

# France sparks Armenian genocide row

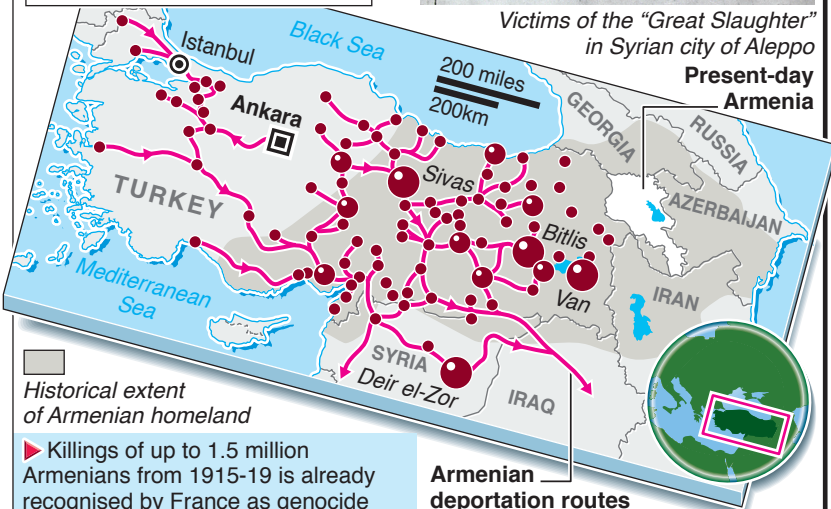
French lawmakers have approved a bill making it a crime to deny that mass killings of Armenians in Turkey during and after World War I amounted to genocide – a move which could seriously damage Turkey's relations with France

● **Massacre sites:** Symbol size relates to scale of deaths



Victims of the "Great Slaughter" in Syrian city of Aleppo

**Present-day Armenia**



Historical extent of Armenian homeland

► Killings of up to 1.5 million Armenians from 1915-19 is already recognised by France as genocide

► Turkey says death toll is inflated and that large numbers of both Armenians and Ottoman Turks died in civil unrest

► Proposed bill establishes one-year prison term and 45,000-euro fine for those denying genocide – penalties same as those for denying Holocaust

► Issue may affect Turkish efforts to join EU – majority of French people are opposed to Turkey entering bloc

► Bill might never become law as it still needs approval of French Senate and President. European Commission has voiced strong opposition