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## Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region Education Committee

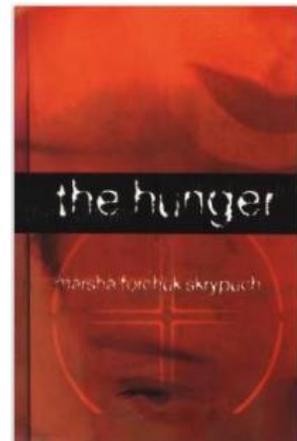
### Recommended Book List for Middle School & High School Level Students

The following books may be found on Amazon. Descriptions were taken from Amazon. This is not an all inclusive list. Should you know or have any appropriate material, you are encouraged to contact us via e-mail at [melvin@ancawr.org](mailto:melvin@ancawr.org).

#### **7th Grade and Older:**

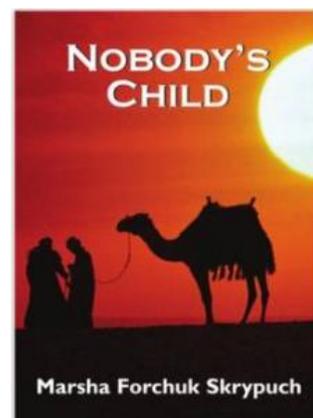
##### ***The Hunger* by Marsha Skrypuch**

Marsha's interest in untold chapters of ethnic history compelled her to write her newly completed young adult novel, *The Hunger*. The story tells of Paula, a contemporary teen who tries to solve her problems by dieting to perfection. Instead of attaining the perfect body, she ends up near death. While unconscious, her spirit slips back into her own great-grandmother's time and Paula finds herself disgorged onto the banks of the Euphrates River. Paula must deal with the stark contrast between her own self-imposed hunger and the chillingly real physical deprivation that her great-grandmother endured as a result of ethnic cleansing in Turkish Armenia.



##### ***Nobody's Child* by Marsha Skrypuch**

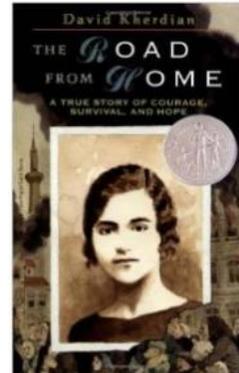
Orphaned by the Adana massacre in 1909, Mariam and her siblings, together with their friend Kevork and his aunt, travel home to Marash hoping to find their remaining family still alive. Six years later, when the teens face deportation from Turkey, they are torn apart despite their best efforts to stay together. One thing sustains them throughout their horrifying ordeals -- the hope that they might one day be reunited.



## **8th Grade and Older:**

### ***The Road from Home: The Story of An Armenian Girl* by David Kherdian**

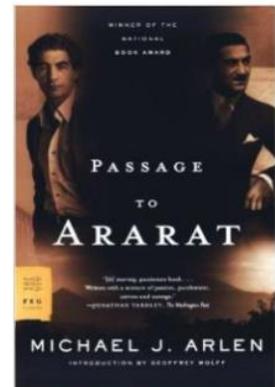
David Kherdian re-creates his mother's voice in telling the true story of a childhood interrupted by one of the most devastating holocausts of our century. Vernon Dumehjian Kherdian was born into a loving and prosperous family. Then, in the year 1915, the Turkish government began the systematic destruction of its Armenian population.



## **9th Grade and Older:**

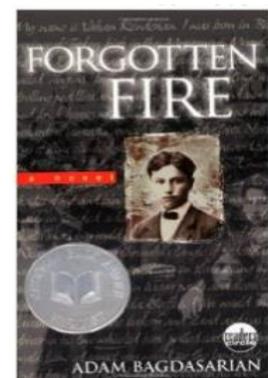
### ***Passage to Ararat* by Michael J. Arlen**

In *Passage to Ararat*, which received the National Book Award in 1976, Michael J. Arlen goes beyond the portrait of his father, the famous Anglo-Armenian novelist of the 1920s, that he created in *Exiles* to try to discover what his father had tried to forget: Armenia and what it meant to be an Armenian, a descendant of a proud people whom conquerors had for centuries tried to exterminate. But perhaps most affectingly, Arlen tells a story as large as a whole people yet as personal as the uneasy bond between a father and a son, offering a masterful account of the affirmation and pain of kinship.



