

# TALAT PASHA'S ORDERS

## Resource 6-1

The complete destruction of the Armenians as a result of the current situation was presented to the Padishah [Sultan] and this is how they are to be treated.

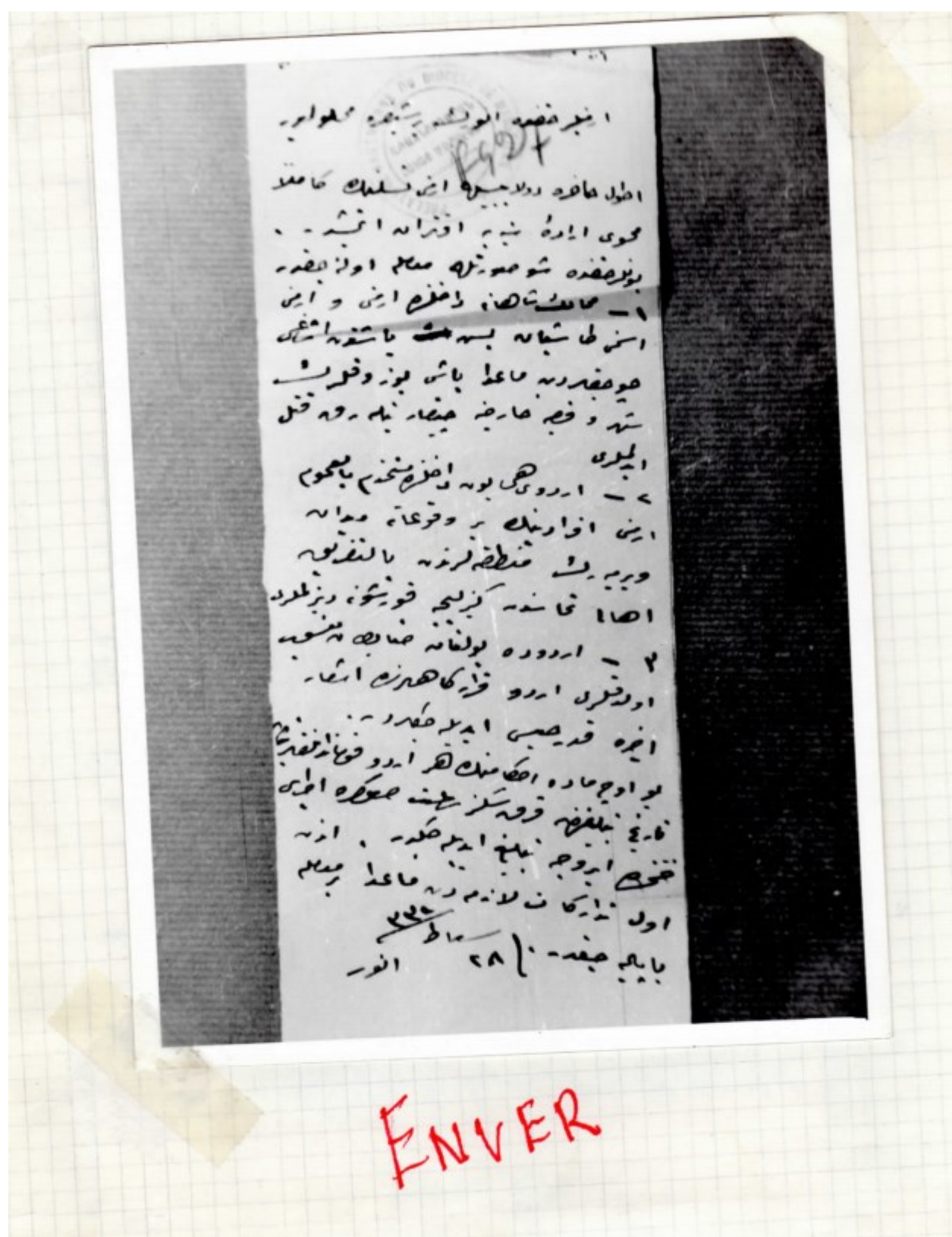
Every Armenian and individual bearing an Armenian name of Ottoman citizenship who is a civilian, outside of children less than five years of age, shall be taken outside of cities and towns and killed.

