

Armenian Genocide Losses

An Estimate of the Damage 100 years later

Genocide is a crime of such massive proportions that even 100 years later the destruction is hard to comprehend. Much of that destruction cannot be undone: murdered multitudes, lost generations, uprooted communities, depredated homeland, obliterated cultural heritage, expropriated property, and plundered natural resources.

This website is dedicated to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. Rather than a claim for reparations, it outlines in broad terms the loss, in the belief that better understanding the extent of the harm will help find a way forward. Many countries and interests factored into the Armenian Genocide and many more have benefited over the past century from using the Armenian Question and the Armenian Genocide to advance their political and economic aims.

Inaction and indifference reinforce the notion that it pays to commit genocide. This is not an option, for it lowers the bar on barbarity for all humanity. Leaving a crime half-condemned and unredeemed sows seeds of instability and discord. Neighbors need to be able to live side-by-side without being haunted by their past.

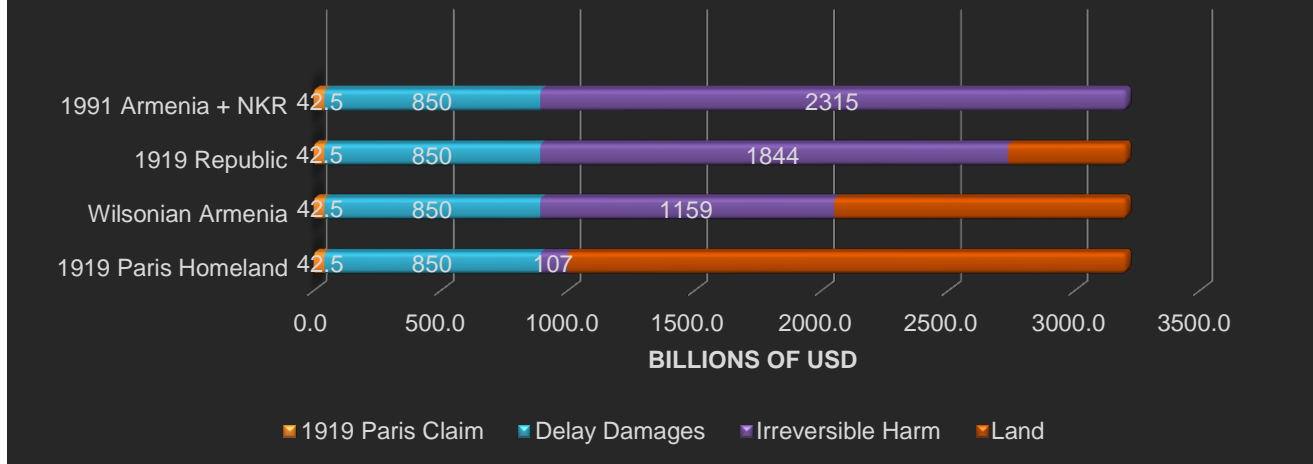
The way forward is simple. Reversible harm should be reversed. Irreversible harm should be compensated. This is what the Armenian delegation proposed at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference and it still may point to a way forward.

In 1919 the formula under consideration was a combination of homeland restoration and compensation for the irreversible losses incurred by the Armenian people. The compensation estimates presupposed restoration of the Armenian homeland from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. But as is well known, neither were the irreversible losses compensated, nor the homeland restored.

The charts below provide an up-dated version of the 1919 claim. Although some losses are clearly irreversible, the line between reversible and irreversible is often a matter of political will. Thus, in the charts below various combinations of reversible and irreversible harm are presented along with rough allocations among parties that caused the harm. These estimates do not attempt to account for the lost creativity of the 20 million Armenian lives that might have been but for the Armenian Genocide.

Failing to deal with the Armenian Genocide fully and fairly at that time has cost humanity dearly. Had justice been done then, wars may have been averted, genocides prevented, and the course of history changed. Further delay causes further harm. Armenians individually have partially recovered after a century. But for humanity the unredressed Armenian Genocide is still a stumbling block to a more peaceful and civilized future.