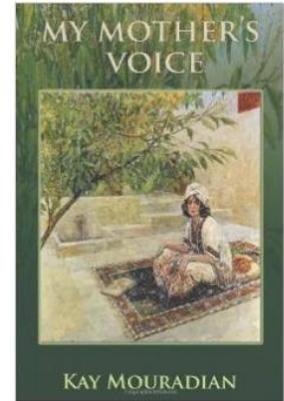
### ***Forgotten Fire* by Adam Bagdasarian (A National Book Award Finalist)**

In 1915 Vahan Kenderian is living a life of privilege as the youngest son of a wealthy Armenian family in Turkey. This secure world is shattered when some family members are whisked away while others are murdered before his eyes. Vahan loses his home and family, and is forced to live a life he would never have dreamed of in order to survive. Somehow Vahan's incredible strength and spirit help him endure, even knowing that each day could be his last.



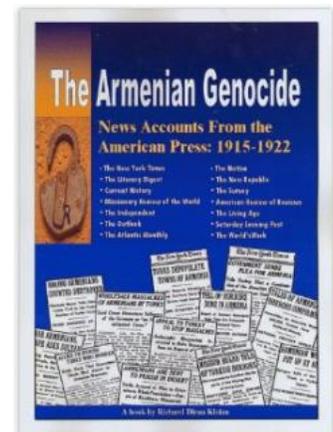
***My Mother's Voice: Oral history of a Young Girl by Kay Mouradian***

Researching through volumes in several libraries and archives in the United States, author Kay Mouradian visited the village in Turkey where her mother and her mother's family, along with twenty-five thousand other Armenians, were forced to leave their homes. Traveling over the same deportation route to the deserts of Syria where more than a million Armenians perished, the author became acutely aware of the suffering of her mother's generation and the lingering sense of injustice they carried.



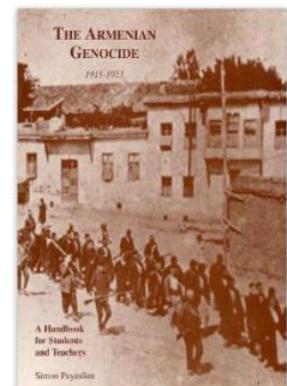
***The Armenian Genocide: News Accounts from the American Press, 1915-1922* edited by Richard Kloian**

This newly edited 2005 edition of 460 pages comprises more than 200 articles from *The New York Times* with bonus material from 1890-1909 reporting the massacres of Armenians in earlier periods, thus establishing the antecedents to the 1915 genocide. Also included are two analytical essays along with sixty full length articles from American periodicals of the time, including Ambassador Morgenthau's story as it was first made public and many other important documents.



***The Armenian Genocide: 1915-1923: A Handbook for Students and Teachers* by Simon Payaslian**

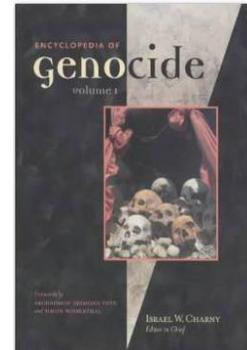
This handbook, prepared by the tireless efforts of Dr. Simon Payaslian of UCLA, provides both a historical perspective of the Genocide and an overview of international and national constraints in preventing the genocides that followed, highlighting the world's inability to deal appropriately with the perpetrators of the Armenian tragedy. This book also provides teachers with maps, graphs and eyewitness accounts as well as valuable teaching aids such as worksheets, discussion and essay topics to maximize the student's



understanding of how the unspeakable can occur and recur even in contemporary times.

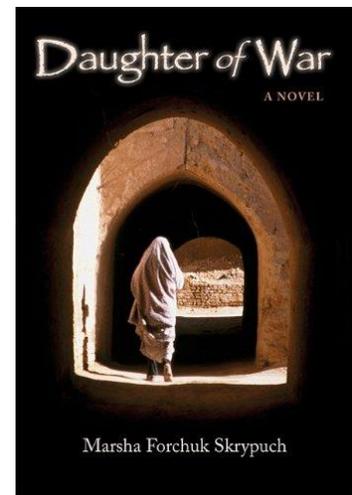
### ***Encyclopedia of Genocide* edited by Israel W. Charny**

The *Encyclopedia of Genocide* is the first reference work to chart the full extent of this horrific subject with objectivity and authority. The Nazi Holocaust; the genocides in Armenia, Cambodia, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia; and the eradication of indigenous peoples around the world are all covered in A–Z entries, written by almost 100 experts from many countries.



