



ARMENIAN HISTORY TIMELINE

Compiled by: Cesar J. Chekijian – 2013 - www.chekijian.com

Key Milestones over 4,000+ years

1. Formative Era and the Kingdom of Ararat

2107 BC Emergence of “Haig Nahabet” from Mesopotamia as leader of people in the Mount Ararat Valley

1300 BC Founding of the first Kingdom of Urartu (Aramaic for “People of Ararat”) in Ararat Valley with Tushpa as its capital.

1000 BC Armenian language becomes a dominant and separate Indo-European language

782 BC Founding of Erebuni (Yerevan), Armenia (older than Rome by 26 years, same age as Babylon, Nineveh & Persepolis).

600 BC First mention of Haya in Akkadian inscriptions found in Babylon (Page #11)

500 BC First mention of Armenia in Sumerian inscriptions

585 BC Yervandian Dynasty established

520 BC Armenia translated as Urartu on Behistun Inscription commemorating Darius' Persian Empire

336 BC Alexander the Great, Armenia incorporated into Seleucid Kingdom

200 BC Kingdom of Ararat falls to the Medes (Persians)



2. Artashesian Kingdom

189 BC Artashes I – Consolidated Armenian State, founds Armenian dynasty that reaches its height under Tigran the Great who rules until 31 AD (above right gold coin from his era with Haley's comet showing on his crown. The comet was seen in the skies in 87 BC).

95 BC Tigran the Great consolidates Armenian state with neighbors against Rome. His son Tigran-II followed while Tigran the Great's brother Guras was a Governor Nisbis (Qamishli, Syria) and Bagarat was appointed by Tigran the Great, as the ruler of Syria. Bagratuni Dynasty followed.



0 Birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ

33 AD The Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ



3. Arshakuni Kingdom

66 Tiridates-I crowned King of Armenia by Roman Emperor Nero– founding Arshakuni Dynasty that ruled Armenia through 428 during Armenia's conversion to Christianity (photo on right of Tiridates-I statute at Versailles Palace, Paris). Tiridates-III established Tabriz as Capital in 287 A.D.

4. Adoption of Christianity. The Golden Age

301 St. Gregory The Illuminator converts King Tiridates-III to Christianity and Armenia becomes the first Christian nation (photo to right baptizing King

Tiridates-III. In 252 A.D. St. Gregory's father had killed Tiridates-III's father Khosrov-II).

303 Etchmiadzin (meaning the only-begotten descended) is established after St. Gregory has a vision

325 The First Ecumenical Council is held in Nicaea; the Nicene Creed is formulated, St. Aristakes (St. Gregory's son, later catholicos, attends from Armenia)

353 St. Nerses the Great, St. Gregory's great grandson, establishes schools, hospitals, orphanages, monasteries (St. Nerses photo & Armenian Alphabet to right)

381 The Second Ecumenical Council held in Constantinople

387 Partition of Armenia between Byzantium/Rome and Persia

404-6 The Armenian alphabet is created thanks to Catholicos Sahag and Vardapet Mesrob, who lead a group of Holy Translators in rendering the Bible and Armenian Church services into Armenian, ushering in the Golden Age of Armenian Culture.

431 The Third Ecumenical Council is held in Ephesus (the basic dogmas and teachings of the Armenian Church are based on the declarations of the three ecumenical councils (1st Nicaea 325, 2nd Constantinople 381)

451 The Battle of Avarayr is fought against the Persians in defense of Christianity; led by St. Vartan (photo on right), who is martyred.

Armenia proves its commitment to the Christian faith. The Fourth Ecumenical Council is held at Chalcedon , which the Armenian Church does not attend

476 Fall of Rome after 503 years since the Roman Empire was founded.

484 The Treaty of Nvarsak is signed with the Persians, restoring Armenian local autonomy and guaranteeing Armenia 's religious freedom.

