

revealed his secret past, not even to his wife. "I still have nightmares.... Yes, I still remember. I've tried to forget but it always comes back." Virginia was astounded, while her mother quietly asked, "That is why you cry out in your sleep?" "Always inside my head," Michael answered. "The savage dog of fear never goes away" (126-7). That was in 1975 when Virginia was already in her late thirties.

Victoria's confession about her own traumatic past occurred much later when she was recovering from a series of painful treatments for throat cancer. She asked her daughter to take her to Ellis Island, and there, in the presence of a group of tourists and to Virginia's astonishment, she shared the story of her two-and-a-half-month sojourn in a holding center on the island. It was the opportune moment for Virginia to begin prodding her mother to tell her life story. Now she learned where her mother was born on the Black Sea coast and heard the horrible story of the death march, the killings, the torture, the rapes, the family members separated and lost. Virginia had read about such things in books about the Armenian Genocide but never suspected that her own mother had been caught in that hell at the age of seven: little Tourvanda, separated from her mother, her sister, and her brother, wandering alone,

analysed in earlier monographs. With Turkey being at war, the government had the advantage of deploying troops to facilitate the implementation of the massacre and deportation of Armenians. As Eric Markusen points out, "the government at war can utilize the military forces—men who have been trained to kill in the service of their nation—for the perpetration of genocide. This occurred in both the Armenian genocide and the Holocaust." Markusen goes on to list other genocides in which "soldiers and paramilitary personnel played key roles as killers." Eric Markusen, "Genocide and Warfare," in *Genocide, War, and Human Survival*, ed. Strozier and Flynn, p. 78.