

CONTRIBUTORS

Roubina Artinian (born *Alahaydoyan*), graduated from the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music with a Diploma in Piano, from Haigazian University with a BA in Armenian/English Literature and from the American University of Beirut with an MA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language. She has been pursuing a teaching career in music (piano, fundamentals of music education, music at kindergarten and elementary schools and at the Tekelian School of Music) and in English language at Haigazian University, American University of Beirut and the Near East School of Theology. Currently she is a member of the faculty at Haigazian University. Her research interests focus on the history of Armenian choirs in Lebanon.

Shoghig Ashekian, graduated from the Karen Jeppe Secondary School in Aleppo (1980). She received her MA degree in History from Yerevan State University (1992); her thesis was on *The Armenian justice demands in 1965-75*. In 2005, she received her doctorate degree from Yerevan State University. Since then, she has taught in Armenian schools in Syria and Lebanon and instructed general history from 1995 to 2003 at the Hamazkayin Higher Institute of Armenian Studies. She was a member of the *Aztag* editorial board in 1998, and is a contributing author since 1995. Her interests are in the field of modern Armenian history and she has written extensively in the Diaspora newspapers. In 2008, she authored the book *Karort tar. Hayere Sharjayi yev Husisayin Emiroutiants mech* (*A quarter of a century. The Armenians in Sharja and the Northern Emirates*), published by the Armenian National Committee of the Northern Emirates.

Roupen Avsharian, born in Lebanon, attended the Hovaguimian-Manougian High School (AGBU) there. During the Lebanese Civil War, he emigrated to the United States. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Western State University College of Law in Fullerton (California), in 1995, and his Master of Arts Degree in National Security Studies with concentration in the Middle East from the American Military University in 2004. He is currently the General Counsel for the Investment Dar Company Corporation.

Mr. Avsharian's legal practice focuses on structured and Islamic finance. He advises corporate clients on structuring and documenting *Shari'a* compliant investment and finance products. He has participated

in several conferences and symposiums in the United States and the Middle East, presenting papers on issues related to National Security in the Arab World and Islamic Financing.

Aïda K. Boudjikianian, born in Lebanon, lives in Montreal, Canada since 1991. Her research work focuses mainly on the Armenian Diaspora. In 1975, she received her first Doctorate in Human Geography from the University of Lyon (France) after studying the Armenian community of the Rhône-Alpes region. She had written her MA thesis on the Armenian community of Beirut and Bourj-Hammoud. In 2003, she received her second Ph.D. degree from the University of Montreal (Quebec, Canada), her research focusing on the residential and economic insertions of Armenians in Montreal and the concept of Diaspora. Both dissertations received awards. She pursued a long dual career of research (Centre d'Études et de Recherches du Moyen-Orient Contemporain, CERMOC) and teaching in Lebanon from 1975 to 1991. From 1980, to 1991, she was full-time professor at the Geography Department of the Lebanese University, in Fanar. She participated in 27 international conferences and has 28 publications, including scholarly and general articles, chapters in collective books and books.

Khatchik Der Ghoukassian, born in Lebanon, currently lives in Argentina. His MA thesis (1994) in International Relations (FLACSO, Argentina) is about Nagorno Karabagh, "Conflictos Regionales en la Pos-Guerra Fria: El caso de Nagorno Karabagh", (Regional Conflicts in the post Cold War: The Case of Nagorno Karabagh). His Ph.D. in International Studies is from the University of Miami (Coral Gables, FL). He teaches international relations at the Universidad de San Andrés (Buenos Aires) and is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the American University of Armenia. He was previously editor of the *ARMENIA* newspaper (1987-1997). His latest publications include, as editor, *El derrumbe del negacionismo. Leandro Despouy, el informe Whitaker y el aporte argentino al reconocimiento internacional del genocidio de los armenios* (Buenos Aires, Planeta, 2009), "Transnational links and "local" connections: Latin America and global terrorism", in *Terrorism. Patterns of internationalization*, eds., Ekaterina Stepanova and Jaideep Saika SAGE, 2009.

Araxy M. Deronian, is born and lives in Cairo. She has a B.Sc. (1973) and a M.Sc. (1979) from the American University in Cairo. She has served as teacher, lecturer, computer expert, co-ordinator, and managing editor at different institutions: Ramsis College for Girls (Ex. American College), Nubarian Armenian School, the American University in Cairo and the Centre of Developing English Language Teaching (CDELT), Faculty of Education, Ain Shams University. Since 1997, she is Librarian (Armenian Acquisitions and Cataloguing) at the Library of Congress Cairo office. She acquires Armenian material (monographs, serials, non-book material, ephemera) from the Middle East and North Africa for the Library of Congress. She has contributions to CDELT publications as well as to the Egyptian Armenian Press.

Hilmar Kaiser received his Ph.D. from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, in 2001. He specializes in late Ottoman social and economic history with special emphasis on the Armenian Genocide. He has published numerous case studies on the Armenian Genocide including *At the crossroads of Der Zor. Death, survival, and humanitarian resistance in Aleppo, 1915-1917*, Taderon Press, 2002, and *Genocide at the Twilight of the Ottoman Empire*, forthcoming.