607 The Armenian Church formally objects to the Council of Chalcedon 's formulation about Christ's human and divine nature

614 The Persians destroy many of the over 70 Armenian churches and monasteries in Jerusalem. Many of these are never rebuilt

625 Catholicos Komitas Aghtsetsi rebuilds upper parts of Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin and replaces old chapel of St. Hripsimé with a sanctuary that is still extant, writes hymns, including him to the Martyred Virgins



5. First Encounter with Islam

640 The first Arab invasion of Armenia, Armenians retain local autonomy as vassals of the Arabs

717 St. Hovhan Odznetsi (St. John of Odzun) (-728) – Canon book, Theology, Hymns

850 Vikings invade England

850 Cyril and Methodius create Cyrillic Alphabet, convert Russia

867 Byzantine Emperor Basil-I (an Armenian), formed the Armenian Dynasty in Macedonia 867-1056 (Kings that followed Basil-I were also Armenians, they also ruled and expanded the Byzantine Empire), created the Greek Legal System (Basilica) and established the new Provinces of Calabria and Langobardia in Italy.

6. Kingdom of Ani

885 Kingdom of Ani – Armenian self-rule established by Ashot I Bagratuni, consolidated by Ashot II Yerkat ('Iron') Bagratuni ca. 900. David of Sassoon epic.

915 Aghtamar is built in Lake Van by architect Manuel

947 The Catholicos Anania moves the See from Varag to Argina (near Ani). During Anania's pontificate, monasteries such as Sanahin and Narek are built

951 St. Grigor Narekatsi (St. Gregory of Narek) (-1003), Book of Prayer (also known as Book of Lamentations), wrote many hymns, odes used in the Armenian Church

990 Gagik I becomes King. Under Gagik I, the Bagratuni capital of Ani reaches its zenith and is renowned as "the city of 1,001 churches," with the mother cathedral designed by the architect Trdat. Armenian architecture enters its golden age and its influence is felt as far as western Europe

1054 Great Schism between Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches

1071 Battle of Manzikert (Manazgerd) – Turks invade Armenia, Fall of Ani (1064)

1097 First Crusade, assisted by the Armenians of Caesarea, Cilicia, and Syria , in their efforts to capture the Holy Land from Islam. For the next three centuries, the Armenians take part in the Crusade



7. Cilician Kingdom

1080 Kingdom of Cilicia founded by Prince Roupen, which marked the start of Rubinian Dynasty, lasting until 1375

1100 St. Nerses Shnorhali (1173), poet, writer, theologian, ecumenical leader, liturgical reformer, revised Book of Hours, wrote many new hymns

1130 Mkhitar Gosh (1130-1213) compiled an Armenian Law Code, founded the university at Goshavank, wrote fables (photo below)

1149 The Holy See was moved to Hromkla, meaning 'Roman castle', just outside Cilicia

1198 Prince Levon II (1187-), becomes King Levon I, was consecrated King by the Catholicos Grigor VI Apirat on Christmas Day 1199 in Tarsus and received his crown from the King of Germany through the Pope's emissary

1200 Zakarians liberate parts of Armenia . They or their vassals (Orbelians, Proshians) built or expanded many monasteries throughout Armenia including Geghard, Kecharis, Haghartsin, Sanahin, Goshavank

1226 King Hetum I of Cilicia – Founds dynasty that rules until 1375

1236 Mongols capture Ani

1292 The Holy See moved to Sis, the capital of the Armenian kingdom in Cilicia

1346 St. Grigor Tatevatsi (St. Gregory of Tatev) (-1409), vardapet, philosopher, educator and theologian, is born in Vayots Dzor. Along with Hovhannes Vorotnetsi, his teacher and founder of the university at Tatev, he formulated the theology of the Armenian Church according medieval Western scholastic methods as a defense against proselytizing by Roman Catholic missionaries 1375 Egyptian Mamelukes conquer Cilician Kingdom during King Levon V's rule (1374-1375).



King Levon V 1342-1393
Last Armenian King of
Lusignan Dynasty
Buried in Saint Denis
Basilica, Paris, France



8. Search for Statehood: Armenia between Turks and Persians

1400 Turkomans invade Armenia ; Tamerlane devastates Armenia

1441 The Holy See moved back to the monastery of Etchmiadzin in Vagharshapat by decision of a church council, with as many as 700 clergy and laity participating

1492 Columbus discovers America

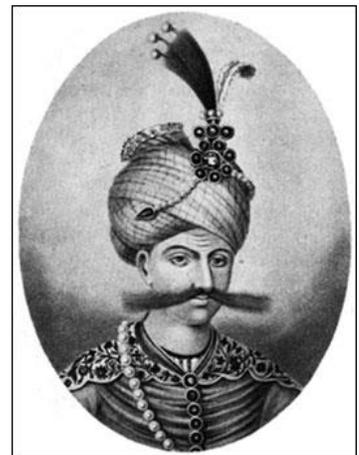
1512 First Armenian printed book in Venice by Hakob Meghapart (cf. Gutenberg Bible (1455))

1517 Martin Luther begins Protestant Movement, Machiavelli writes The Prince

1555 Armenia divided between Ottoman Empire and Persia

1605 Shah Abbas (1587-1629) Persian King resettles 25.000+ Armenians to Isfahan from Nakhichevan, Eastern Armenia (photo to the right).

