

equally stiff manner. "It's all history. You should talk with historians." (p. 104)

Mustafa's treatment of this topic represents that of the majority of the present generation in Turkey. But he is also one of the more considerate ones. When Armanoush travels to Turkey, she meets other Turks who absolutely deny and insist on the reverse story. This more stereotypical answer comes from "the Nonnationalist Scenarist of Ultrnationalist Movies" in the atmosphere of Café Kundera, a bar in Istanbul frequented by her step-cousin Asya and a group of Turkish modernists, existentialists, and free-thinkers.

But you have to understand it was a time of war. People died on both sides. Do you have any idea how many Turks have died in the hands of Armenian rebels? Did you ever think about the other side of the story? I'll bet you didn't! How about the suffering of the Turkish families? It is all tragic but we need to understand that 1915 was not 2005. Times were different back then. It was not even a Turkish state back then, it was the Ottoman Empire, for God's sake. The premodern era and its premodern tragedies. (p. 209)

The Nonnationalist Scenarist speaks his thoughts authoritatively, as someone who has done extensive research on the subject and knows the answers. Armanoush is almost defeated, even accused of having been brainwashed and manipulated. The Nonnationalist Scenarist's conclusion is piercing: "The claims of the Armenians are based on exaggeration and distortion.... You keep hearing a certain story over and over again, and the next thing you know you have internalized the narrative" (pp. 210-11). Armanoush knows that if Baron Baghdassarian were here, he would