

H.Res.304: Misrepresentations and Falsehoods

Misrepresentation: ‘This resolution is cited as the ‘Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.’

Fact: The resolution presents a one-sided selection of the U.S. record. The complete U.S. record on events in eastern Anatolia during the closing years of the Ottoman Empire contains reports of respected envoys, who documented the Armenian Revolt, recorded expulsions and massacres of Ottoman Muslims and questioned accounts of massacres against Armenians.

Misrepresentation: “Vast majority of experts, including the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) confirm that events of 1915 constitute genocide. “

Fact: This couldn’t be further from the truth. A large group of reputable and independent scholars and a vast body of scholarly work disputes the characterization of the mutual mass killings of World War I in eastern Anatolia as Armenian genocide. Moreover, identifying the IAGS as “the leading body of scholars on genocide” misrepresents the nature of this activist organization, which includes students, activists, journalists, and poets. IAGS does not test members for factual or historical knowledge about any claimed genocide. The organization also accepts Armenian funding for its publications.

Falsehood: ‘1.5 million innocent Armenians perished and the proof is irrefutable.’

Fact: The presumption that 1.5 million were killed has no statistical or scholarly basis. This number has increased 5-fold over 80 years for propaganda purposes. There simply remains no consensus among scholars on either the Muslim or the Armenian death toll. This figure inflates the Armenian death toll, while completely ignoring Muslim casualties. The much quoted figure also shows no distinction as to the causes of mortality, discounting that millions of other Ottoman civilians died due to the same causes that afflicted Armenians, namely famine, infectious diseases and the ravages of dislocation of World I War.

Misrepresentation: ‘No one holds modern Turkey responsible for what happened.’

Fact: This resolution *is* aimed at Turkey. The Armenian Diaspora’s lead organizations are on record demanding reparations and land from the Republic of Turkey. These claims have been publicly amplified by the lead sponsors of the congressional resolution. Furthermore, Armenian Americans have filed several class action lawsuits against Turkey demanding compensation and land.

Misrepresentation: ‘U.S. foreign policy must reflect our moral obligation to uphold human rights.’

Fact: The U.S.’s moral obligation to uphold human rights cannot be fulfilled by hand-picking from historical tragedies on the basis of effective lobbying by ethnic pressure groups. Tragically, massacres committed against the Ottoman Muslims in the same period of time in Balkans and Caucasus are conveniently forgotten. Over five million Ottoman Muslims were slaughtered and ethnically cleansed from the former Ottoman lands, with another 5 million arriving in impoverished wartime Ottoman Anatolia as refugees, as the Ottoman Empire contracted during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

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