1618 First Armenian in America – John Martin the Armenian, silk worm grower (Armenian name is assumed to have been Harootune Mardirosian). According to records, he did well and had his brother “George the Armenian” brought over soon thereafter. Later, John transitioned to growing tobacco leaves.



1629 St. Movses of Tatev (-1632) reformed and revived the Church, protecting it from Muslim repression

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1651 At the Council of Jerusalem , Pilipos I Aghbaketsi Catholicos of All Armenians and Nerses Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, meet and set canons defining the limits of the jurisdiction of the two Sees

1665 First Armenian settlement in India

1666 First printed Armenian Bible (Amsterdam) by Voskan vardapet

1701 Israel Ori meets with Russian Tsar Peter the Great to seek Russian assistance in liberating Armenia from the Persians

1701 A Benedictine order founded by Mkhitar Sebastatsi, who is invited by Roman Catholic Church to settle on the island of San Lazzaro in Venice ; the order's scholarship and education helps fuel the Armenian 19th century renaissance

1715 Hovhannes Kolot Baghishetsi becomes Patriarch of Constantinople, founds schools, publishes Armenian classics

1717 Grigor Shirvantsi accepts the position of Patriarch of Jerusalem called "shghtayakir" ("chain bearer") because he wears a chain around his neck until the debts of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem are fully paid

1722 Davit Bek leads successful rebellion against Persians and Ottomans in Siunik

1760 Hovsep Emin, merchant of Calcutta , who solicited the support of England and Russia for the liberation of Armenia

1790 Catholicos Simeon Yerevantsi founds first printing press at Etchmiadzin, introduces Der Voghormya into the Badarak, reorganizes the Church Calendar

9.Regaining Autonomy: Russian and Ottoman Empires

1813 Treaty of Gulistan – Russia annexes large parts of Georgia and Karabagh/Artsakh from Persia , including Elizavetpol (Gandzak, Karabagh)

1822 First Armenian settlement in Singapore

1828 Treaty of Turkmenchai – Russia annexes Yerevan , Nakhichevan from Persia . Archbishop Nerses Ashtaraketsi (future catholicos) led the Armenian contingents fighting under the Russian flag. Catholicos Nerses established Nersisian Jemaran in Tiflis, where many Armenian cultural figures studied, e.g., Hovhannes Toumanian, Nikol Aghbalian, Derenik Demirchian

1829 Treaty of Adrianopolis, whereby Mt. Ararat became part of the Armenian provinces of the Russian Empire and Bayazit, Kars and Erzerum became part of the Ottoman Empire

1836 Polozhenie ("statute") adopted by Tsarist Regime to regulate Armenian Church

1863 Constitution adopted by the Ottoman Court to govern Armenian Community (Millet) in the Ottoman Empire

1869 Bishop Mkrtych Khrimian elected Patriarch of Constantinople, later Catholicos (1892-1907); Khrimian Hayrig captured the imagination of the nation through his writings, patriotism, humility and spiritual leadership

1878 Treaties of San Stefano and Berlin . Kars and Ardahan ceded by Ottoman Empire to Russian Empire.

1882 Egypt separated from Ottoman Empire , becomes British Protectorate

1894-6 Hamidian Massacres of Armenians (by order of Sultan Hamid), 300,000 Armenians are systematically killed, from Constantinople to Sasun to Trebizond to Van and Urfa ; some resistance in Zeitun, but largely attacks on defenseless civilian population (Sultan Hamid photo to right)



1898 The Diocese of the Armenian Church in America is established by Catholicos Mkrtych Khrimian (its jurisdiction covers No. and So. America) – Sultan’s photo on right

1903 Catholicos Mkrtych resists Russian attempts to confiscate Armenian Church property

1908 Adana Massacres – 30,000 Armenian civilians killed by Ottoman Empire

1914 WWI (-1918). Armenian-American volunteers participate in combat as legionnaires

1915 The first genocide of the 20th century; the Ottoman Empire exterminates the Armenian population in Turkey ; nearly 2000 churches destroyed, over 3,000 clergy perish and 1,500,000 Armenians killed.