Reversible and Irreversible Harm from the Armenian Genocide



Genocide Losses	=	Reversible Harm restored land, rights & property	+	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #8e44ad; color: white; padding: 2px;">Irreversible Harm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #f1c40f; padding: 2px;">destroyed population, property</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #2980b9; padding: 2px;">delay damages</td> </tr> </table>	Irreversible Harm	destroyed population, property	delay damages
Irreversible Harm							
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Restitutio ad integrum is the international standard for measuring victims' losses. It means to make the victims' whole or put them in the position they would have been in but for the wrong, which calls for:

- ❖ *Reversible harm to be reversed.*
 - ❖ *Irreversible harm to be compensated.*
- The **1919 Paris Claim** was 19 billion Francs (1919 fr. franc, silver coin, currently worth \$2.18/fr. = \$42.5 bn.) This does not include Delay Damages
 - **Delay Damages** are calculated using present value and the time value of money and property and include
 - deprivation of access to ancestral homeland for 100 years,
 - interference with maintenance of cultural heritage, and
 - emotional distress associated with delay in justice, denial of the crime, and witnessing the depredation of one's nation and homeland.

For a benchmark, the US inflation rate since 1919 has been about 20 fold. 20 x \$42.5 bn = 850 billion. This does not include opportunity cost, consequential or expectation damages.

- **Irreversible Harm** includes the
 - 1919 Paris Claim **plus**
 - the post-1919 destruction of life, real and immovable property,
 - injuries, disruption of livelihood, and refugee maintenance costs from 1919-1923,
 - destroyed and desecrated cultural heritage,
 - lost revenues from natural resources and transit rights,
 - stolen property, not included in the 1919 Paris Claim,
 - costs of continued discrimination,
 - oppression and persecution of Armenians in Turkey, as well as
 - projected revenues from known natural resources (minerals, hydrocarbons) and
 - continued costs to Armenia of blockade and lack of access to the sea.

These are the damages proximately, foreseeably and intentionally caused to the Armenians post-1919 by the failure to fairly and promptly deal with the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide.

- **Reversible Harm** includes restoration of homeland and other rights. In line with the approach adopted during the 1919 peace negotiations, **land** and the associated property were deemed in-kind compensation for monetized losses, and vice versa; thus, as reflected in the bar chart above, restoration of homeland and property reduces irreversible harm. **Reversible Harm** includes land, property and other rights, such as,
 - end of denial, right to truth, apology, Genocide education in Turkey
 - restoration of Armenian place and cultural site names
 - restoration of Church and private property to rightful owners
 - access to the sea
 - transport and trade routes
 - free ports
 - rights of way for rail lines and highways, pipelines, electric and telecom
 - preservation ancestral shrines and cultural heritage
 - cultural site access and custodianship and tourism rights
 - mineral and hydrocarbons (on and off shore)
 - water resources (including electric generation and agricultural uses)
 - arable lands and temperate growing zones
 - biodiversity maintained and developed by Armenians
 - demilitarized security zones