Armenians serving in the army shall be taken out of their units, without causing any unrest, and put before a firing squad in secret locations where no one will see.

Armenian army officers shall be imprisoned within the headquarters of whatever army units they are assigned un-til secondary orders arrive.

Execution upon these three items shall be separately announced within forty eight hours after this notice has been served on every army commander.

*From the book Killing Orders: Talat Pasha's Telegrams and the Armenian Genocide by Taner Akcam, 2018*



Guerguerian, Krikor, "Deportation 20" (2018). Deportation Practices / Tehcir Uygulamaları. 20.

<https://commons.clarku.edu/deportation/20>

# ONE-PAGE SUMMARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

## Resource 6-2

### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, 1915 - 1923

*During World War I, 1.5 million Armenians were deported and massacred in the Ottoman Empire (modern-day Turkey).*



#### Where?

The Ottoman Empire existed in the Balkan region of the Middle East from 1300-1923. During the time of the genocide, the Ottoman Empire bordered Bulgaria and Greece in the west, the Mediterranean Sea in the south and southwest, the Black Sea in the north, Iraq and Syria in the southwest, and the Russian empire in the east and northeast.

#### When?

Armenians had always been treated as second-class citizens in the Ottoman Empire. Armenians were allowed the freedom to practice their faith; however, mass persecution of Armenian citizens was a regular occurrence and Armenians were often blamed for misfortunes which befell the Ottoman Empire. Most of the killing took place during World War I, 1915 to 1918, but continued until 1923 when the newly-founded Republic of Turkey had become virtually free of all Armenians. Laws were enacted to prevent displaced Armenians from returning to their former homes.

#### Who?

**Perpetrators:** The “Young Turks” were a reformist and nationalist party, founded in the latter part of the 19th century, which became the dominant political party in Turkey from 1908 to 1918.

**Victims:** The Armenians are an ancient people who have lived on the Armenian Plateau for more than 4,000 years. During the genocide, the majority of the Armenian people were either killed outright or “ethnically cleansed” (removed by force) from their ancestral homeland; others escaped to neighboring countries or remained in the newly established Soviet Republic of Armenia.



#### How?

By 1914, Ottoman authorities had created an empire-wide propaganda campaign in which Armenians were presented as a threat to Ottoman nationalism and state security. Armenian leaders and intellectuals were arrested. The Armenian people were left without leadership, governmental representation, and with no defense against the Ottoman Turks. Armenians were discharged from military service, deported from their homes, and their property was confiscated. The Ottoman military forced them to march for hundreds of miles without food or water to the desert of modern-day Syria. Hundreds of thousands of people died on these forced marches. People were massacred indiscriminately: men and women, old and young. Mass shootings occurred at random. Pillaging, persecution, torture, rape and other sexual abuses were commonplace.

Despite international awareness of these atrocities, there was no intervention to stop the genocide.

#### The Aftermath

Contemporary scholars estimate that as many as 1.5 million Armenians were killed in the genocide along with approximately 500,000 Assyrians and 350,000 Anatolian Greeks. There were also thousands of displaced Armenians. The displaced survivors were largely unable to return to their former homes, as their land and property now belonged to the new Turkish government or to the Soviet state of Armenia.

To this day, the Republic of Turkey’s official stance is that the deaths of Armenians during their ‘relocation’ cannot accurately be deemed as ‘genocide,’ essentially denying the intentional nature of the atrocities. This denial has dramatically hindered Turkish foreign relations and is currently a factor in Turkey’s restriction from the European Union. Most scholars around the world acknowledge that the tragedy was, indeed, genocide, and many nations also have acknowledged the genocide.

# SUMMARY SHEET FOR STUDENT WORK

## Resource 6-2

Read the one-page handout on the Armenian Genocide and write a short summary of the event in which you include all the key facts. Please write it for an audience who knows nothing about the event, and write in such a way that your summary is complete and correct.

