

## Armenia NOTICE: Topics for due next class

- History
  - Armenians = ancient people
  
  - Developed rich culture
  
  - Sovereignty ended 14th cen
  
  - Ottoman Empire
  
  - Armenians were tolerated as a “people of the book”
    - BUT Never considered as fully equal
  
    - Worst = Devshirme
  
    - Many converted to Islam
  
    - Most = tenant farmers
  
  - As empire crumbled, intolerance increased
    - Breakdown accelerated by inability to compete
  
    - Superiority of one element over other groups continued

- Uncontrolled spending led more taxation
  
- Ex. Tax farming
  
- Wasteful ways = bankruptcy
  
- Decay paralleled by cul-pol revival subject nationalities
  
- “Eastern Question”
  
- Efforts by European powers to preserve Ott Em
  
- Ott liberals decided that survival depends on reform
  
- Influenced reform edicts of *Tanzimat* period
  
- Reforms blocked by vested “interests”
  
- Armenians sought least
  
- Leaders didn’t seek separation or independence
  
- Sultan should have viewed as “faithful community”

- Armenians still experienced period of cultural revival
  - Period of Armenian self-discovery paralleled by problems in gov't
- Dual development
    - Conscious demand for security of life & property
    - Growing insecurity of life & property
    - Europeans renewed pressure on Sublime Porte
- Sultan Abdul-Mamid II maneuvered to undermine international conference
  - Once Sultan suspended liberal reforms, tribulations of Armenians multiplied.
  - Opportunity came in wake of Russo-Turkish War
    - Millet appealed to Russians for help
    - Treaty of San Stefano (1878)
      - No such provision for Armenians

- Arms not entirely disappointed
  - Art 16
  - General Melikov remained
- Aftermath of Treaty = example
- Outcome impacts Arms
  - Kurdish tribesmen attack before Armenian Question could be solved
  - Petitions of Arm patriarch failed
  - Euros were involved elsewhere
  - Armenian Question silently shelved
- Some Arms espoused “extralegal” means
  - Organized secret pol societies
  - Pushed for reform

- Effort caused Kurds to attack again
  - Attacked Sassun
  
- Arms lay down arms in return for promise of amnesty
  
- Euro consuls & Christian missionaries protested
  - Only Brit, Fr, & Rus gov'ts willing to address Sublime Porte
  
- Joint plan was submitted
  
- Diplomatic efforts continued thru Oct 1895
  - Abdul-Hamid assents to reform program
  
- Armenians once again falsely optimistic
  - Again Euro intercession compounded troubles of Armenians
    - Trebizond
  
  - Systematic pogroms swept over all of Armenia
  
- First large scale genocide unleashed by Sultan