Asbed Kotchikian is a lecturer at the Global Studies Department at Bentley University. Before joining Bentley he was the Assistant Director of International Affairs Program at Florida State University where he taught courses in Eurasian and Middle Eastern politics. He spent two years (2000-2002) in former Soviet republics of Armenia and Georgia, conducting research on questions of identity and transformation of transnational (Diasporic) groups and the role of civil society groups in developing societies. He has published articles and book chapters in various media, among which *Demokratizatsya, insight Turkey and Central Asia and the Caucasus*. His book, titled *The dialectics of small states: foreign policy making in Armenia and Georgia* was published in 2008 by VMD Verlag. He is currently the editor of the academic peer-reviewed journal *The Armenian Review*.

Nicola Migliorino, born and raised in Italy, earned a BA degree in Political Science at the University of Genova (Italy), an MA in Middle

Eastern Politics at Durham University (UK) and a Ph.D. at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter (UK), in 2004. He worked and researched in Egypt for the Italian Cultural Institute (1996-1997), and in Syria for the Italian NGO Movimondo (1998-2000), before undertaking an academic career. He currently teaches Middle East and North African politics at Al Akhawayn University (Morocco). He is the author of *(Re)constructing Armenia in Lebanon and Syria: ethnocultural diversity and the state in the aftermath of a refugee crisis*, London and New York, Berghahn, 2008.

Claude Mutaſian, is born in Clamart, France. He is a mathematician by training and taught at Sorbonne, Paris Nord (and in the USA, Cuba, Mexico and Yerevan as visiting professor) until his retirement in 2004. In 2002, he received his Ph.D. in History from Sorbonne (Paris I). Since 1994, he is member of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences. He has authored many volumes and articles on the history and culture of Armenia, focusing particularly on the last period of the Kingdom of Armenia in Cilicia. *La Cilicie au carrefour des empires*, 1988, *Le Karabagh, une terre arménienne en Azerbaïdjan*, 1989, *Artsakh, histoire du Karabagh*, 1991, (translated into English, *The Caucasian Knot*, 1994). *Atlas historique de l'Arménie*, 2001. Claude Mutaſian was the curator of many exhibits, the latest of which was held in 2007, during the special "Armenia Year in France" (*Arménie, mon amie*). On that occasion, he published *Arménie, la magie de l'écrit*, Marseille, 2007.

Nora Salmanian, born in Lebanon, is specialized in music. Her Ph.D. in Musicology (written in French) from Kaslik University (Lebanon), is on *The musical life in Lebanon from 1875 to 1981*. She has a wide experience of teaching music in various universities and higher education institutions in Lebanon, as well as a career of piano and organ performances in various cultural centers and churches. She has authored research articles and music reviews in various Lebanese publications and participated in conferences. She is a member of administrative boards at various music institutions.

Verjine Svazlian, is a scholar in the Archaeology and Ethnography Institute of the National Academy of Armenia. For over fifty years she

wrote down, registered and studied the oral folklore of Western Armenians and the witness accounts of the Armenian Genocide. She has published over 500 diverse articles and some twenty books, including *Musa Ler, Kilikia. Arevmetahayots banavor avandutyune* (Cilicia, the oral folklore of the Western Armenians), and *Mets Yegherne arevmetahayots hushapatumnerum yev toorkalezoo yergeroom* (*Mets Yeghern* (an Armenian term meaning Great Catastrophe) in the oral memory and the Turkish songs of the Western Armenians). This book has been published in Armenian, Russian, English and Turkish. *Hayots Tseghaspanutyun. Akanates veraprogneri vekayutyunner* (The Armenian Genocide: witness accounts of survivors), *Hayots Tseghaspanutyune yev joghoverti patmakan hishoghutyune* (The Armenian Genocide and the historical memory of the nation). This book has been published in Armenian, Russian, English, French, German and Turkish. Her article *Armenia* is published in the *Greenwood encyclopedia of world folklore and folklife*.

Vahé Tachjian, born in Lebanon, received his Ph.D. (History, 2002) in Paris (EHESS). He is currently pursuing his research in Zentrum Für Literatur- und Kulturforshung, in Berlin. He is the author and co-author of the following volumes: *La France en Cilicie et en Haute-Mésopotamie: aux confins de la Turquie, de la Syrie et de l'Irak*, Paris, Karthala, 2004. *Ohannès Pacha Kouyoumdjian, le Liban à la veille et au début de la guerre. Mémoires d'un gouverneur, 1913-1915* Introduction, Edition and notes, Raymond Kévorkian, Vahé Tachjian, Michel Paboudjian, Beyrouth, 2003. *Les Arméniens, 1917-1939, la quête d'un refuge*, Raymond Kevorkian, Levon Nordiguan, Vahé Tachjian, Beyrouth, Presses de l'Université Saint-Joseph, 2006. (Second Edition, Paris, Réunion des musées nationaux, 2007). *The Armenian General Benevolent Union: one hundred years of history; vol. I (1906-1940) and vol. II (1941-2006)*, Raymond Kevorkian, Vahé Tachjian, AGBU Central Board of Directors, Paris, 2006.

Armen Urneshlian, born in Lebanon, received his secondary education at the Melkonian Educational Institute in Cyprus and his MA (1992) in Modern Armenian Literature from the Yerevan State University. He is a part-time instructor at the Haigazian University and teaches Armenian Literature and History in the Armenian Evangelical College in Beirut.

A. Urneshlian has many activities in the Lebanese-Armenian community, where he is involved in various editorial, educational and cultural activities: he is a member of the editorial board of the *Haigazian armenological review* (since 2001). He pursues his research and is a post-graduate student at the Yerevan State Pedagogical University where he is doing his Ph.D. thesis on Diaspora Armenian Dramaturgy.