<b>GENOCIDAL EVENT</b>	<b>Armenian Genocide</b>
<b>WHO (VICTIM)</b>	
<b>WHO</b>	
<b>WHAT</b>	
<b>WHERE</b>	
<b>WHEN</b>	
<b>WHY / HOW</b>	

**Written Summary**

Which (or what specific details of the 10 Stages of Genocide) can you identify in this summary? Why is the tenth stage of genocide (DENIAL) such a problem with the Armenian Genocide?

# KASBARIAN ESSAY

## Resource 6-3

### THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigor, journalistic flair

## Denial of the Armenian Genocide should concern us all

April 24, 2017 4.59am EDT



### Author



#### Sossie Kasbarian

Lecturer in Middle Eastern Politics,  
Lancaster University

April 24 marks the anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, during which the Ottoman state murdered 1.5 million Ottoman Armenians. But while it might have begun 102 years ago, in a sense, the genocide did not end; the Turkish state established after the Ottoman state then established a position of **denial** (*the final stage of genocide*).

The Turkish state's policy of denial continues to undermine the memories of the survivors and the claims of their descendants, now scattered throughout the globe. This policy of denial is a foundation of the Turkish state and a cornerstone of its foreign policy, extending to ever-more creative and expansive international campaigns and efforts.

That only 23 countries currently officially recognize the genocide reflects Turkey's geopolitical importance. It's a crucial NATO ally and world player, and most of the international community is keen not to antagonize it. Each time a country acknowledges the Armenian genocide, Turkey is quick to retaliate, breaking diplomatic ties and tearing up trade deals while issuing harsh denouncements and threats.

One may legitimately wonder why recognizing a genocide that took place more than a century ago remains controversial. All governments are based on some history of violence, and collective amnesia; nations are understandably reluctant to face up to their violent past or acknowledge their part in crimes and injustices. It is always painful to deal with a less-than-glorious chapter of national history, whether it is done symbolically (like the US's 2009 apology to Native Americans) or materially (like German reparations and restitution for the Holocaust).

*continued...*

## KASBARIAN ESSAY

### Resource 6-3

But while the Turkish state's efforts have used various approaches over the decades, its denial of the genocide remains undiluted. Under Article 301 of Turkey's penal code, citizens and cultural representatives are regularly prosecuted for "insulting" the Turkish nation or state or bringing "shame" on the republic by mentioning the genocide, even subtly. The narrative of denial of state genocide is pursued at all costs.



A protest against genocide denial in Istanbul. EPA/Cem Turkel

It is crucial to remember that this phenomenon is far from confined to Turkey. Societies around the world witness it on a daily basis: state-sponsored genocide is repackaged as civil war, victims are recast as instigators, state violence is sold as national security, and fabrications or "alternative facts" are presented as news. If this is allowed to stand, this will not just be a post-truth world, but one without a moral compass.

Too often, the powerful are unrestricted and unaccountable for their actions, while the weak are made invisible and irrelevant. For the sake of all victims of state violence all over the world, past and present, speaking truth to power has never had greater urgency.

