

That-Which-Must-Not-Be-Named: Turkish Denial of the Armenian Genocide, Historical Legacies, and Potential Hopes for Future

Presented by Kasturi Chatterjee, FLAME University, India,
at the symposium “*Narrating Violence: Making Race, Making Difference*”, organized by the University of
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Genocide Denial: “Denial is the final stage that lasts throughout and always follows genocide. It is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres.” (Genocide Watch)

VIII. PERSECUTION

IX. EXTERMINATION

X. DENIAL

Denial is the final stage that lasts throughout and always follows genocide. It is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres. The perpetrators of genocide dig up the mass graves, burn the bodies, try to cover up the evidence and intimidate the witnesses. They deny that they committed any crimes, and often

Turkish denial of the Armenian Genocide: “*an industry of denial*”*

The number game

Law and order/ state-security

Counterclaims

Non-intentional

External forces

Revisionist history

Obliteration of memory

Legal suppression of opinion and speech (domestically)

Diplomatic blackmail to scuttle resolutions recognizing the Armenian Genocide; recalling of ambassadors, economic sanctions

Filing law suits against scholars and academic institutions

Disruption of conferences/ discussions of the genocide

Promotion of the denialist view of events

Change of Armenian-sounding names

Call for establishing a joint historical commission to study “what really happened in 1915”

* Vahakn N. Dadrian (1999), *The Key Elements in the Turkish Denial of the Armenian Genocide: A Case Study of Distortion and Falsification*. Cambridge, MA and Toronto: Zoryan Institute



Turkish Presidency ✓

@trpresidency

Official Twitter Account of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey



Turkish Presidency ✓

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“The relocation of the Armenian gangs and their supporters, who massacred the Muslim people, including women and children, in eastern Anatolia, was the most reasonable action that could be taken in such a period.

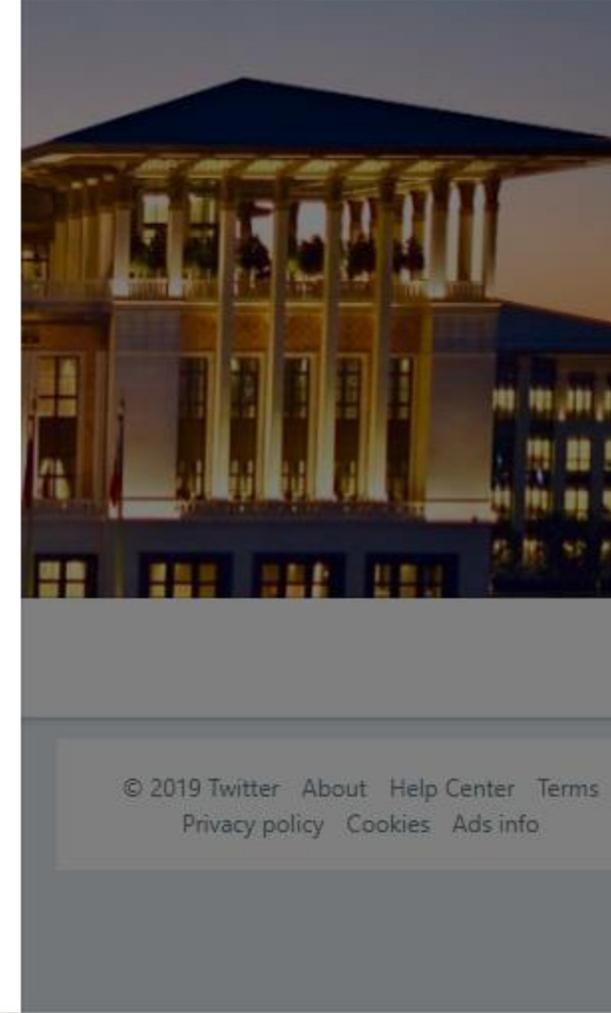
The doors of our archives are wide open to all seeking the truth.”

2:07 AM - 24 Apr 2019

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Why denial?

- ❑ Costs millions of dollars
- ❑ Reputation cost
- ❑ Diplomatic hurdles



Behind Turkish Denial...

