



**LEADERS OF NEAR EAST RELIEF**

**Ambassador Henry Morgenthau Sr.**

Henry Morgenthau Sr. (April 26, 1856-November 25, 1946) was a lawyer, businessman and United States Ambassador, most known as the American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913-1916 during World War I and the Armenian Genocide.

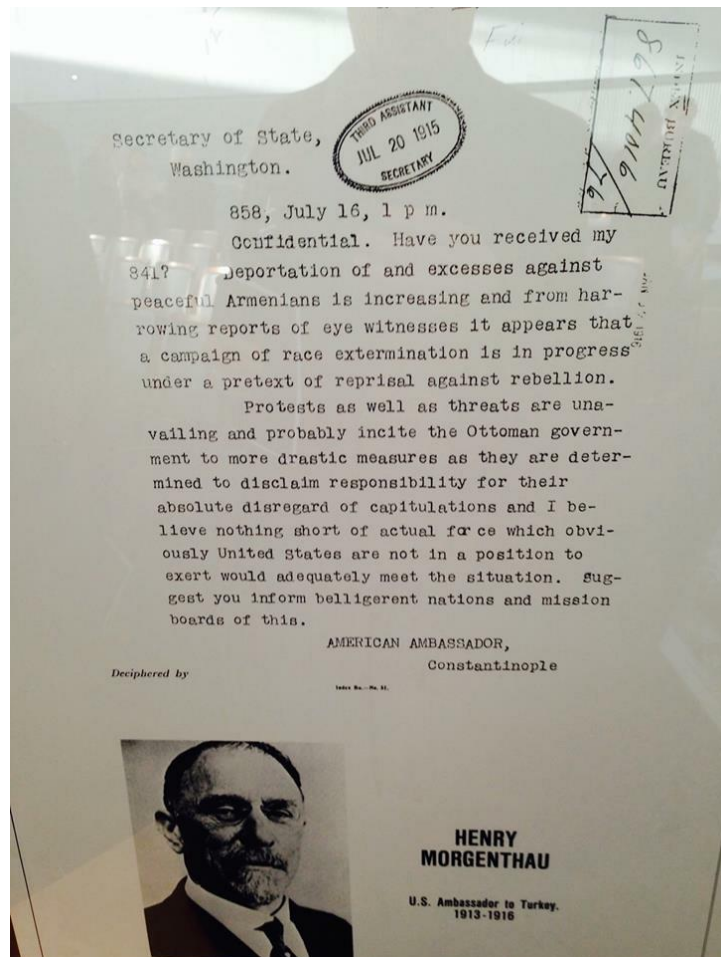
Morgenthau was born in Mannheim, Grand Duchy of Baden, into an Ashkenazi Jewish family of 12 children. As Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Morgenthau has come to be identified as the most prominent American to speak out against the Armenian Genocide.

As an early Woodrow Wilson supporter, Morgenthau, like other prominent Jewish Americans, was posted as the ambassador to the Ottoman Empire under an assumption operating at the time that Jews somehow represented a bridge between Muslim Turks and Christian Americans.

Although the safety of American citizens in the Ottoman Empire—mostly Christian missionaries and Jews—was a major concern during his ambassadorship, Morgenthau stated that the one issue which preoccupied him most was the Armenian Question, meaning the protection and the freedom of Armenians from their neighboring communities in the Ottoman Empire.

As Ottoman authorities began the extermination campaign of the Armenians in 1915, it is reported that Morgenthau’s desk was flooded with reports nearly every hour by the American consuls residing in different parts of the Empire, documenting the massacres and deportation marches that were taking place throughout the southern part of Turkey.

Faced with overwhelming evidence of genocide and mass annihilation, and having witnessed the atrocities first-hand, Morgenthau sparked the American, and thereafter, international relief effort for