### ***Daughter of War* by Marsha Skrypuch**

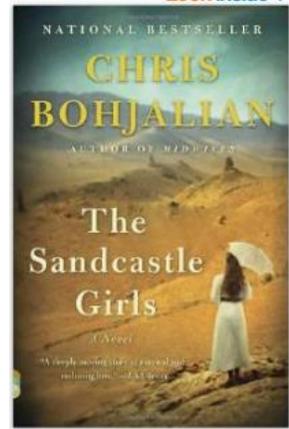
Teenagers Kevork and his betrothed Marta are the lucky ones. They have managed so far to survive the Armenian genocide in Turkey, and both are disguised as Muslims. But Marta is still in Turkey, pregnant with another man's child. And Kevork is living as an Arab in Syria. Kevork yearns to get back into Turkey and search for Marta, but with the war raging and the genocide still in progress, the journey will be impossibly dangerous. Meanwhile, Marta worries that even if Kevork has survived and they are reunited, will he be able to accept what she has become? And what has happened to her sister, Mariam, who was sold as a slave to the highest bidder? *Daughter of War* is a gripping story of enduring love and loyalty set against the horrors of Turkey during World War I.



## **10th Grade and Older:**

### ***The Sandcastle Girls* by Chris Bohjalian**

When Elizabeth Endicott arrives in Aleppo, Syria, she has a diploma from Mount Holyoke, a crash course in nursing, and only the most basic grasp of the Armenian language. It's 1915, and Elizabeth has volunteered to help deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the Armenian Genocide during the First World War. There she meets Armen, a young Armenian engineer who has already lost his wife and infant daughter. After leaving Aleppo and traveling into Egypt to join the British Army, he begins to write Elizabeth letters, realizing that he has fallen in love with the wealthy young American. Years later, their American granddaughter, Laura, embarks on a journey back through her family's history, uncovering a story of love, loss—and a wrenching secret that has been buried for generations.

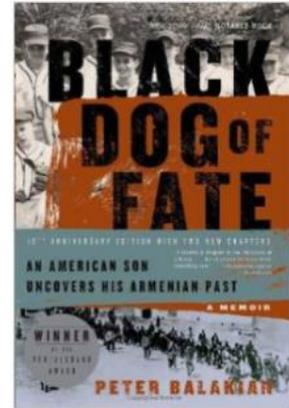


## **11th Grade and Older:**

### ***Black Dog of Faith* by Peter Balakian**

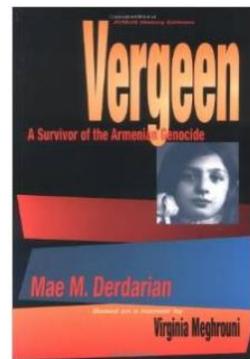
(PEN Albrand Award Winner)

*New York Times* bestselling author Peter Balakian expands his compelling story about growing up in the baby-boom suburbs of the 50s and 60s and coming to understand what happened to his family in the first genocide of the twentieth century and the Ottoman Turkish government's extermination of more than one million Armenians in 1915.



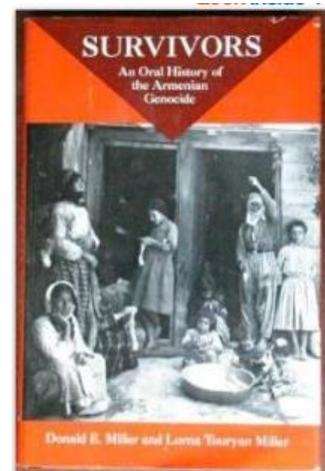
### ***Vergeen: A Survivor of the Armenian Genocide* by Mae Derdarian**

This is the gripping true story of a girl's indomitable will to survive the genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish government against its Armenian subjects during World War I. Through a first-hand account of Vergeen's recollections, the brutalities endured by two million Armenians come to life and are mirrored a generation later by Hitler's attack on Jews.



