

Armenian Genocide Commemoration

Annotated Bibliography/Recommended Reading

The Armenian Genocide is both complicated and controversial; some will not even speak of it while others know not near enough has been said. They also know the history and stories buried will eventually bubble to the surface like noxious gas in a swamp. Given these controversies, where does one go for information? There is nothing about this bibliography which is complete or comprehensive. It merely intends to provide quick resource for a complex issue.

Margaret Ajemian Ahnert, *The Knock at the Door: A Journey Through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide* (Beaufort Books, 2007). Margaret Ahnert relates the experience of her mother, Ester's, during the Armenian Genocide and the forced march from her birth town of Amasia, Turkey. One of the reviewers, Hugh L. Cary, writes, "The author invites us into her family circle, offering a fascinating glimpse of Armenian culture and its painful history. Through the author, we come to know Ester's wit, wisdom, and charm as they come to life on each page."

Viscount James Bryce and Arnold Toynbee, *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-1916*. This is a compilation of eye-witness accounts submitted by Viscount James Bryce and compiled by Arnold Toynbee for the British government. A document of the British Government, Miscellaneous No. 31 (1916).

Peter Balakian, *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response* (Perennial Press, 2004). This excellent history of the Genocide includes an extensive bibliography of sources, and also the history of the American Red Cross and its first mission beyond America's borders, bringing their relief efforts in the Middle East among the Armenian survivors, which led to the formation of Near East Relief.

Peter Balakian, *Black Dog of Fate: A Memoir, Revised Edition* (Basic Books, 2009). Balakian is Professor at Colgate University and the first Director for the Center for Ethics and World Societies.

Marjorie Housepian Dobkin, *Smyrna 1922: The Destruction of a City* (Faber and Faber, 1972). "In September, 1922, Mustapha Kemal {Ataturk}, the victorious revolutionary ruler of Turkey, led his troops into Smyrna (now Izmir) a predominantly Christian city, as a flotilla of 27 Allied warships-- including three American destroyers-- looked on. The Turks soon proceeded to indulge in an orgy of pillage, rape and slaughter that the Western powers anxious to protect their oil and trade interests in Turkey, condoned by their silence and refusal to intervene." (Quoted from Amazon)

Richard G. Hovannisian, *Looking Backward, Moving Forward: Confronting the Armenian Genocide* (Transaction Publishers, 2003). A collection of profound and helpful essays that explore the Armenian Genocide from many directions. The contributors represent excellent scholarship. The editor, author of many books on Armenia, was professor of Modern Armenian History at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Raffi Khatchadourian, "Letter from Turkey: A Century of Silence," *New Yorker Magazine*, January 5, 2015. In the January 5, 2015, The New Yorker magazine, Khatchadourian tells the story of returning to Diyarbakir, a town in southeastern Turkey. His mission is to uncover the life his grandfather lived. The article is not short and one is given to deep reflection at the end. What is most amazing is the response of the city and its willingness to challenge Turkish orthodoxies about the genocide.

Henry Morgenthau, *Ambassador Morgenthau's Story* (Wayne State University Press, 2003). Originally published in 1918, it is the report and reflections of [Henry Morgenthau](#), lawyer, businessman and the United States ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during WWI. In this role, Morgenthau has come to be identified as the most prominent American to speak out against the Armenian Genocide. New edition includes forward by Robert Jay Lifton, professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School; introduction by Roger W. Smith, professor at William and Mary College and President of the Association of Genocide Scholars of North America; epilogue by Henry Morgenthau III entitled, "The Rest of the Story."

Simpon Payaslian, *The History of Armenia* (Palgrave Macmillian, 2007). Compact, readable, and designed for general appeal. In this history, Simpon Payaslian focuses on four major themes: East-West geopolitical competitions, Armenian culture, political leadership, and the struggle for national survival. While some of his conclusions might provoke discussion, his ideas are always interesting and challenging. The chapter on the Armenian Genocide is memorable.

Liturgical Sources:

The liturgy of the Armenian Apostolic church;

http://www.armenianchurchlibrary.com/files/The_Divine_Liturgy-English.pdf

<http://www.armenianorthodoxchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/04-April-2015.pdf>

The liturgy of the Armenian Evangelical church, including a litany for Commemoration of the Genocide from *The New Armenian Evangelical Hymnal*

The ancient writings of Gregory of Narek (951-1003 CE), an Armenian monk, mystic and theologian of the Armenian Church. The English translation is found in Thomas Samuelian's *St. Grigor Narekatsi: Speaking with God from the Depths of the Heart* (Yerevan: Vem, 2001), and further adapted by Rev. Jack Hodges for the centenary anniversary.