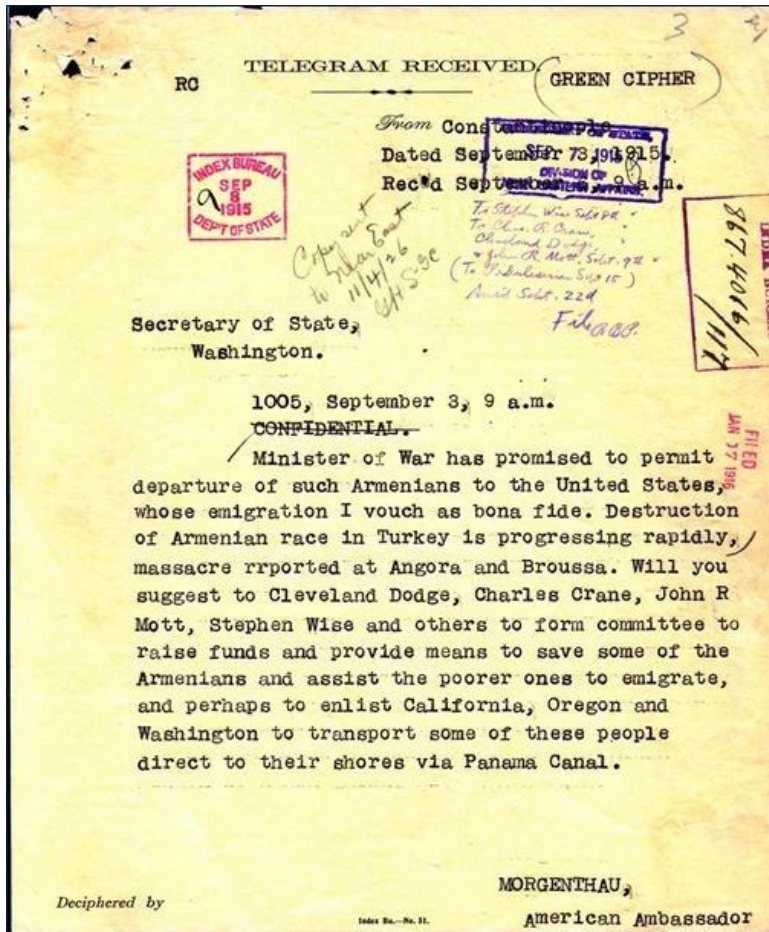
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the Armenians by sending a cablegram to the Secretary of State in Washington DC on September 6, 1915, stating, “ Destruction of [the] Armenian race in Turkey is progressing rapidly...” Meanwhile, Morgenthau held high-level meetings with leaders of the Ottoman Empire, including Talaat and Enver Pasha (masterminds of the Armenian Genocide and leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress “CUP” political party), to help alleviate the suffering of the Armenians, but his protestations were blatantly ignored. As a result, Morgenthau famously admonished the country’s Interior Minister Talaat Pasha, stating, “Our people will never forget these massacres.”

As the Genocide continued, Morgenthau and several other American leaders decided to form a committee to lead the relief efforts. After its incorporation by Congress, the Committee came to be known as the Near East Relief. Through his personal friendship with Adolph Ochs,

publisher of *The New York Times*, Morgenthau ensured that the massacres of the Armenians continued to receive prominent news coverage, with 145 articles published in *The New York Times* in the year 1915 alone. Exasperated with his relationship with the Ottoman government, he resigned from the ambassadorship in 1916. Looking back on that decision in his report concerning the annihilation of the Armenian people, “The Murder of a Nation,” Morgenthau wrote that he had come to see Turkey as “a place of horror.” He stated, “I had reached the end of my resources. I found intolerable my further daily association with men, however gracious and accommodating . . . who were still reeking with the blood of nearly a million human beings.” Later, his conversations with



Ottoman leaders and his account of the Armenian Genocide were published in 1918 under the title *Ambassador Morgenthau’s Story*.



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Henry Morgenthau's humanitarian efforts to save the peaceful and defenseless Armenian people have been posthumously honored and recognized by various organizations, including the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). His great-grandson, Henry Ben Morgenthau IV, MD, a pediatrician based in San Francisco, California carries on his great grandfather's legacy of philanthropy, making appearances on behalf of the plight of Armenians. It is also worthy to note that Dr. Morgenthau is also the grandson of Henry Morgenthau Jr., who was Secretary of the Treasury during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration. Dr. Morgenthau IV has maintained strong ties to the Armenian community and its most important causes throughout his life. In 1999, he traveled to Armenia where he met with the President in Yerevan, the Catholicos at Etchmiadzin, and visited the National Genocide Memorial Monument and other important cultural sites.

*“The real purpose of the deportation was robbery and destruction; it really represented a new method of massacre. When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact.”*

- Henry Morgenthau, *Ambassador Morgenthau's Story*, page 309.



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### Cleveland Hoadley Dodge



Cleveland H. Dodge (January 26, 1886 – June 24, 1926) was born to William Earl Dodge, Jr. He established a charitable foundation (Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation) in 1917 when the United States entered World War I with an initial funding of five million dollars. Dodge was a capitalist and philanthropist who was active in New York City politics. He was President of Phelps Dodge (an American mining company founded in 1894), and as a close personal friend of President Woodrow Wilson, served as the President's "adviser and financier," becoming well known for his charity work in World War I.