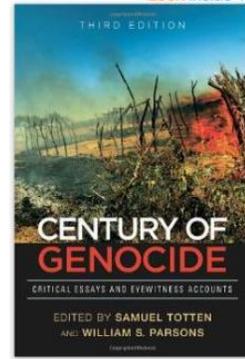
### ***Survivors: An Oral History of the Armenian Genocide* by Lorna Touryan Miller & Donald Eugene**

Between 1915 and 1923, over one million Armenians died, victims of a genocidal campaign that is still denied by the Turkish government. Thousands of other Armenians suffered torture, brutality, deportation. Yet their story has received scant attention. Through interviews with a hundred elderly Armenians, Donald and Lorna Miller give the "forgotten genocide" the hearing it deserves. *Survivors* raise important issues about genocide and about how people cope with traumatic experience. Much here is wrenchingly painful, yet it also speaks to the strength of the human spirit.



***A Century of Genocide: Critical Essays and Eyewitness Accounts*  
edited by Samuel Totten, William S. Parsons, & Israel W.  
Charney**

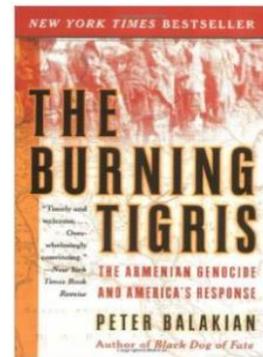
Through powerful first-person accounts, scholarly analysis, and compelling narrative, *Century of Genocide* details the causes and ramifications of the genocides perpetrated in the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. Historical context provides the necessary background on the actors and victims to help us better understand these episodes of atrocious political violence.



***The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response* by Peter  
Balakian**

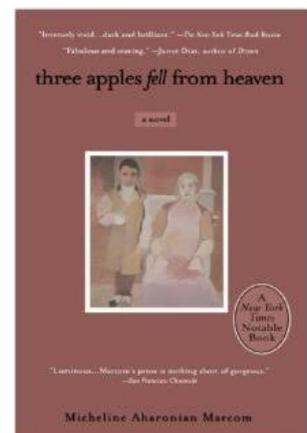
(Awarded the Raphael Lemkin Prize for the best scholarly book on genocide by the Institute for Genocide Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY Graduate Center)

In this national bestseller, the critically acclaimed author Peter Balakian brings us a riveting narrative of the massacres of the Armenians in the 1890s and of the Armenian Genocide in 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. Using rarely seen archival documents and remarkable first-person accounts, Balakian presents the chilling history of how the Turkish government implemented the first modern genocide behind the cover of World War I. And in the telling, he resurrects an extraordinary lost chapter of American history.



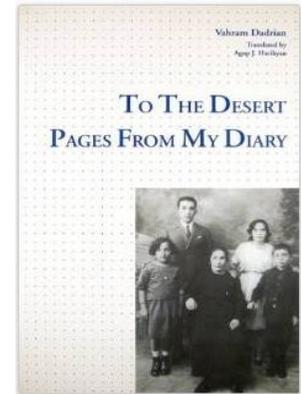
***Three Apples Fell From Heaven* by Micheline Aharonian Marcom**  
(A *New York Times* Notable Book)

Through a series of chapters that have the weight and economy of poetry, Micheline Aharonian Marcom introduces us to the stories of Anaguil, an Armenian girl taken in by Turkish neighbors after the death of her parents who now views the remains of her world through a Muslim veil; Sargis, a poet hidden away in his mother's attic, dressed in women's clothing, and steadily going mad; Lucine, a servant and lover of the American consul; Maritsa, a rage-filled Muslim wife who becomes a whore; and Dickran, an infant left behind under a tree on the long exodus from an Armenian village, who reaches with tiny hands to touch the stars and dies with his name unrecorded. Through these lives, we witness the vanishing of a people.



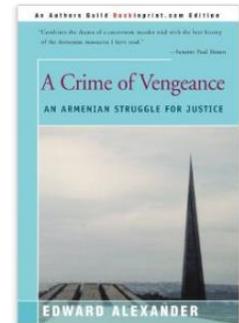
***To the Desert: Pages From My Diary* by Vahram Dadrian and translated by Agop Hacikyan**

Vahram's account, written in Armenian, was first published as a book in 1945. This is the first English translation of that work. It is a somewhat unusual narrative written by a child survivor of the Armenian Genocide. Vahram relates the fate of thousands of Armenians who were not sent to Der Zor in 1915, but to the wastelands south of Aleppo, as far as Maan and Es Salt in Jordan. Vahram relates his family's deportation, survival strategy—and luck—throughout this period. He also notes the condition of other deportees on the way.