The Church commemorates the victims of the Genocide annually on April 24.



10. Restored Statehood

1918 Catholicos Gevorg V and Bishop Karekin Hovsepian rally the troops at the Battle of Sardarapat (May 24), Bash-Aparan, Karakilisa, ringing the bells of Armenia’s churches and the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin

1918 Armenia becomes independent Republic after 600 years of statelessness

1920 British Mandate over Palestine (based on Balfour Declaration 1917)

1920 Armenia is taken over by the Soviets (November 29)

1921 Caucasus Bureau of Communist Party transfer Karabagh to Azerbaijan (June 21)

1939 WWII (-1945) Armenians around the world participate in the war effort to defeat Nazism.

1943 Archbishop Karekin Hovsepian, primate of American Diocese (Eastern) (1940-44) is elected Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia (1943-1952)

1945 Catholicos Gevorg VI Chorekchian elected to see vacant from 1938 to 1944 Karekin I of the Great House of Cilicia present. Seminary at Etchmiadzin is reopened.

1948 State of Israel founded; Old City Jerusalem remains under Jordanian rule

1955 Catholicos Vazken I elected, greatly strengthens Etchmiadzin under the very difficult conditions of Soviet rule, builds ties with diaspora and in 1962 joins World Council of Churches

1967 Old City Jerusalem under Israeli rule

1983 Catholicos Khoren I dies at Antelias. Karekin II Sarkisian becomes Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia

1985 Soviet Reform movement "Glasnost" (openness) and "Perestroika" (reform) begin under Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev

1988 Karabagh movement begins February 19; anti-Armenian riots in Sumgait with massacres followed; Spitak – Leninakan (Gyumri) – Kirovakan (Vanadzor). Nakorno Karabagh Republic created with entire Armenian population of 150,000+ in Azerbaijan deported .

1988 December 7th – 11:41 AM, Spitak/Gyumri Earthquake 6.9 Richer Scale with 25,000+ dead. 111 Countries came to help in the aftermath (photo on right)

1990 Abp. Torkom I Manoogian elected Patriarch of Jerusalem

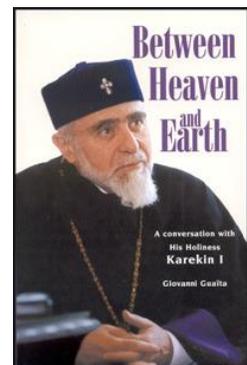
1991 Boris Yeltsin comes to power after August putsch deposes Gorbachev

1991 September 21, Armenia votes for independence, freedom to practice Christianity reinstated, church properties restored

1991 Levon Ter Petrosyan elected President of Armenia

1992 Battle of Shushi (May 9), Armenians go on to liberate Karabagh

1994 Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, passes away



1995 Karekin II of the Great House of Cilicia is elected Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians at Etchmiadzin (photo on right)
1995 Armenia adopts constitution



1996 Aram I is elected Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias , Lebanon (photo on right)

1996 Levon Ter-Petrosyan re-elected President of Armenia
1998 Abp. Mesrob II Mutafian elected Patriarch of Constantinople, Turkey
1998 Robert Kocharian elected President of Armenia
1999 Catholicos Karekin-I passes away.. Abp. Karekin Nersisian, Primate of the Araratian Diocese, is elected Karekin II Catholicos of All Armenians.



2001 1700th Anniversary of Armenia 's conversion to Christianity; Pope John-Paul II, first Roman Catholic Pope to visit Armenia (photo on right with Catholicos Karekin-II); His Holiness Bartholomew I, first Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople visits Armenia

2003 Robert Kocharian re-elected President of Armenia
2005 Armenia adopts constitutional reforms, permitting dual citizenship, affirming the mission of the Armenian Church as Armenia's national church
2008 Serzh Sargsian elected President of Armenia

2015 April 24 Countdown to Centennial; Genocide of 1,500,000 Armenians, Massacred In Their Ancestral Homes of 7,000+ Years

7,000+ year old Urartu Symbol of Eternity





THE OLDEST MAP OF THE WORLD, CALLED THE BABYLONIAN, 2600 YEARS OLD. ARMENIA IS THE ONLY MODERN COUNTRY THAT CAN BE FOUND IN THIS MAP.



