

“Uncle Baghdasar”: Armenian Genocide

- Hamadian massacres (Sultan Abdul Hamid II): 1894-1896. Approximately 300,000 Armenians killed
- 1915 Genocide: 1915 (April 24)-1922. Approximately 1-1.5 million Armenians killed
- Mt. Ararat: symbol of endurance, permanence, strength, fertility

Armenian History & Culture

- First people to adopt Christianity as a nation—4th century
- Armenian alphabet invented by Mesrop Mashtot—early 5th century—36 letters phonetically reproduced—culturally awakening
- By 1200, Seljuk Turks established in Asia Minor
- Ottoman Turkish Empire—15th century
 - Armenian Question: Can a Christian be the equal of a Muslim?

“Uncle Baghdasar”

- To be an Armenian is to know a great sadness
- Story’s effect: despair, sadness, death—inability to believe even in illusions
- Armenian Genocide—violence and death that is unacknowledged by Turkey today. How can Armenians get closure? Experience healing? Offer forgiveness? Meaning of life without these? How can the past not cut off the present/future?
- What happens when Armenians can’t return home? What is home? A place? A state of mind? What thoughts and emotions do we associate with home?