slavery in 1996 at the Library of Congress, and the controversy of the Nazi persecution of the gays that is planned to be displayed at the Holocaust Memorial in Brooklyn, New York. The shrill Armenian voices protested this decorous argument, and have accused the Park authorities of censoring them.

To refresh your memory, this Ellis Island Immigration Museum controversy surfaced first time in the Fall of 1990. At which time, the Armenian propaganda machine forced upon the Museum to display a gruesome photo with dubious provenance, showing three persons hanged, they claimed to be Armenians, supposedly in 1915, supposedly by the then Turkish government, and supposedly within the context of a genocide. This is typical of the Armenian mentality; they want to substantiate their genocide claim by one picture with dubious provenance.

The familiar Armenian militants got in the fray; the Armenian Assembly in Washington, D.C., and Richard Hovanissian supposedly authenticated the photo. The pastor Vartan Hartunian from Belmont, MA attended the opening ceremonies. Their efforts were supported by a resolution of a Rhode Island State House member, another Armenian John S. Simonian. The Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell, who voted in a knee-jerk fashion for anything anti-Turkish, as he relied on his Greek and Armenian constituencies for his re-election, and the congressman Jack Reed brought some pressure to bear on the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the Armenians.

This new effort is another link in the long chain of forgery invented all along by the Armenians to give some reliability to their fabricated stories. The list is long, and the following are but a few items from their own repertoire. First, they invented the "Talat Pasha Telegrams", the so-called "documents" attributed to the then Interior Minister of the Ottoman Empire. According to the forger, an Armenian by the name of Andonian Talat Pasha ordered the massacre of the Armenians. And those telegrams were the proof. Yet, those telegrams were so crudely falsified that even the British, who were so zealous to find an iota of evidence to incriminate the Ottomans had to dismiss them with contempt.

Then came the Hitler quotation. To curry favor with the Jews, the Armenians had to establish a connection with Hitler, and they invented the so-called "quotation" in which Hitler, to justify his heinous scheme to annihilate the Jews, supposedly said "Who remembers the Armenians..." The implication was that the so-called "Armenian genocide" was a precursor of the Jewish Holocaust, and these two tragedies were basically of the same character, a continuation of one another. The Armenians had planned that by this connection they could reap some windfall sympathy of the Holocaust. Yet, this trick did not work out, the quotation was refuted by reliable historians, including an Armenian historian!

Then came the painting made by a Russian artist in 1871 depicting a pyramid of skulls. The Armenians tried to pass it off as the skulls of their own people killed by the Turks. This also failed, and disproved, and they were exposed.

Then they invented an absurd "statement" attributed to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who supposedly "admitted" the so-called "Armenian genocide." This attempt was also repudiated by many, including an Armenian writer.

The Armenians relied heavily on a "memoires" supposedly written by Henry Morgenthau, the American Ambassador in Istanbul between 1913-1916. This book relates horror stories about atrocities committed by the Turks. The Armenians embraced this book as the most powerful evidence to win their cause. It was supposedly written by the American ambassador Henry Morgenthau who was at the site at that time. Yet, a recent research made in the Hyde Park presidential archives revealed that this book was not written by Henry Morgenthau, but was commissioned by the Woodrow Wilson administration to the Pulitzer Prize winner author Burton Jesse Hendrick as a war-time propaganda material. Two Armenian employees at the Embassy provided the fabricated stories to Mr. Hendrick. These two Armenian employees followed Mr. Morgenthau to Washington to help finishing the Book. The rickety Armenian cause was badly shaken after this blow. Their crude scheme was exposed again and again. Not surprisingly, this Book was dismissed by the British Foreign Office as well as the The U.S. State Department even in those days when the British were looking for a reliable evidence to incriminate the Turks.

These fabricated stories by the Armenians go on and on. The latest episode in the Ellis Island Museum is but one more futile attempt staged by the Armenians to fool the public and steal some undeserved credit.

When The New York Times published the Ellis Island story it quoted an Armenian as saying that "the gruesome details of their past ought not to be whitewashed " That explains why the Armenians desperately try to cover their not-so-glorious past by painting it pink.

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