Following U.S. Ambassador Morgenthau's initial steps in bringing international attention to the unimpeachable crime against humanity being committed by the Ottoman Turks against the Armenians, and upon Ambassador Morgenthau's specific suggestion, several prominent Americans joined efforts to mobilize aid to the desolate Armenians who managed to survive the massacres. The aid that was rendered would not have been possible had it not been for the steadfast altruism of New York based philanthropist Cleveland H. Dodge.

Just ten days after Ambassador Morgenthau sent his famous cablegram with a plea seeking urgent assistance for the refugees, the first meeting of the Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief's (later named Near East Relief) took place in Cleveland Dodge's office on September 16, 1915. At the initial meeting, Dodge, along with a small group of friends, each pledged the first \$60,000, which was cabled immediately for relief of the orphans and refugees. Not only was Dodge one of the organizers and founding members of NER, but was also, for several years, personally funded all public relations campaign and administrative expenses of the organization, enabling NER to truthfully advertise that "100 cents of every dollar go for relief – none for expenses, which are met privately."

In 1919, when mass deportations and massacres had left the entire indigenous Armenian population exiled from their homeland, stranded in the impoverished, famine-stricken regions of Southern Turkey and adjoining areas without food, clothing, or shelter, Armenians were dying of starvation at a rate of 1,000 per day. A million lives were at stake and a minimum of \$15,000,000 was required to see them through the winter. Of course, as generous as Dodge had been in providing campaign and administrative expenses, \$15 million could not have been raised without a larger campaign organization. At that stage, no one dreamed of asking Cleveland Dodge to do more than he had already done in spearheading and funding the relief campaign and administrative expenses. When Dodge learned that individuals other than himself would be asked to supplement what he was already doing to raise the additional funds, he requested from the Committee not to ask anyone else for additional campaign money and



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again generously donated an additional \$100,000 immediately, and pledged to donate whatever else was necessary to see the winter through.

Moreover, through the years of NER's existence, Dodge personally corresponded with his friend President Woodrow Wilson, providing both emotional support for the challenging times which he and the rest of the world were navigating, as well as the financial backing of NER to help bring to fruition the much needed aid for refugees in the Near East, who the President so firmly believed needed assistance. Thousands of committee members and friends throughout the United States and the Near East expressed their feelings of appreciation to Cleveland Dodge for all he did to make the mission of NER a reality.

It has been widely reported that the NER would not have existed had it not been for Cleveland Dodge, and there certainly would not have been such a rapid and far-reaching development of the organization, administering a total of \$117 million of relief funds (present day equivalent: \$2.8 billion), had it not been for his inspiring leadership and generosity.

Cleveland Dodge has been honored posthumously by the ANCA-WR. His great-grandson, Johnson Garrett, currently the Vice-Chairman of the Near East Foundation (NEF) and a Board Member of the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, accepted the recognition on behalf of his great-grandfather.

Ever since the establishment of the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, grants have been made to charitable and cultural institutions in New York City. In many cases, members of the Dodge family had helped to establish these institutions, and subsequent generations have continued to support them. Such institutions include: the American Museum of Natural History, the N.Y. Public Library, N.Y. Botanical Garden, Wildlife Conservation Society, Teachers College of Columbia University, the Traveler's Aid Society, Children's Aid Society, the New York City Mission Society, and International House.

When he created his Foundation, Cleveland H. Dodge was deeply involved in the fate and future of the American educational institutions and relief organizations in the Near East. Two of his four children were there: his son Bayard Dodge at the American University of Beirut and his daughter Elizabeth Dodge Huntington at Robert College in Constantinople (C.H. Dodge himself was Chairman of that college's Board of Trustees). Also, he was acting as Treasurer of Near East Relief, chartered by the U.S. Congress to assist the Armenian victims of Turkish massacres. After World War I, Bayard Dodge became President of the American University of Beirut and served it with great distinction for twenty-five years. Near East Relief became the Near East Foundation and continues to provide practical aid to the region.

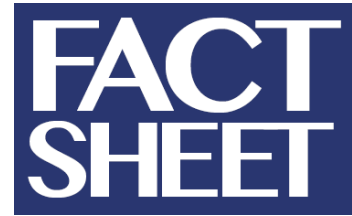


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Today, most of the aforementioned organizations receive annual grants from the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation for operating expenses, plus special grants from time to time for capital expansion and improvements.