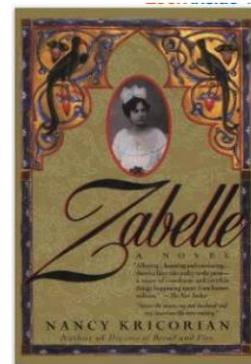
***A Crime of Vengeance: An Armenian Struggle for Justice* by Edward Alexander**

Turkey's massacre of Armenians in 1915 and the six year hunt and assassination of former Grand Visier Talaat Pasha as revealed in an internationally-covered Berlin murder trial in 1921.



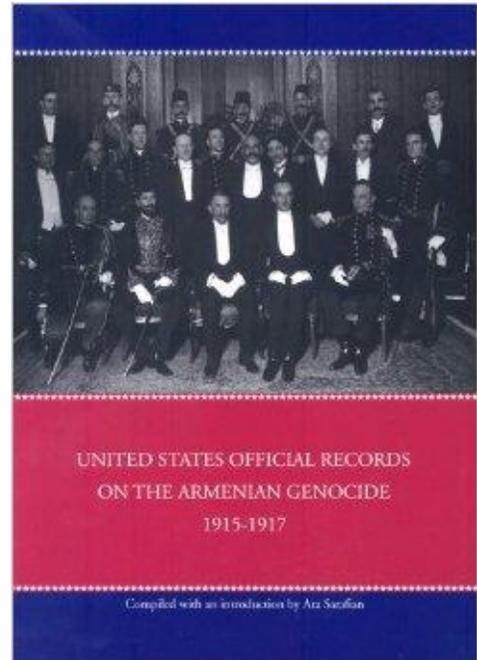
***Zabelle* by Nancy Kricorian**

As Zabelle's family assembles for her funeral in present-day Massachusetts, it becomes clear that her children hardly knew her. But as this alternatively comic and heartbreaking novel unfolds--beginning with Zabelle's survival of the 1915 Armenian Genocide in Turkey and her subsequent emigration to America for an arranged marriage--an unforgettable character emerges.



***United States Official Documents on the Armenian Genocide Volumes I-V* edited by Ara Sarafian**

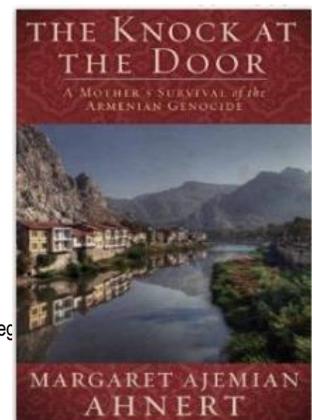
As co-chairs of the U.S. Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, we welcome the publication of this comprehensive collection of U.S. documents from the National Archives and the Library of Congress on the Armenian Genocide. This valuable publication includes the "core materials" that informed U.S. officials in Washington, D.C. about the senseless mass killing of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire. Recipients of this information included Secretaries of State William Jennings Bryan and Robert Lansing, as well as President Woodrow Wilson. The documents in this book provide a first-hand look at the efforts of U.S. consuls and the American Ambassador in



Constantinople to engage the U.S. government in ending the systematic destruction of the Armenian people. Sadly, these efforts were ultimately unsuccessful, the massacres continued, and most Armenians perished as a result. However, the information in these documents did spark an unprecedented American humanitarian campaign that, in many ways, marked the entry of the U.S. on the world stage as a humanitarian power., U.S. consulates were used to channel aid into the Ottoman provinces and disburse it through American and other missionaries, while providing shelter to hundreds of Armenians throughout this period. The formation of Near East Relief by an Act of Congress was a direct result of this effort. Armenians may never have recovered from their losses between 1915 and 1923 were it not for the support they received from the United States. It is our hope that this publication will help educate America's leaders and the general public about the Armenian Genocide and the need for the U.S. Congress to enact legislation that recognizes this tragedy as genocide. Finally, we must ensure that the lessons learned from this tragedy are used to prevent future genocides.