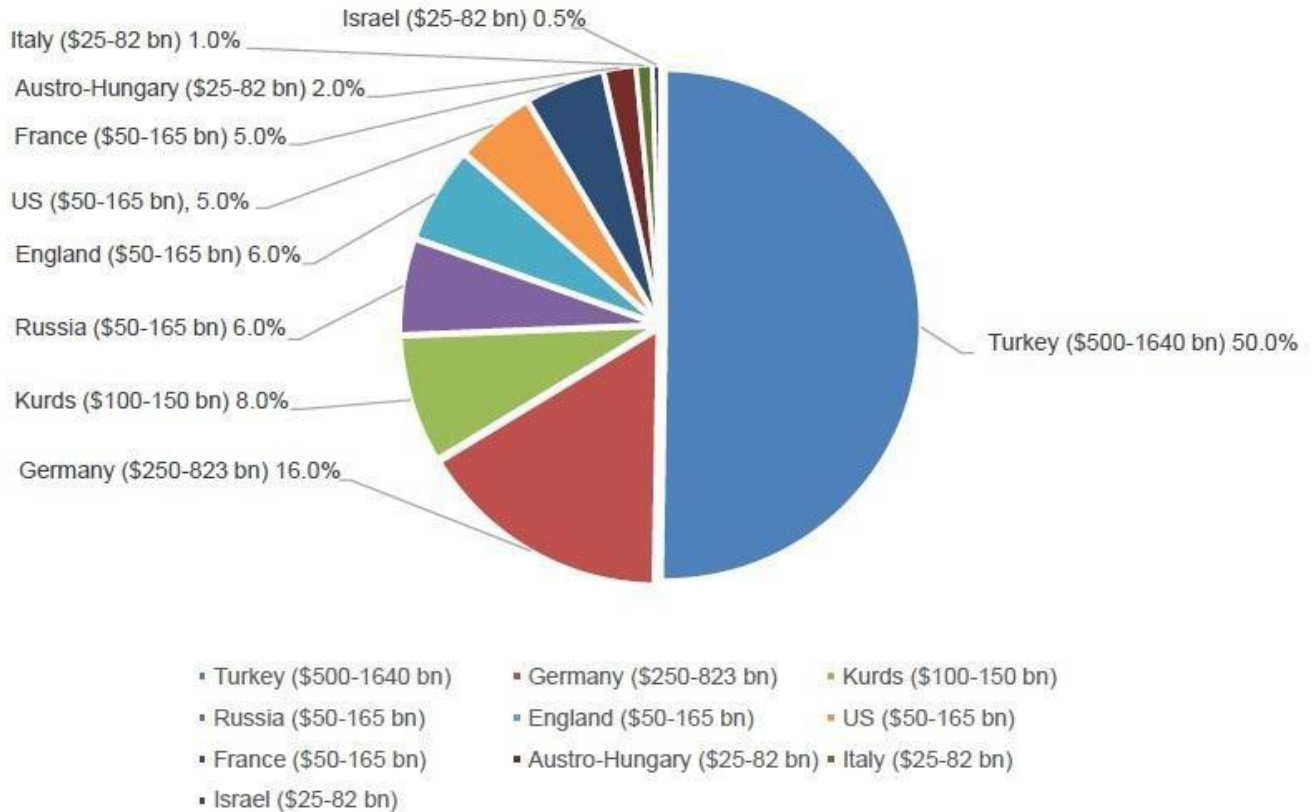
Paris Peace Conference Armenian Homeland (February 1919)

Wilsonian Armenia (November 1920)

Republic of Armenia (June 1919)

Republic of Armenia and Artsakh (NKR) (2015)

Allocation of Harm Caused, Benefit Gained from the Armenian Genocide



- Turkey** was the perpetrator of the Armenian Genocide along with the **Kurds**. The Turks are the chief beneficiary and main cause of delay in proper redress of the crime.
- Germany**, Turkey's WWI ally, was complicit in the planning and execution of the Armenian Genocide and failed to intervene. **Austro-Hungary** was Germany and Turkey's WWI ally and failed to intervene.
- Russia, England, France, Italy** and the **US**, each contributed to the conditions that caused the Armenian Genocide, failed to intervene, and later traded off proper resolution of the Armenian Genocide for their own economic or geopolitical interests at the expense of continued devastation of Armenia and destruction of the Armenian people and culture.
- Israel**, along with **England** and the **US**, have benefited from delaying recognition of the Armenian Genocide as a facilitating factor and leverage in trade, investment, military and geopolitical deals with **Turkey** at the expense of the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

- Although **Turkey**, the **Kurds** and **Germany** caused most of the direct harm and/or derived immediate benefits from the Armenian Genocide, while **England**, the **US**, **France** and **Russia** derived collateral benefits, the later delay damages were mostly due to the **US**, **England** and **Israel**. The allocation percentages reflect some of this shift in benefits over time.

- The total cost of reversing the reversible and compensating for the irreversible harm, even with minimal land restoration, is approximately \$3 trillion (USD). If paid in installments over a period of years, it would not amount to more than a miniscule fraction of the annual GDP of any of the perpetrators and beneficiaries of the Armenian Genocide and could be funded for the most part out of future cash streams.