- An ethno-nationalistic ideal of citizenship based on “Turkishness”
- A victim of “Western conspiracy”



The *Mazlum Millet*: Turkey as a victim of the West

Hakam Yilmaz (2006), “Two Pillars of Nationalist Euro-scepticism in Turkey: The *Tanzimat* and Sevres Syndromes”, p. 29- 40

- (1) encouraging nationalist independence movements by ethnic minorities that ultimately led to the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire: the *Tanzimat* Syndrome
- (1) foreign occupation after World War I, and the Treaty of Sevres that proposed a complete dismemberment of Turkey by limiting its borders within a small strip of land: Sevres Syndrome

Erdogan lashes out at West and Russia for recognizing Armenian killings as genocide

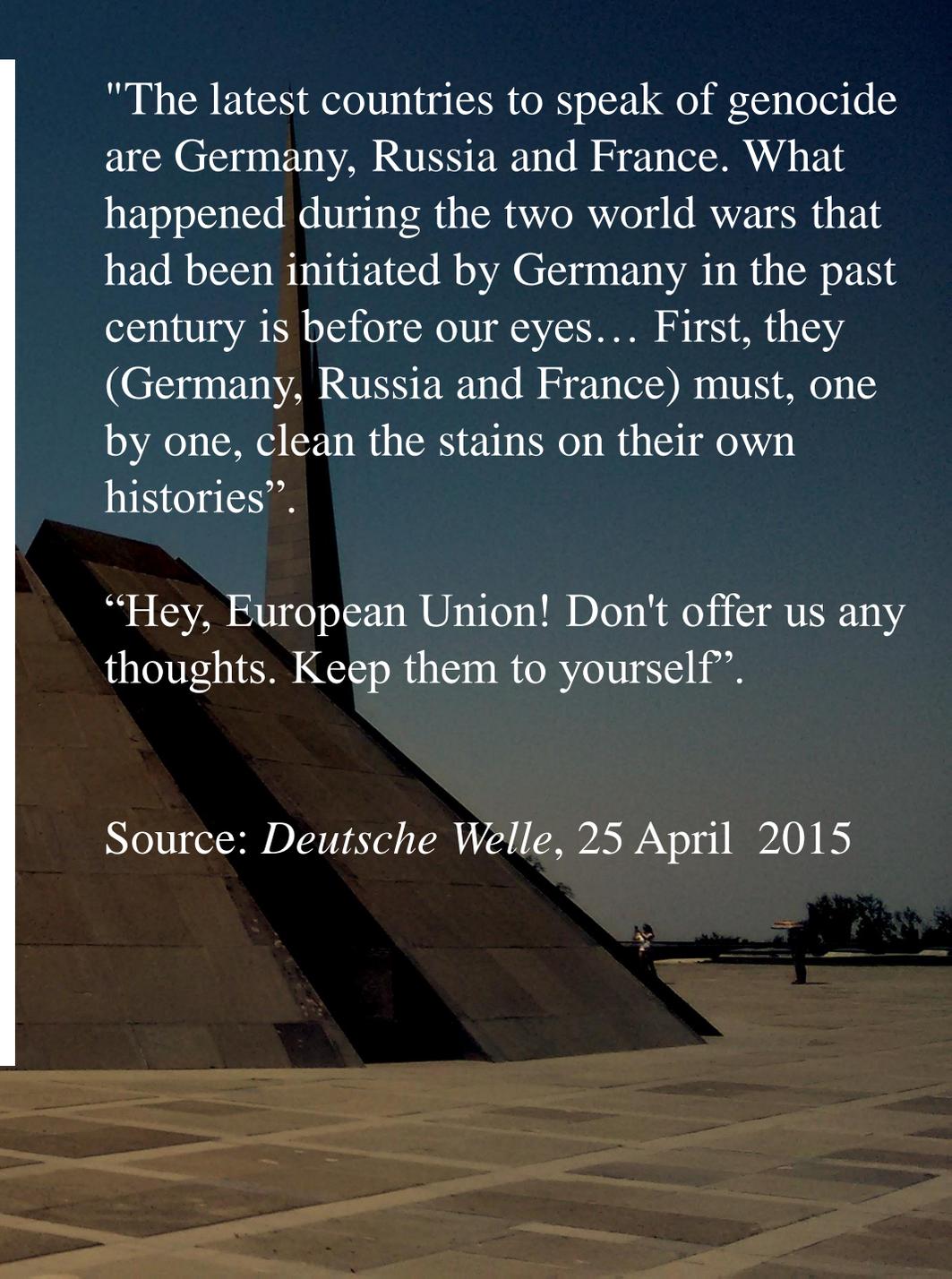
Turkish President Erdogan has slammed the world leaders for recognizing the 1915 massacre of Armenians as genocide. Erdogan said countries like Germany, France and Russia should first "clean their own stains."



"The latest countries to speak of genocide are Germany, Russia and France. What happened during the two world wars that had been initiated by Germany in the past century is before our eyes... First, they (Germany, Russia and France) must, one by one, clean the stains on their own histories".

"Hey, European Union! Don't offer us any thoughts. Keep them to yourself".

Source: *Deutsche Welle*, 25 April 2015



Erdogan: Armenia 'genocide' used to blackmail Turkey

Turkish leader says Ankara will never accept such charges, in strongest reaction yet to German parliament's resolution.

