

[F]orced migrations have caused, during the historical period that led to the foundation of the Turkish republic, real transformation in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Those escaping enemy armies, those trying to free themselves from separationists and from feelings of hatred, and those forced to migrate left their belongings and found themselves on the road. Most were murdered on the way or died due to disease, hunger, or adverse weather conditions. Many got separated from their loved ones and lost their relatives. Those making it to the end of their migration formed new lives, new residences, under different conditions with new hopes (61).<sup>4</sup>

As Göçek puts it, the aim is to contextualize for the first time the Armenian experience in Turkish Republican history and especially under the rubric of migrations. I believe that what the author tried to do, without delving too deeply, was to draw a picture of the demographic transformations that were at the root of today's homogeneous Turkish society.

Göçek then quotes Akile Gürsoy, author of the article on migration in *From Subject to Citizen*, who lists the people who migrated, among them Armenians:

Armenians: In the middle of the War [World War I], during the Spring of 1915, the Union and Progress took a decision to force the Armenians to migrate.... Some of the Armenian citizens left Turkey after the foundation of the Republic...” (63).<sup>5</sup>

The problem of numbers is solved: two million Armenians in the pre-World War I Ottoman Empire, and 60-70,000 today.

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<sup>4</sup> Cited by Göçek in “Silences in the Turkish Republican Past” (n.d.).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.