

However, the movement and the thriving literary activities in Constantinople were cut short by Mustafa Kemal's threatening advance toward Constantinople. Armenian intellectuals fled the country in fear of renewed persecution. In fact, the turbulent period between September 1922, with the Kemalist army's occupation and burning of Smyrna (Izmir), and October 1923, with the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, was the only opportunity to escape the country. After the establishment of the Republic and until 1946, no exit visas were issued. "The doors were closed," and those intellectuals who remained in Constantinople/Istanbul were mostly persecuted. As a result of the prevailing atmosphere of fear and political pressure, the cultural life of the minorities was dead. The established Armenian writers of the pre-1915 era, unable to freely express the suffering of their people, refrained from writing at all, or resorted to occasional outbursts of abstract melancholy.

Despite the unfavorable atmosphere, the post-World War II Turkish-Armenian, or rather Istanbul Armenian literature—since after Mustafa Kemal's coming to power in 1923 and the inauguration of the Republican era in Turkey, Constantinople/Istanbul has been and is the only center in Turkey where Armenian literature is produced—has made significant strides in artistic expression. In fact, the Istanbul Armenian literature of the past few decades has made a great leap forward after long years of searching for a new direction to rise above the stagnation caused by the unyielding Turkish political stance against Armenians and especially the Turkish denial of the historical truth of the events before the Republican era. In light of the precariousness of the right and