

**Committee: Paris Peace Conference 1919**

**Topic: Ottoman Empire**

**Country: Empire of Japan**

**School: [INSERT SCHOOL NAME]**

**A. Description of Topic**

In the midst of the early 20th century, Middle Eastern nations and nations with high proximity to the Middle East experienced dramatic changes caused by the Partition of the Ottoman Empire. This post-war chaos soon brought tragedies such as the Armenian Genocide<sup>i</sup> that led to the deaths of millions of people who are not resolved or compensated. To complicate issues, various minority groups located within the borders of the former Ottoman Empire are provoked by the ethnic-nationalist movements and are calling for autonomous statehood while being accompanied by high levels of opposition from the local Turkish resistant groups<sup>ii</sup>. Furthermore, the Europeans granted an autonomous region for the Armenians without ensuring that the newfound nation could be protected from external invasion through the Treaty of Sevres<sup>iii</sup>, which, sadly, did occur under General Kemal and the Turkish forces<sup>iv</sup>. Immediate actions and adequate preparation should be established during the conference in order to prevent future destruction and casualties during the conference.

**B. Policies and Past Actions**

Despite geographical distances, the Empire of Japan is highly concerned with such crises and is willing to take action according to the wills of the international community. Moreover, the Empire of Japan had already maintained a successful cooperative relationship with the Entente Powers during the previous World War against Germany<sup>v</sup> and remains excited (change a word) to continue this relationship in the upcoming Peace Conference. In future negotiations, Japan anticipates a peaceful conclusion that could both keep the peace and stability in the Middle East as well as prevent such catastrophes from repeating again, no matter in any part of the globe, in the future.

**C. Proposed Solutions**

Amid these issues, one of the most important actions that should be taken is creating a specific international body to oversee the application and establishment of statehood. This body could be formed as a subsidiary organ of the League of Nations, proposed by the fourteenth point of Wilson<sup>vi</sup>. This organ can compose a specific set of baseline requirements for nations that are willing to try and create an autonomous state, and the requirements can include but not limited to social progress, basic military power for self-defense, strong central government that is not suspected of corruption and a referendum for the citizen that can be proven to be unbiased.

Besides the formation of new states, protecting the rights and ensuring compensation for the victims of the Armenian Genocide and the population exchange is of equal importance to be resolved in this conference. The delegation of Japan proposes for the construction of an Armenian Genocide memorial funded by the Turkish government and repayments to individuals and families that could be proven as a victim of the Armenian Genocide. This could also be overseen by and act as a function of the League of Nations. In the case of the population exchange or any other similar cases in the future, a survey is recommended to be conducted on the people, and forced movements of any legal citizen should not take place by any accounts. Following the survey, proper refugee protection and humanitarian aids should be prepared to limit casualties or deaths during such movements. Upon arrival, proper infrastructure, as well as a basic education that facilitates integration to the local community, should be provided to both increase living standards for the refugees and to prevent unwanted conflicts with the locals.

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<sup>i</sup> “Armenian Genocide.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 2010, [www.history.com/topics/armenian-genocide](http://www.history.com/topics/armenian-genocide).

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- ii Paris Peace Conference Background Guide, pg. 27
- iii Paris Peace Conference Background Guide, pg. 26
- iv “Kemal Atatürk.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 2009,  
www.history.com/topics/kemal-ataturk.
- v “Japan Gives Ultimatum to Germany.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks,  
www.history.com/this-day-in-history/japan-gives-ultimatum-to-germany.
- vi “Fourteen Points.” *Britannica*, www.britannica.com/event/Fourteen-Points.