Left: At the foothills of Mt. Nemrud (Central Turkey), at the village of Kahta, near Adiyaman a wall relief of King Antiochus I - Theos of Commagene shaking hands with Armenia's King Vahagn during 6th B.C. (often identified by Greeks as Heracles). Vahagn had also two brothers Diran and Bab.

Their father was King Yervant.

The left is a silver coin of Augustus circa 19-18 BC, in celebration of the victory over Armenia.

On the right "Armenia Capta", with symbols of Armenia; Armenian Tiara and bow case with quiver.



Left - Coin of Tigranes the Great (140-55 BC). Right depiction of Vahagn (Heracles).



515 B.C. Armenian princes bringing tribute to Darius I of Persia

ORIGIN OF ARMENIAN NAME

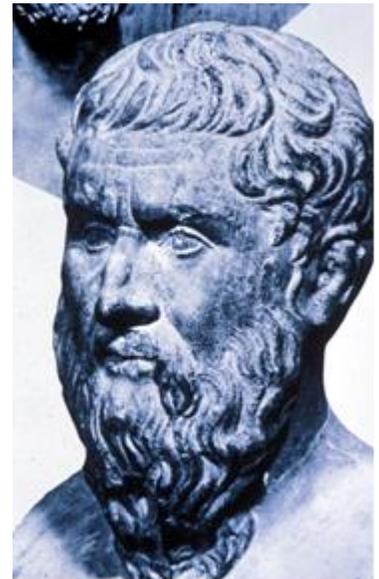
During the fall of the short lived Medes period around 550 BC, a vacuum was created, allowing for a new tribe to develop who became known as the Achamenians; they had come from various parts of Mt. Ararat region, settling in the northwest foothills of Mt. Ararat.

Achamenians were a mix of three Indo-European speaking tribes:

1. Thraco & Phrygian (Mushki & Urumean)
2. Luwians
3. Hurrians

THRACO & PHYRGIAN:

In the 5th century BC the Herodotus (Photo to the right) said of the Armenians who were part of the army of King Xerxes:



"The Armenians were equipped like Phrygians, being Phrygian colonists" (7.73)"

Now, the Phrygians who had migrated from Macedonian parts of the Balkans in eastern Europe, became masters of Central Anatolia during the tumultuous events near the end of the Bronze Age (12th century BC), following the collapse of the Hittite Empire. And, their ancestral homeland was in Thrace on the western shores of the Black Sea. There good evidence that the classical Armenian language is the closest



language related to Greek within the Indo-European language family. There is persuasive evidence that even during the Iron Age, the population of Thrace was very similar to Sardinian DNA, as Armenians do contrast with their Caucasian neighbors in possessing ~10% of Sardinian-like Atlantic-Mediterranean component that South and Northeast Caucasians lack.

All of the above combine to make a pretty compelling story. Could it be that Armenians preserve a legacy of admixture between a linguistically Indo-European speaking, genetically Sardinian-like population, which arrived in Asia Minor from the Balkans at the end of the Bronze Age, finally settling in the Armenian Highlands, and mixing with the local people they encountered?

ACHAMENIANS:

Achamenians were fierce warriors, where as an example, following ongoing battles between the Achamenians and the Persians, Achamenians had won, and as a peace treaty, as was the custom then, Darius The Great (photo on right) who was an Achamenian Prince, married Persian Cyrus The Great's daughter Atussa and ruled Persia. Their oldest son Xerxes then succeeded Darius as ruler of the Persian Empire, then about 150 years



later, Alexander the Great conquered Persia and honored Cyrus the Great as a warrior hero, erecting various monuments. Alexander The Great did not engage in battle with the Achamenians.

Due to the great Urartian influence in the Mt. Ararat Valley (photo on right), by the 300 B.C., the Achamenians had assimilated with the Urartu people, adapting their language and becoming one.

