

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE CENTENARY

Building the “Model Ottoman Citizen”:

*Life and Death in the Region of Harput-Mamüretülaziz
(1908-1915)*

by

Vahé Tachjian

Using a “microhistory” perspective, this talk analyzes Armenian daily life in the Kharpert/Harput region in the extensive Ottoman Empire from the 1908 Young Turk Revolution to the 1915 Genocide. The focus is on the Kharpert Plain that comprises the towns of Kharpert and Mamüretülaziz (Mezire, present day Elazığ) and the surrounding Armenian villages. Tachjian examines the articles, lectures, memoirs and letters of two notable intellectuals from Kharpert, Hovhannes Bujicanian and Donabed Lulejian. He discovers a rich, minority narrative from the margins. Armenians’ understanding of being model Ottoman citizens differed vastly from the government during the decisive last years of the Empire.

Vahé Tachjian is Director and Editor-in-Chief of “Houshamadyan.” He was born in Lebanon and earned a Ph.D. in History and Civilization at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris. He is the author of *La France en Cilicie et en Haute-Mésopotamie: Aux confins de la Turquie, de la Syrie et de l'Irak, 1919-1933* (2004).



**Distinguished
Professor Ervand
Abrahamian**

(History, Baruch and the
Graduate Center, CUNY)
will offer comments and
moderate the Q&A

Wednesday,
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6.30-8.30 pm

Segal Theater
The Graduate Center,
CUNY

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