

# ORIGIN OF TWO HUMAN RIGHTS CONCEPTS

Posted on November 13, 2013 by Keghart



REALIZATION.

[“When I went to Bulgaria I resolved that if there were to be any assassinations I would be on the side of the assassins.”—Statement by FERDINAND.]

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## Genocide Awareness and Prevention

Alan Whitehorn, [ABC-CLIO.com](https://www.abc-clio.com), November 2013

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Ongoing accounts of the killings and atrocities were reported by foreign embassy officials, missionaries and the world press. The allied governments of Britain, France, and Russia issued a formal diplomatic warning on May 24, 1915. They noted the "crimes against humanity" being committed by the Young Turk regime against the Armenian people. The Entente allies warned that the guilty officials would be punished. The postwar Ottoman courts martial, however, were not very effective. Subsequent Turkish governments denied the genocide, despite overwhelming documentary evidence.

The largest number of killings took place primarily in 1915 and 1916, but continued for several more years, even after World War I. Today, all that remains of historic Armenia is a tiny landlocked state

based on the Eastern fragment from the former Russian Empire/Soviet Union.

The Armenian Genocide of 1915 became an important precedent for later genocides such as the Holocaust. The Armenian Genocide reveals the enormously destructive effect of ethnic and religious intolerance and arbitrary violent state power. The indifference of bystanders enabled dictatorial leaders to pursue their plan to eradicate an ethnic and religious minority. Those who survived endured great hardships and were scattered in a global diaspora. Today only a very small portion of the Armenian people is left in its historic lands in what is now Turkey.

The Armenian Genocide is a reminder of the risks of not learning the lessons of history, the dangers of genocide denial, and the long-term negative consequences of allowing perpetrators to go unpunished. These were contributing factors to subsequent genocides. The knowledge of past genocides, such as the Armenian case, is key to understanding and preventing future genocide. The mass slaughter of the Armenians was, however, instrumental in the birth of two important human rights concepts: "crimes against humanity" and "genocide."