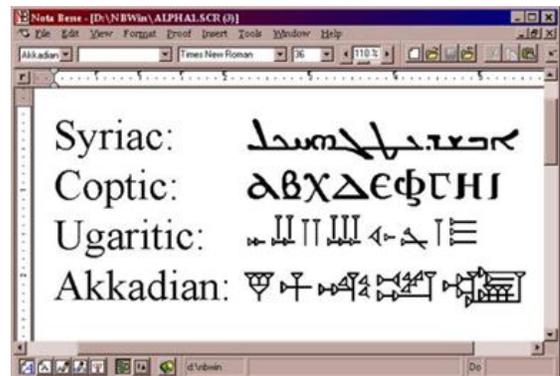


“Urartu” means Ararat in the Aramaic language. Urartu people have had a recorded history since the 13th century B.C. Their Golden Age was during King Minuas, whose son Argisti, who built Arin-Berd in Erepuni; modern day Yerevan, capital of Republic of Armenia, which will be celebrating its 2,800th anniversary in 2018. Photo on left of an actual Urartu God.



The combined Achamenian and Urartu people called themselves Hatti, which in Classical Armenian language (Krapar) is pronounced Hatti-yots, evolving to another form of address in Common Armenian (Ashkharapar) as Hayots or Hayek, which is what Armenians called themselves since, as Haya people or Hayk.

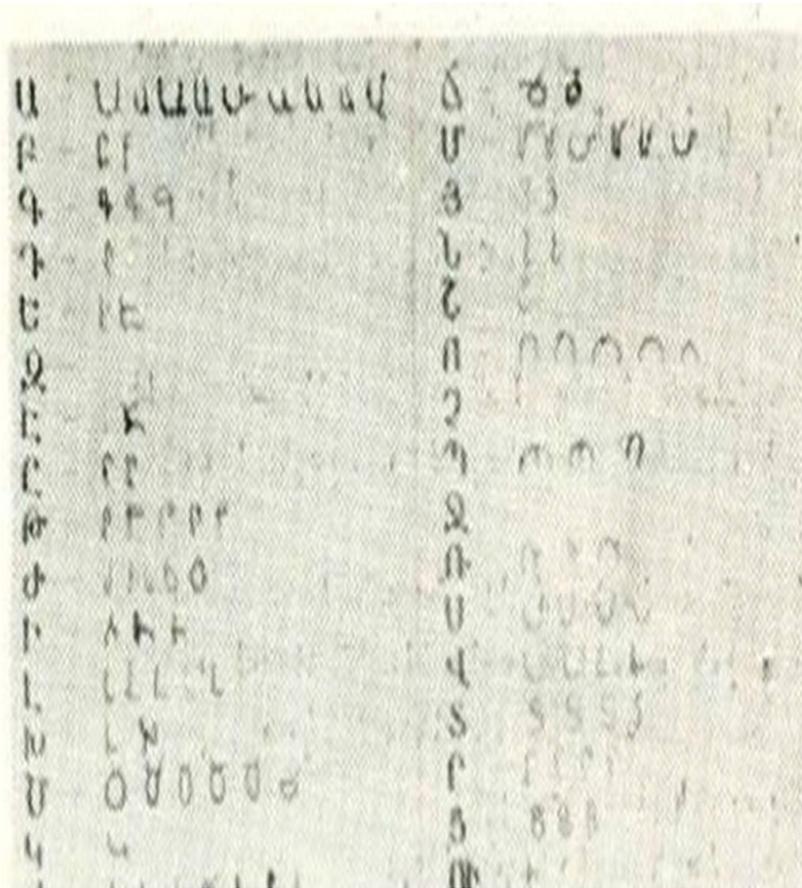
Yet the Persians referred to Hayk people who were their historic adversary to their immediate north as “Har-Minni” with “Har” being from “Hara” or “Ara” which in Persian means “Mountain” and “Minni” meaning “Our People”, which is how the “Har-Mini” then “Armin” name had evolved (implying “Mountain People”, or the people from Ararat Mountain). In fact, 2,600 years ago, in the oldest known map of the world found in Babylon (see map in previous page), it shows “Armin, as the northern boundary of the Babylonian Empire.



Armenian Alphabet

The Armenian Alphabet was not invented by Mesrop Mashtots, it was reintroduced by him after the devastation of literature 250 years before him. These are actual Armenian letters found in caves few thousand years before Mashtots. Please inform the many websites for this enormous error to be corrected and for the public to realize this misconception. Obviously, this opens the door for further inquiry of a misunderstood past.

