

Key issues in U.S.-Turkey “genocide” row



■ **The charge:** U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs has described as “genocide” the killings of up to 1.5 million Armenians as Ottoman Empire crumbled during World War I. **Turkey says between 300,000 and 500,000 Armenians and similar number of Turks died in conflict**

■ **U.S. Congress:** Committee already backed similar bills in 2000, 2002 and 2007, but strong pressure from Bush administration prevented bills from reaching House of Representatives

■ **Public opinion:** Following 2007 U.S. vote, a survey by the Pew Research Center found only 9% of Turks held a favorable view of U.S. – down from 52% in 2000

■ **World opinion:** France and Canada have classified killings as genocide. Britain and Russia have called killings a crime against humanity

■ **Diplomatic damage:** Ankara could block U.S. use of Incirlik air base – strategic refueling hub for transportation of cargo to U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Turkey also offers cheapest and safest way of pulling American troops out of Iraq next year

■ **Trade:** U.S.-Turkish trade was valued at \$16.2 billion in 2008

■ **Contracts at risk:** Ankara is buying \$7 billion of U.S. weapons, including Lockheed F-35 fighters, \$1.2 billion deal with Boeing for 14 CH-47 Chinook helicopters, and Patriot missile systems

■ **Oil supplies:** Washington is keen to reinforce Turkey’s ambitions of becoming transit route for Central Asian oil to Europe

■ **Reconciliation:** Turkey and Armenia signed protocol last October to establish diplomatic relations. Deal is yet to pass through parliament of either country