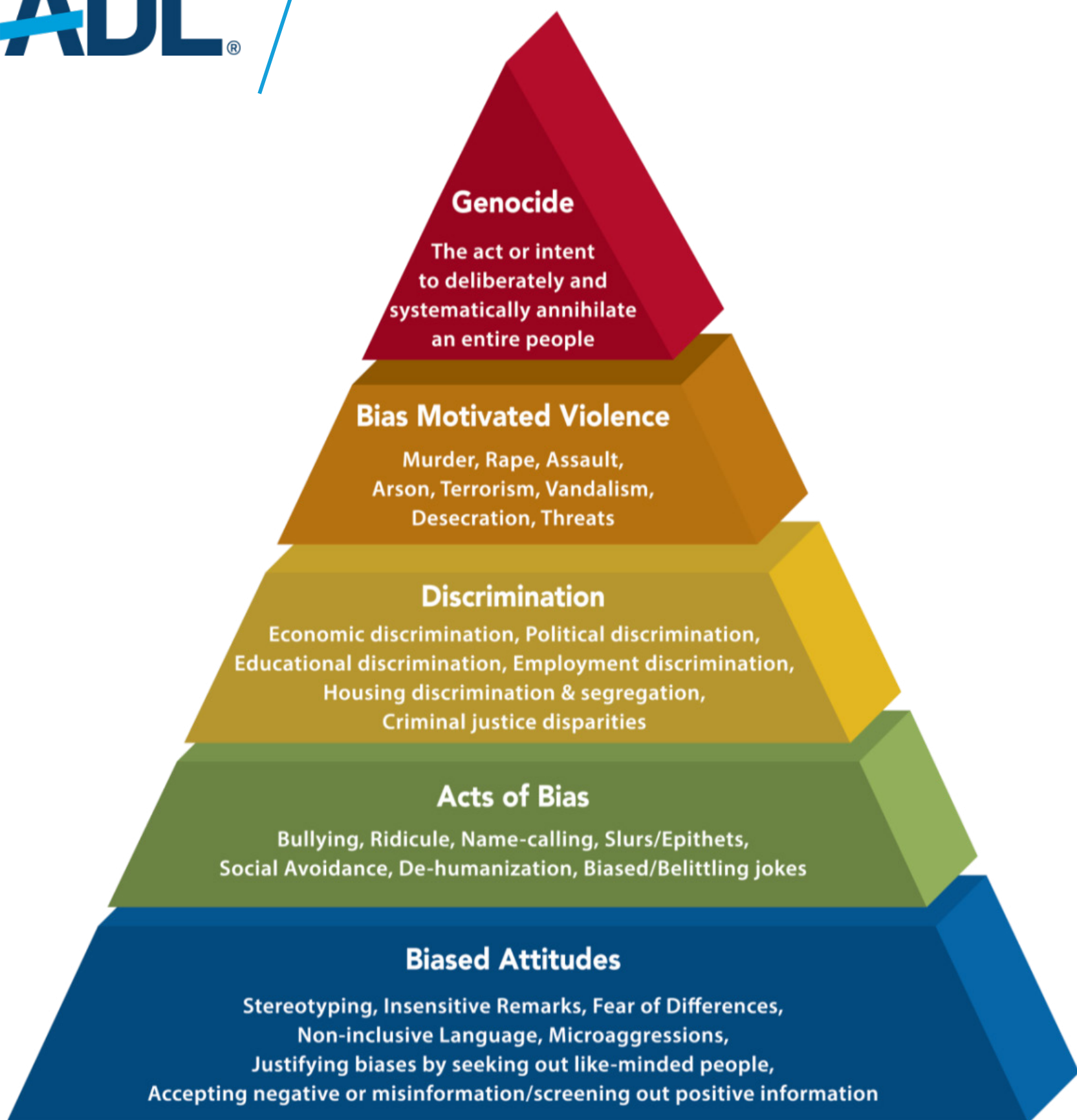
Author Sossie Kosarian, Ph.D., is currently Senior Lecturer in Comparative Politics at University of Stirling (UK) and Co-editor of *Diaspora- a journal of transnational studies*. In 2019 this article was adapted for eighth-grade readers from the original, longer article which appeared online in April, 2017 to be used with Michigan Holocaust and Genocide (MHGE) lesson plan materials on the stages of genocide.

MHGE is using this adapted article for these lesson plans with the author's permission.

# PYRAMID OF HATE

## Resource 6-5

The Pyramid shows biased behaviors, growing in complexity from the bottom to the top. Although the behaviors at each level negatively impact individuals and groups, as one moves up the pyramid, the behaviors have more life-threatening consequences. Like a pyramid, the upper levels are supported by the lower levels. If people or institutions treat behaviors on the lower levels as being acceptable or “normal,” it results in the behaviors at the next level becoming more accepted. In response to the questions of the world community about where the hate of genocide comes from, the Pyramid of Hate demonstrates that the hate of genocide is built upon the acceptance of behaviors described in the lower levels of the pyramid.



© 2018 Anti-Defamation League