Setyan



Schleicher's Chart



Schleicher A. Die deutsche Sprache. Berlin, 1860.

August Schleicher

As early as the 19th century, when the field of Indo-European studies emerged, many of the scholars were convinced that the Armenian Highland is the cradle of the Indo-Europeans, and that the Armenian language, is the "mother language" of all Indo-European languages. Modern research in archeology, linguistics, genetics, and molecular biology increasingly comes to support this hypothesis.

This a pattern of development and branching out of the IE languages introduced by the German linguist A. Schleicher in 1860. Schleicher was one of many linguists who was convinced that all Indo-European languages had branched out from proto-Armenian.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles

1st Century A.D.

The island Britain is 800 miles long and 200 miles broad. And there are in the island five nations; English, Welsh (or British), Scottish, Pictish, and Latin.



The first inhabitants were the Britons, who came from Armenia, and first peopled Britain southward. Then happened it, that the Picts came south from Scythia, with long ships, not many; and, landing first in the northern part of Ireland, they told the Scots that they must dwell there. But they would not give them leave; for the Scots told them that they could not all dwell there together; "But," said the Scots, "we can nevertheless give you advice. We know another island here to the east. There you may dwell, if you will; and whosoever withstandeth you, we will assist you, that you may gain it." Then went the Picts and entered this land northward.

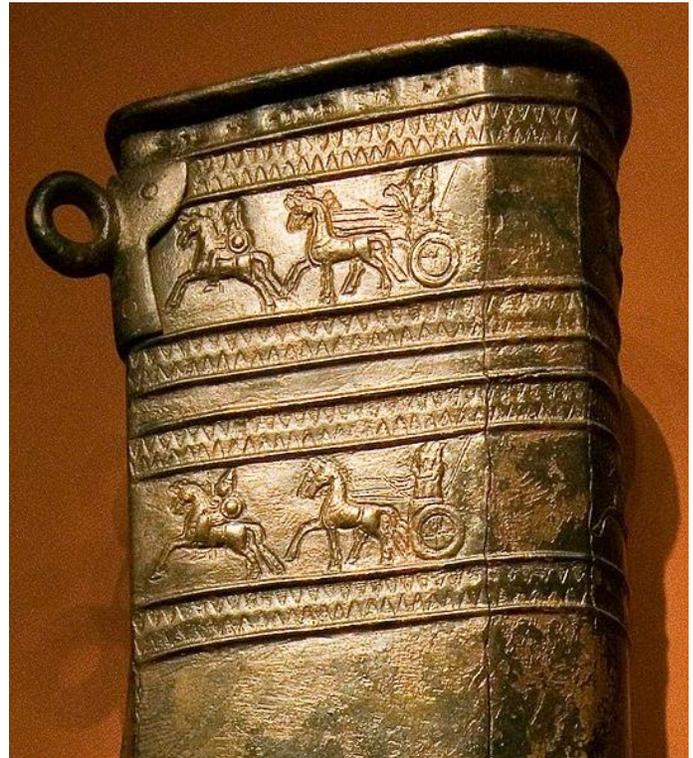
Southward the Britons possessed it, as we before said. And the Picts obtained wives of the Scots, on condition that they chose their kings always on the female side; which they have continued to do, so long since. And it happened, in the run of years, that some party of Scots went from Ireland into Britain, and acquired some portion of this land. Their leader was called Reoda, from whom they are named Dalreodi (or Dalreathians).



Note – Origin of Scythians (roaming tribes who followed Armenians) is from the area between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. Remnants of them are the modern day people of Nagorno Karabagh Republic.

Ancient Quiver

From the Ararat Kingdom (photo on the right) a quiver of Sardur II, found in Karmir Blur, Yerevan Armenia 8th century BC. Depiction of Sardur II on a chariot, with warrior themes along the rest of the quiver.



Sardur II was so confident in his power that he erected a massive wall at Tushpa/Tosp Fortress (Van) with the following inscription:

"The magnificent king, the mighty king, king of the universe, king of the land of Nairi, a king having none equal to him, a shepherd to be wondered at, fearing no battle, a king who humbled those who would not submit to his authority."

The Kingdom of Urartu, 9th-6th Centuries B.C.