4 Jun 2016



"The Armenian issue is a useful blackmail opportunity against Turkey all around the world, and it is even starting to be used as a stick... The countries that are blackmailing us with these Armenian genocide resolutions have the blood of millions of innocents on their hands".

Source: *Al Jazeera*, 4 June, 2016



KEEP YOURSELF CLEAN FROM ARMENIAN LIES

1915

2007

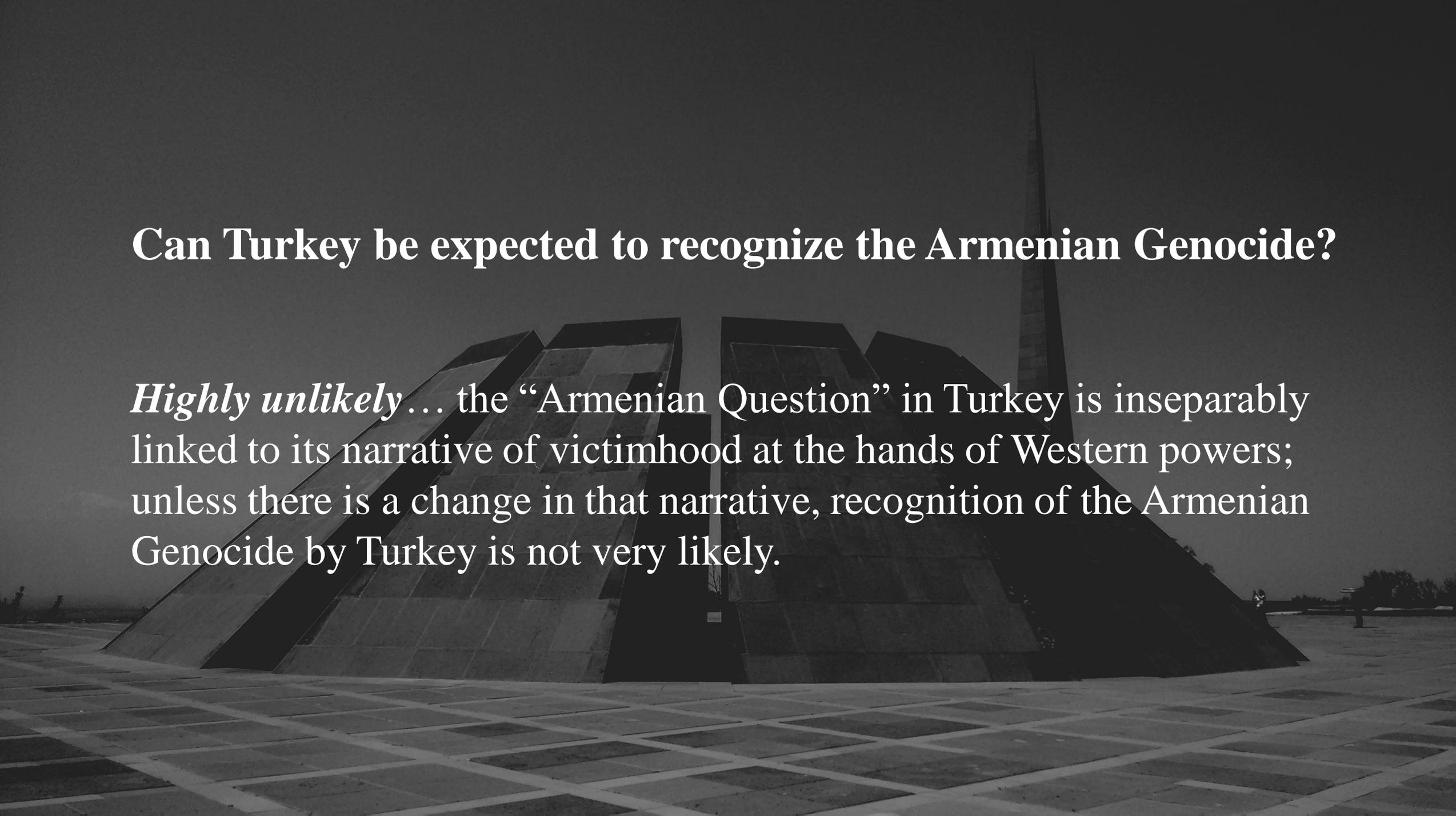


SAME THEATRICALS! DIFFERENT ERA!
BY THE SAME DIRECTORS!

Source: <http://genocide1915.blogcu.com/keep-yourself-clean-from-armenian-lies/1736846>



Source: *Milliyet*



Can Turkey be expected to recognize the Armenian Genocide?

Highly unlikely... the “Armenian Question” in Turkey is inseparably linked to its narrative of victimhood at the hands of Western powers; unless there is a change in that narrative, recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey is not very likely.