***The Knock at the Door: A Mother's Survival of the Armenian Genocide* by Margaret Ahnert**

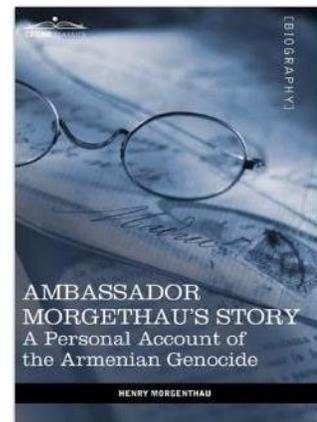
In 1915, Armenian Christians in Turkey were forced to convert to Islam, barred from speaking their language, and often driven out of their homes as the Turkish army embarked on a widespread campaign



of intimidation and murder. In this riveting book, Margaret AjemianAhnert relates her mother Ester's terrifying experiences as a young woman during this period of hatred and brutality. At age 15, Ester was separated from her family during a forced march away from her birth town of Amasia. Though she faced unspeakable horrors at the hands of many she met, and was forced into an abusive marriage against her will, she never lost her faith, quick wit, or ability to see the good in people. Eventually she escaped and emigrated to America. Ahnert's compelling account of her mother's suffering is framed by an intimate portrait of her relationship with her 98-year-old mother. Ester's inspiring stories, told lovingly by her daughter, will give you a window into the harrowing struggle of Armenians during a terrible period in human history.

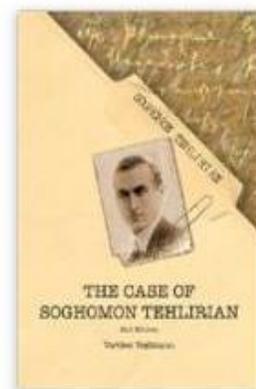
### ***Ambassador Morgenthau's Story* by Henry Morgenthau and edited by Peter Balakian**

By the early 1900s, the Ottoman Empire was beginning to dissolve. Upon seeing this weakness, Germany set its own plans into action in the capital of Constantinople-to bring the vast Turkish Empire under its control. In this book, American statesman Henry Morgenthau Sr. (1856-1946) details how Turkey fell under the influence of Germany and how this led to the Armenian Genocide. In a trial run of the extermination of the Jews, the Germans orchestrated the murder and exile of the Armenians from Turkey, with "Turkey for the Turks" as a rallying cry. The similarities to the Holocaust are chilling. Anyone intrigued by the history and politics of Eastern Europe will find Morgenthau's memoir enlightening. And scholars will gain great insight from reading this first-hand account of an often forgotten tragedy.



### ***The Case of Soghomon Tehlirian* translated by Vartkes Yeghiayan**

*The Case of Soghomon Tehlirian* is a fascinating, multidimensional document. It is a trial transcript, which offers the reader a front row seat to a riveting trial which established a number of legal precedents. "For the first time in legal history" wrote Robert Kempner, a law student who attended the trial, and who subsequently became a key prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials, "it was recognized that other countries could legitimately combat gross human rights violations caused by a government, especially genocide, without committing unauthorized intervention in the internal affairs of another country." *The Case*

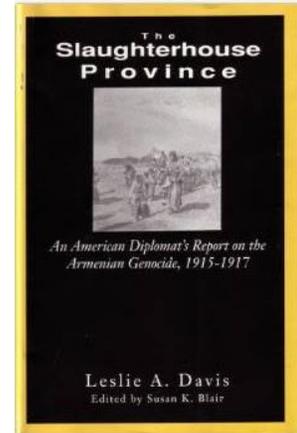


*of Soghomon Tehlirian* was also instrumental in provoking Raphael Lemkin, who coined the word genocide, to investigate the paradox of how a single man, Tehlirian, could be prosecuted for murder, yet the murdered man, Talaat, had almost gotten away after successfully planning and prosecuting the extermination of over a million souls.

## **For Teachers and Educators:**

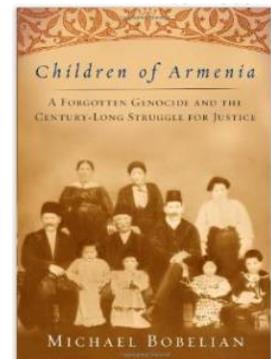
### ***The Slaughterhouse Province: An American Diplomat's Report on the Armenian Genocide, 1915-1917* by Leslie A. Davis**

A searing indictment of the Ottoman Turkish government for its brutal massacre and deportation of its Armenian population in 1915-1923 by Leslie Davis who as U. S. consul in Harput from 1915 to 1917 was an eyewitness to the atrocities committed upon Armenians. Much of what he saw could scarcely be told in ways that would be palatable to western sensibilities, for as he wrote: "It is hard for one living in a civilized country to believe that such things are possible; yet, as Lord Bryce has said, 'Things which we find scarcely credible excite little surprise in Turkey.'" Nevertheless, his report survived to comprise *The Slaughterhouse Province*.



