

issue in Turkey. Moreover, during the last few decades, as the Turkish government was forced into reacting against the intensified campaign for international recognition of the Armenian Genocide, a substantial bulk of denial literature was produced based on the idea of Armenian treason during the war. This narrative of Armenian treason and collaboration with the enemy to topple the Ottoman government gradually took root, and was actually mythologized to the extent of finding its way into the domain of popular education. It became the norm of how to perceive Armenians. Taner Akçam attests to the way generations of Turks were indoctrinated against Armenians: "We assigned a very negative role to the Christian minorities in Turkey, to the Armenians. To us, they were collaborators.... Since we saw all Christians in Turkey as allied with the imperialist state, we had a very negative image of them...."²¹ Osman Köker explains, "In Turkey, history has always been taught about one people—the Turks, as if there had never been any other people on the territory. When we speak of Armenians, they are not described as an integral group of society but as a source of problems."²²

²¹ Schilling, "Is It Still Genocide" (n.d.), interview with Akçam.

²² Osman Köker was the director of the exhibition "My Dear Brother" which opened in Istanbul in January 2005. This was an exhibition of 500 postcards sent by Armenians during the prewar period before their annihilation by the Young Turk government. The goal was to show through these postcards the presence of Armenians throughout the Empire and their role in society. See Cheviron, "Turkey Begins Self-Reflection" (n.d.).