

Assyrian Genocide: Timeline of Major Events

<i>Late Nineteenth Century</i>	The Assyrian population in the Ottoman Empire and Persia was approximately 500,000-1,000,000 (spanning present-day Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria).
1908	The Young Turk Revolution: The Committee of Union and Progress forces Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II to install a constitution and parliament, and hold multi-party elections. The Sultan was replaced in 1909 by his brother Mehmed V.
1913	Raid on the Sublime Porte: Hard-line Turkish nationalists within the Committee of Union and Progress consolidate power under the rule of the 'Three Pashas': Talaat Pasha, Interior Minister; Enver Pasha, War Minister; and Cemal Pasha, Naval Minister.
1914	The Ottoman Empire joins the WWI battlefield in late October as part of the Central Powers.
	October 26: Talaat Pasha issues a deportation order for Assyrians living in the Ottoman Empire near the Persian border.
	Ottoman troops and allied Kurdish militias attack Assyrian villages in Urmia, Persia, and in the Hakkari region of the Ottoman Empire. Thousands of Assyrians are murdered as violence begins to escalate towards genocide.
1915	Talaat Pasha states that "there was no room for Christians in Turkey".
	Violence against Assyrians in Urmia continues until May, when Ottoman troops are pushed out of Persia by Russian forces. It is estimated at least 70 villages are destroyed during this period and thousands killed.
	April 24: Approximately 250 Armenian leaders and intellectuals are executed in Istanbul. This date is now commemorated as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day and Assyrian Genocide Remembrance Day.
	May 10: Mar Benyamin Shimun XXI, Assyrian Patriarch of the Church of the East, declares war on the Ottoman Empire, aligning Assyrian militias with Allied forces.
	May 27: The Ottoman Parliament passes the Tehcir Law, authorizing the deportation of all Ottoman Armenians. While Assyrians also experience genocidal violence, it is not similarly under deportation orders.

(1915 continued)	Diyarbakir massacres: Ottoman forces execute Assyrians and Armenians in the Diyarbakir region (Turkey), assault the women and children, and destroy towns.
	Siirt massacres (Turkey): 8,000 Ottoman soldiers, called "The Butchers' Battalion," kill an estimated 15,000 Assyrians, including women and children.
	Assyrians increasingly flee, with survivors seeking refuge in Persia, Russia, and elsewhere within the Empire.
1917	The Russian Revolution ends Russian participation in WWI and Russian protection of Assyrians in Persia. Ottoman forces soon reenter Persia and renew attacks on Assyrians, including Assyrian refugees from the Ottoman Empire.
1918	Khoi massacres: Patriarch Mar Benyamin Shimun arranges for 3,500 Assyrians from the Ottoman Empire to be resettled in Khoi, Persia. However, nearly the entire population is killed upon resettlement.
	Patriarch Mar Benyamin Shimun is assassinated in March by Kurdish chieftain Simko Shikak during a peace negotiation, along with more than 100 Assyrians who accompanied the Patriarch.
	Mass flight of Assyrians from Urmia. Thousands die from attacks by Kurdish militias, exposure, disease, and starvation. More than 40,000 Assyrian and Armenian survivors ultimately take refuge in the Baquba refugee camp opened by Britain near Baghdad, Iraq.
	October 30: The Ottoman government signs the Armistice of Mudros, ending the Empire's involvement in WWI.
1920	The Treaty of Sèvres is signed between the Ottoman Empire and Allied powers. It gives large territories to European rule and calls for the creation of an Armenian state and a Kurdish state, overlooking Assyrian demands for independence or autonomy, and protection under an Allied power. The treaty would be renegotiated in 1923 as the Treaty of Lausanne, which eliminated the proposed Armenian and Kurdish states.
1933	Simmel (Simele) Massacres: at least 3,000 Assyrians in northern Iraq are massacred by the Iraqi military less than a year after Iraq gained independence.
2007	The International Association of Genocide Scholars recognizes the Assyrian Genocide as a genocide.