

Christian Armenians, most of whom lived scattered in remote villages surrounded by Turkish or Kurdish inhabitants; constant discrimination, prejudice, and frequent persecutions compelled many of these families to leave their homes and migrate to Istanbul or abroad, fulfilling the design of successive Turkish governments to cleanse the Armenian element from the interior. At the other end of the spectrum are the Turkish-Armenians of Istanbul who, for better or for worse, are recognized as a community, a religious minority with schools, churches, cultural institutions, and an ostensible infrastructure. This community, though, is dwindling in numbers. Istanbul Armenians too are leaving the country, many of them leaving behind properties that are non-sellable and non-transferable (for minorities) by law. Of course, one needs to recognize that today's community of Istanbul Armenians comprises of the survivors of the pre-1915 Constantinople Armenians as well as those remnants of the 1915 deportees who, at the end of World War I, somehow reached and took refuge in the Allied-occupied city. Then, there are also the recent migrants, Christian or Islamized Armenians from Turkey's interior, some of whom maintain close ties with the established Armenian infrastructure, while others remain aloof and ostracized.⁶

surrender their children to a so-called 'Muslim Orphanage,' with the agreement that they should be trained as devout followers of the Prophet." *Ambassador Morgenthau's Story* (1975), originally published in 1919 by Doubleday, Page & Co.

⁶ The number of Armenians in Turkey, or Turkish citizens of Armenian dissent, is estimated to be about 50–60,000, the majority living in Istanbul. This number does not include perhaps 10–20,000