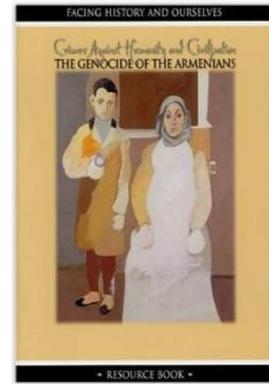
### ***Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice* by Michael Bobelian**

The first book to chronicle the aftermath of the twentieth century's first genocide, this groundbreaking work recounts the Armenians' struggle for justice in the face of fifty years of silence and denial. - First comprehensive account: From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Turks drove two million Armenians from their ancestral homeland, slaughtering 1.5 million of them in the process.



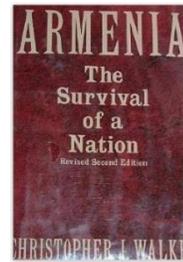
***Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians by Facing History and Ourselves***

*Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians* combines the latest scholarship on the Armenian Genocide with an interdisciplinary approach to history, enabling students and teachers to make the essential connections between history and their own lives.



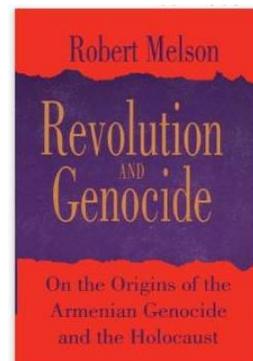
***Armenia: The Survival of a Nation by Christopher Walker***

This modern history of Armenia traces the influences promoting Armenian nationalism, and places the historical, cultural and social issues firmly in the contemporary context. It assesses the impact of changing political attitudes, and provides brief bibliographies of 120 leading Armenian figures.



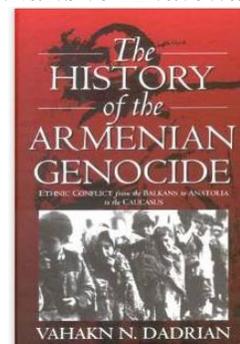
***Revolution and Genocide: On the Origins of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust by Robert Melson***

In a study that compares the major attempts at genocide in world history, Robert Melson creates a sophisticated framework that links genocide to revolution and war. He focuses on the plights of Jews after the fall of Imperial Germany and of Armenians after the fall of the Ottoman as well as attempted genocides in the Soviet Union and Cambodia. He argues that genocide often is the end result of a complex process that starts when revolutionaries smash an old regime and, in its wake, try to construct a society that is pure according to ideological standards.



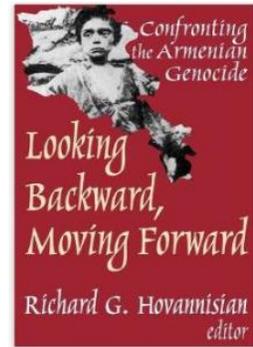
***The History of the Armenian Genocide: Ethnic Conflict from the Balkans to Anatolia to the Caucasus by Vahakn N. Dadrian***

The Armenian Genocide, though not given such prominent treatment as the Jewish Holocaust which it precedes, still haunts the Western world and has assumed a new significance in the light of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. This study by the most distinguished scholar of the Armenian tragedy offers an authoritative analysis by presenting it as a case study of genocide and by seeing it as a historical process in which a domestic conflict escalated and was finally consumed by a global war.



***Looking Backward, Moving Forward: Confronting the Armenian Genocide* by Richard G. Hovannisian**

This volume argues that the time has come for Turkey to reassess the propriety of its approach, and to begin the process that will allow it move into a post-genocide era.



***Armenia: A Journey through History*, by Arra S. Avakian, contributed by Ara John Movsesian**

ARMENIA: A Journey through History contains a wealth of information about the Armenian people, history, significant events, important places, and individuals who did much to make the Armenian nation what it is.

