



## Open Wounds

*Armenians, Turks, and a Century of Genocide*

By Vicken Cheterian

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'Cheterian provides a well-documented account of the events and politics leading up to [Dink's] assassination as well as the controversy surrounding the involvement of so-called Deep State's actors such as Kemal Keriņsiz & Veli Kūçūk in the murder... a compelling biography of Akçam's radical credentials reaching back to his early admiration of Deniz Gezmiş [and]...insightful glimpses into the "re-awakening" of memory work on the part of so-called "Crypto-Armenians".'

— *The Los Angeles Review of Books*

'Open Wounds provides a comprehensive insight into many relevant issues with regard to the consequences of denial for Armenians and other minorities such as the Kurds . . . an impressive account of how survivors and successive generations resisted erasure through Armenian historiography, memory politics and the composition and evolution of the diaspora'.

— *International Journal of Middle East Studies*

### **A probing reflection on how silence and complicity in the face of mass violence affects a society for decades.**

The assassination in Istanbul in 2007 of the author Hrant Dink, a high-profile advocate of Turkish–Armenian reconciliation, reignited the debate in Turkey on the annihilation of the Ottoman Armenians. Many Turks subsequently re-awakened to their Armenian heritage, reflecting on how their grandparents were forcibly Islamised and Turkified, and the suffering they endured to keep their stories secret. There was public debate around Armenian property confiscated by the Turkish state and the extermination of the minorities. At last the silence had been broken.

After the First World War, the new Turkish Republic forcibly erased the memory of the atrocities, and traces of Armenians, from their historic lands—a process to which the international community turned a blind eye. The price for this amnesia was, Cheterian argues, 'a century of genocide'.

Turkish intellectuals acknowledge the price society must pay collectively to forget such traumatic events, and that Turkey cannot solve its recurrent conflicts with its minorities—like the Kurds today—nor have an open and democratic society without addressing the original sin on which the state was founded: the Armenian Genocide.

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#### About the Author

**Vicken Cheterian** is a historian and political scientist, and he lectures at the University of Geneva and Webster University Geneva.