



### [House Approves Resolution Recognizing Armenian Genocide](#)

The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a resolution which recognized the century-old mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks as genocide. The move is reprimanding to NATO-ally Turkey in the wake of its attack on Kurds in northern Syria. The House passed the resolution on a 405-11 vote, officially recognizing the Armenian genocide and rejecting any efforts to enlist the U.S. government in denying its occurrence. The resolution was proposed by U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), who has worked towards this legislation for almost 20 years. Schiff is the Vice Chair of the Armenian-American Caucus and his district of Burbank, California is home to a large Armenian-American population.

The facts surrounding the Ottoman campaign have long been established and published on countless occasions. In the beginnings of the genocide in 1915, American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, reported back to Washington that a “campaign of race extermination” was underway. At the same time, the American Consul in Aleppo, Syria described a “carefully planned scheme to thoroughly extinguish the Armenian race.”

What seemed to have changed after 35 years of trying to get at least half of U.S. Congressmembers to acknowledge the atrocity as a genocide was President Trump’s agreement to withdraw almost all U.S. troops in northern Syria. The call allowed Turkish forces to invade and displace the Kurds, who had been the main U.S. allies in the fight against the ISIS. “Given that the Turks are once again involved in ethnic cleansing of a population — this time the Kurds who live along the Turkish-Syrian border — it seemed all the more appropriate to bring up a resolution about the Ottoman efforts to annihilate an entire people in the Armenian genocide,” said Rep. Schiff.

The bill highlights that moving forward U.S. policy will “(1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance; (2) reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise associate the United States Government with denial of the Armenian Genocide or any other genocide; and (3) encourage education and public understanding of the facts of the Armenian Genocide, including the United States role in the humanitarian relief effort, and the relevance of the Armenian Genocide to modern-day crimes against humanity.”

Despite the resolution’s approval in the U.S. House of Representatives, it is unclear as to whether or not it will also pass in the U.S. Senate as well.