Cleveland H. Dodge inherited strong Christian principles and moral values from his forebears, developed them uniquely, and did his best to pass them on to his descendants. After he died in 1926, his son Cleveland E. Dodge became President of the Foundation and it was headed by his grandson, Cleveland E. Dodge, Jr. from 1981 to 2001. His great-grandson William Dodge Rueckert is now President of the Foundation.

Perhaps the following quote of Cleveland Dodge, from James L. Barton's book, *Story of Near East Relief: An Interpretation* (1915-1930), The Macmillan Company, New York, 1930, sums up his appreciation for the invaluable work carried on by NER:

*"No private enterprise ever undertaken by Americans and in the name of America has accomplished more to arouse, in the minds and hearts of all the peoples of the countries in which this organization has carried out its operations, a sincere regard and even affection for America. They have seen in this service a demonstration of a practical consciousness of brotherhood and good will toward all peoples. Those who dwell in the Near East have been impressed, through the work of this Committee, with what they regard as the true spirit of our people. They have not been able to detect in its years of service any ulterior motive, taint of politics, territorial ambitions, bid for spheres of influence, or sectarian propaganda. They can see embodied in the fifteen years of disinterested operations, the sincere desire and purpose to render help to peoples in extreme need, and to give it without expectation or even the possibility of return in anything except the expressions of gratitude from those helped and the consciousness of having responded to a call to duty."*

- Cleveland Dodge, page ix



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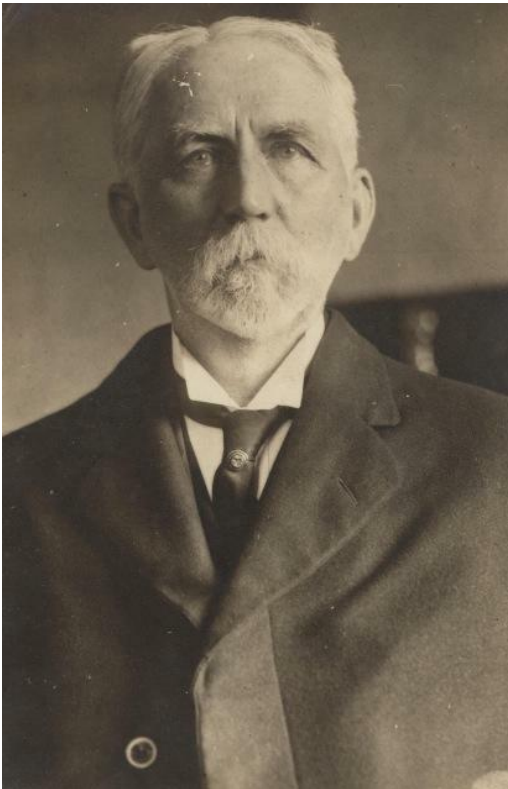


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### James L. Barton

James Barton (1855-1936) was born into a Quaker family in Charlotte, Vermont. He graduated from Middlebury College in 1881 and, having developed a keen interest in questions of theology and modern thought, he entered Hartford Theological Seminary. Convinced that foreign missions could make a great contribution to human well-being, at his graduation in 1885 he applied for overseas service, married Flora Holmes, and sailed for Turkey. For seven years he supervised a large system of schools at Harpoot. He was elected president of Euphrates College, Harpoot, in 1892, but when his wife's ill health prevented continuing residence in Turkey, Barton became foreign secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM).



First among equals on the board staff, Barton believed that the primary need of indigenous Christian communities was well-trained leadership. Before his retirement in 1927, he helped secure permanent funds for the support and maintenance of 21 international, interdenominational institutions of higher learning, including two medical schools. Barton also had wide-ranging interests and significant contacts with secular leaders.

Barton was a principal architect and Chairman of the Near East Relief after World War I and served as such until 1930, his years of service spanning the entire life and work of the NER. Barton also represented the Foreign Missions Conference of North America at the London Conference in 1921, and attended the Lausanne Conference (1922-1923), where an American treaty to end the war with Turkey was framed. Barton held five honorary degrees from four colleges.

He authored the book, *Story of Near East Relief: An Interpretation* (1915-1930), The Macmillan Company, New York, 1930. He dedicated the book to “all who have shared in this humanitarian enterprise.” This text takes the reader on a journey of how the NER committee was formed, the tragedy of the Armenian massacres, America's role in responding to the call and need of the Armenians during the War, changes following the armistice, the relief that was granted, NER's work in child care and training, reintegrating the orphans back into life, a discussion of personal and permanent values, among other aspects of the life and work of the Near East Relief.



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