

"They threw us all into a pile on the sandy beach and started jabbing us with their swords and bayonets."



- Sam Kadorian

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



A LECTURE BY
DR. SIMON PAYASLIAN
KALOOSDIAN/MUGAR CHAIR
OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE STUDIES
AND MODERN ARMENIAN HISTORY,
Clark University

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
TEXAS UNION
QUADRANGLE ROOM, 3.304



Cosponsored by: Armenian Cultural Association,
The Center for Russian, Eastern European and
Eurasian Studies and Student Events Center
Events CoSponsorship Committee

"The Genocide of the Armenians by the Ottoman Turkish government during World War I represents a major tragedy of the modern age. In this first Genocide of the 20th century, almost an entire nation was destroyed with estimated deaths of over 1.5 million people. This lecture concentrates on the United States relationship with the Ottoman Empire during WWI, and the factors that attributed to the shaping of the U.S. foreign policy toward Turkey and subsequently toward the Armenian Genocide.

The advent of the United States as a global power coincided with the internationalization of the Armenian Question in the late nineteenth century. Since its early days, the United States had developed commercial relations with the Ottoman Empire. The U.S. government functioned as the "promotional state," as its representatives in Constantinople and across the Ottoman Empire sought to maintain friendly relations with Turkish authorities. The Ottoman government, in turn, hoped its relations with the United States would lead to widening commercial and financial ties to improve the empire's economic and military capabilities. By the time the Wilson administration entered the White House in 1913, the American missionaries, commercial enterprises, and the Navy, with the support of the Department of State, were already shaping U.S. foreign policy toward the Ottoman Empire. Like his predecessors, President Woodrow Wilson continued to cultivate close government-business relations by emphasizing the responsibilities of the "promotional state" abroad. Wilson's rhetoric of moralism and humanitarianism notwithstanding, his administration sought to maintain friendly relations with the Turkish government during the genocide and after World War I."