

an unconscionable act, however, can never be forgotten.

Accordingly, it is our duty as elected officials to state in no uncertain terms that the Armenian Genocide is clearly and unambiguously defined as genocide. Repeatedly, many leaders, including the President, have called the Armenian Genocide everything but a genocide. Only when this term is understood will the tragic events that began on April 24, 1915, be placed in the correct historical context. The Armenian Genocide cannot be denied.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in tribute to the Armenian people who have fully recovered from this atrocity by maintaining their proud traditions and culture, becoming an integral part of America, and nine years ago, forming the Republic of Armenia.

The Ottoman Empire's last, desperate act was one of profound cruelty, tragic and gruesome beyond description. During World War I—a tumultuous, revolutionary time of great societal transformations and uncertain futures on the battlefields and at home—desperate Ottoman leaders fell back on the one weapon that could offer hope of personal survival. It is a weapon that is still used today, fed by fear, desperation, and hatred. It transforms the average citizen into a zealot, no longer willing to listen to reason. This weapon is, of course, nationalism. Wrongly directed, nationalism can easily result in ethnic strife and senseless genocide, committed in the name of false beliefs preached by immoral, irresponsible, tyrannical leaders.

Today I rise not to speak of the present, but in memory of the victims of the past, who suffered needlessly in the flames of vicious, destructive nationalism. Exactly 87 years ago today, the leaders of the Ottoman government tragically chose to systematically exterminate an entire race of people. In this case, as in the case of Nazi Germany, nationalism became a weapon of cruelty and evil. Let us never forget the 1.5 million Armenians who died at the whim of wicked men and their misguided followers.

The story of the Armenian Genocide is in itself appalling. It is against everything our government—and indeed all governments who strive for justice—stands for; it represents the most wicked side of humanity. What makes the Armenian story even more unfortunate is history has repeated itself in all corners of the world, and lessons that should have been learned long ago have been ignored. We must not forget the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, or Bosnia. It is our duty that by remembering the millions who have been victims of genocide, we pledge ourselves to preventing such acts from repeating themselves.

It is an honor and privilege to represent a large and active Armenian population, many who have family members who were persecuted by their Ottoman Turkish rulers. Michigan's Armenian-American community has done much to further our state's commercial, political, and intellectual growth, just as it has done in communities across the country. And so I also rise today to honor to the triumph of the Armenian people, who have endured adversity and bettered our country.

The Armenian people have faced great trials and tests throughout their history. They have proved their resilience in the face of tragedy before, and I have no doubt that they will endure today's tragic occurrence, recognize that

a madman's bullet can never put an end to a people's dreams, and keep moving forward on the path of peace and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, let no one, friend or foe, ever deny that the Armenian Genocide occurred. Let us not forget the heinous nature of the crimes committed against the Armenian people. Let us promise to the world as American citizens and citizens of the world, that we will never again allow such a crime to be perpetrated, and will not tolerate the forces of misguided nationalism and hate.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who died in the Armenian Genocide.

In the first part of the 20th century, a tremendous evil was done to the Armenian people. April 24, 1915 is a day that will forever live in infamy. A Turkish campaign to eliminate Armenians from the face of the earth began that day. In the end, that campaign killed 1.5 million people.

More than 200 religious, political and intellectual leaders were assassinated. 500,000 people were exiled from their homes. As a result of this violence, one of earth's oldest civilizations virtually ceased to exist.

Unfortunately this terrible chapter of history is not well known. Many Americans don't know much about the Armenian genocide, but it should stand as a constant reminder to all of us that we must be vigilant and stand firm against bigotry and hatred at every turn.

We must take the horrors of the past and transform them into compassion and hope. We must learn from the Armenian genocide—learn about perseverance and hope. We can't change the past, but we can prepare for the future.

While we remember with sorrow, we must also be heartened that eighty-five years later, Armenians remain a proud, dignified people. Their spirit lives in the independent republic of Armenia and in many communities around the United States, particularly in my home state of California.

Every one of these people is the product of generations of courage, perseverance and hope. Understanding what it is to struggle as a people motivates many Armenians to educate others about the atrocities committed in the past.

The bonds between Armenia and the United States are growing stronger all the time. Economic cooperation is growing. Democracy is blossoming. These are testaments of strength to the Armenian people.

While we did not do enough for the victims eighty-five years ago, we can honor their memory now, and ensure that nothing so horrendous happens again.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today we solemnly commemorate the 87th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, when the Ottoman Government unleashed a campaign of devastation and destruction against its Armenian population.

Over the course of eight years, beginning in 1915, Armenian communities were systematically destroyed. One and a half million men, women, and children were murdered and nearly one million others were deported. From the ashes of destruction, the survivors rebuilt their lives and many established vibrant Armenian communities here in the United States, but the scars of the massacres are deeply embedded in their history and our conscience.

The world was silent during the bloodshed of Armenians. It was tragically just a short

number of years before this inaction degenerated into paralysis against Hitler's attempt to annihilate the Jews.

At a time when the flames of anti-Semitism are reigniting across Europe, we have a responsibility to redouble our efforts against the bigotry and intolerance that sparked the Armenian Genocide and later the Holocaust. At a time when there are still attempts to refute the Armenian Genocide and Holocaust denial is spreading rampantly through the Arab world, we have an obligation to resolve ourselves against the dangers of historical revisionism.

Today we mourn the victims, pay tribute to the survivors, and stand together with all who are committed to promoting awareness about this dark chapter of history. Today we remember to never forget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MORELLA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PREDICTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, our government intervention in the economy and in the private affairs of citizens and the internal affairs of foreign countries leads to uncertainty and many unintended consequences. Here are some of the consequences about which we should be concerned.

I predict U.S. taxpayers will pay to rebuild Palestine, both the West Bank and the Gaza, as well as Afghanistan. U.S. taxpayers paid to bomb these areas, so we will be expected to rebuild them.

Peace, of sorts, will come to the Middle East, but will be short-lived. There will be big promises of more U.S. money and weapons flowing to Israel and to Arab countries allied with the United States.

U.S. troops and others will be used to monitor the "peace."

In time, an oil boycott will be imposed, with oil prices soaring to historic highs.

Current Israeli-United States policies will solidify Arab Muslim nations in