

The rest migrated, a few of whom were killed on the way or died as a result of bad conditions. Göçek acknowledges this inclusion of the Armenian experience as a first against the usual practice of exclusion. In this brief discussion of the Turkish historical narrative, be it official or a little more liberal, I exclude as outstanding exceptions the monumental research and the books and articles published abroad by the exiled historian Taner Akçam.⁶

To return to artistic creation, a passing remark about the Armenian massacres that is repeatedly quoted, for lack of other examples, is taken from Nazim Hikmet's famous poem, "Evening Walk," as proof of the Turkish intelligentsia's treatment of the Armenian issue. He writes:

The grocer Karapet's lights are on.
This Armenian citizen has not forgiven
the slaughter of his father in Kurdish mountains.
But he loves you,
because you also won't forgive
those who blackened the name of the Turkish people.⁷

The Armenian Diaspora, therefore, knew little about the existence, whereabouts, and predicament of Armenian

⁶ *From Empire to Republic* (2004) and *A Shameful Act* (2006) are two of Taner Akçam's great contributions to the historiography of the Armenian Genocide.

⁷ Nazim Hikmet (1902–1963) was a Turkish Marxist writer-poet, a rebellious soul against oppression. He wrote "Evening Walk" in 1950 (translated as "Evening Stroll" in a 1954 publication of his poems). See *Things I Didn't Know I Loved* (1975), p. 60. Like most of Hikmet's writings, this poem is also autobiographical, and he himself is his addressee (the "you" throughout the poem).