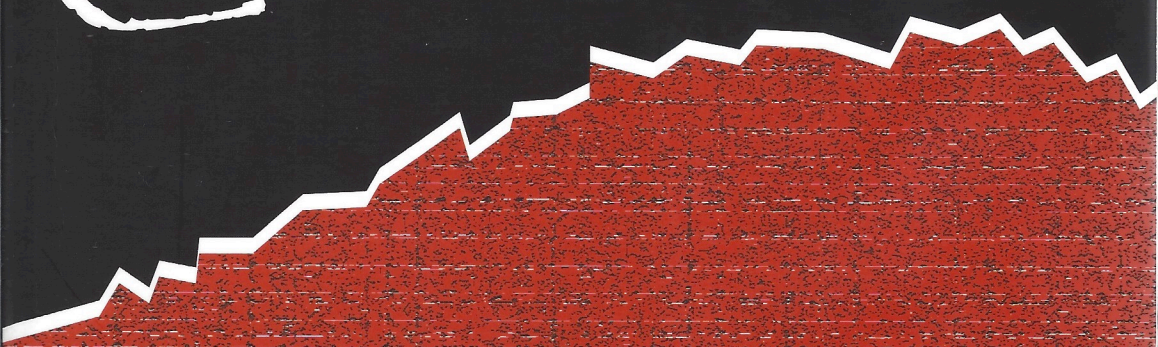


Cultural and Ethical Legacies

The
Armenian
Genocide



Edited by

Richard Hovannisian

This was not the case in Soviet Armenia. Historical memory, the memory of the Armenian past and especially that of the Genocide of 1915, was abruptly switched off with the Sovietization of Armenia in December 1920. At least, that

literature in one way or another relates to the Genocide.² The catastrophe (*Aghet*), comprehend it, and deal with it, diasporan Armenian successive generations of diasporan writers tried to confront a hidden theme. The Genocide reverberated in literature as a source of identity, a leitmotiv or the common thread stringing together the diasporan literature. The memory of and mourning over the colossal loss, persisted in the Diaspora and served as history of the Armenian people, the unresolved, the indomitable pain of the memory of the Genocide, as the most important event in the recent past in the context of the present.

The synthesis of the relationship or the dialogue of the self with the collective relationships are registered and represented. Literature purports revelations as the self and the social and the constantly changing factors that influence these from generation to generation and under the dictates of the time. Literature is different representations and different meanings in the process of its passage people's collective memory. And that memory, that historical memory, finds and especially significant events of the past, are indelible landmarks in that construct the events of pivotal importance of the past in the light of knowledge generation of every community or people tends to judge, reevaluate, and re-construct the events of pivotal importance of the past in the light of knowledge of hindsight as well as the present exigencies and objectives. A people's past, people's collective memory, and that memory, that historical memory, finds different representations and different meanings in the process of its passage from generation to generation and under the dictates of the time. Literature is the self and the social and the constantly changing factors that influence these relationships are registered and represented. Literature purports revelations as the synthesis of the relationship or the dialogue of the self with the collective past in the context of the present.

...History is an unending dialogue between the past and the present. History is a constant process of rethinking, rewriting and reinterpretation. Every generation of every community or people tends to judge, reevaluate, and re-construct the events of pivotal importance of the past in the light of knowledge of hindsight as well as the present exigencies and objectives. A people's past, people's collective memory, and that memory, that historical memory, finds different representations and different meanings in the process of its passage from generation to generation and under the dictates of the time. Literature is the self and the social and the constantly changing factors that influence these relationships are registered and represented. Literature purports revelations as the synthesis of the relationship or the dialogue of the self with the collective past in the context of the present.

Rubina Peromian

Historical Memory: Threading the Contemporary Literature of Armenia

