
Acknowledgments

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The image on the cover of this volume was generously provided by artist and contributor Silvina Der-Meguerditchian. Drawn from her 2013 installation *Freundschaft* (Friendship), it illustrates the delicate and fragile web of connections in which this volume engages, as well as its critical feminist exposure and reframing of national and transnational histories of power, violence, and repair. The portraits, postcards, and photographs that Der-Meguerditchian has woven together depict protagonists, artifacts, and places that refer to the oft-forgotten history of what has been termed the “special friendship” between the German *Kaiserreich* and the Ottoman Empire. Enveloped in crochet and connected by thin red thread, they tell the fraught story of an intimate and unsettling alliance propelled by Germany’s imperial aspirations, heightened by its late arrival to “the scramble for colonies,” and the Ottomans’ desire for foreign influence and investment. The incongruity between the work’s beautiful crochetwork and its troubling subject matter highlights the violent complicity between these geo-histories and the spider web of power structures that joins them. With her deceptively beautiful crochet web, the artist courageously exposes and captures not only the entangled histories of a distant past—Germany’s complicity in the Armenian Genocide¹ and the role that some of these protagonists played in the Third Reich and the Holocaust—but also alludes to the present characterized by the history of labor migration and the trajectory of political refugees from Turkey to Germany from the 1960s onwards, as well as the structures of Orientalism and racism that persist in the host country. We can find here ways in which the distant past is nefariously mobilized in even more recent complicities, such as the “refugee deal” brokered by Chancellor Angela Merkel in which Erdoğan’s Turkey emerged as the guardian of “Fortress Europe,” keeping those who seek safe passage at bay and at ever greater risk. On the cover of our volume, this work serves as a reminder of what is at stake in the different scales of power that feminist practices aim to unveil and work against. Our narratives about the past are never more than provisional, this work suggests: they can be mobilized for different futures. Like the volume as a whole, it provokes us

to think further about how placing histories of violence and resistance in relation to each other might inspire the work of co-resistance and a fight for livable lives.

Note

1. The German Parliament did not recognize the Armenian Genocide until 2016.

WOMEN MOBILIZING MEMORY

