
THE TURKEY-ARMENIA PROTOCOLS

- READING BETWEEN THE LINES -

THREATENING THE INDEPENDENCE OF NAGORNO KARABAGH

“Reconfirming their commitment, in their bilateral and international relations, to respect and ensure respect for the principles equality, sovereignty, non intervention in internal affairs of other states, territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers,”

Accepting such a provision will allow Turkey to argue that Armenia can no longer take part in efforts to resolve the Nagorno Karabagh conflict because it constitutes the “internal affairs” of Azerbaijan. In the event of renewed Azerbaijani aggression, this provision could also be cited as prohibiting Armenia’s material defense of Nagorno Karabagh. Concerns over the interpretation of this provision are compounded by the complete absence of any language in these protocols affirming the right to self-determination.

FORFEITING LEGAL CLAIMS TO ARMENIAN LANDS

“Confirming the mutual recognition of the existing border between the two countries as defined by relevant treaties of international law”

Agreeing to this provision would mean an official recognition of the Treaty of Kars, which was signed under the duress of the Soviet Union in 1921. This treaty relinquished Armenia’s claims to Western Armenia, Nakhichevan and Nagorno Karabagh.

Adopting such an agreement would amount to the Republic of Armenia officially accepting the criminal dispossession of the Armenian people at the hands of Turkey during the Armenian Genocide and forfeiting all legal claims to our historic homeland.

DENYING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

“Implement a dialogue on the historical dimension with the aim to restore mutual confidence between the two nations, including an impartial and scientific examination of the historical records and archives to define existing problems and formulate recommendations;”

In recent years, the Turkish government has sought to further its campaign of denial by calling for a “historic commission” to study what happened to Armenians during World War I. This proposal has been roundly condemned by leading international genocide scholars as a ploy to cast doubt on the veracity of the Armenian Genocide.

By signing on to these protocols, the Armenian government will become an accomplice in Turkey’s ongoing campaign to deny the overwhelming scholarly consensus on the Armenian Genocide.