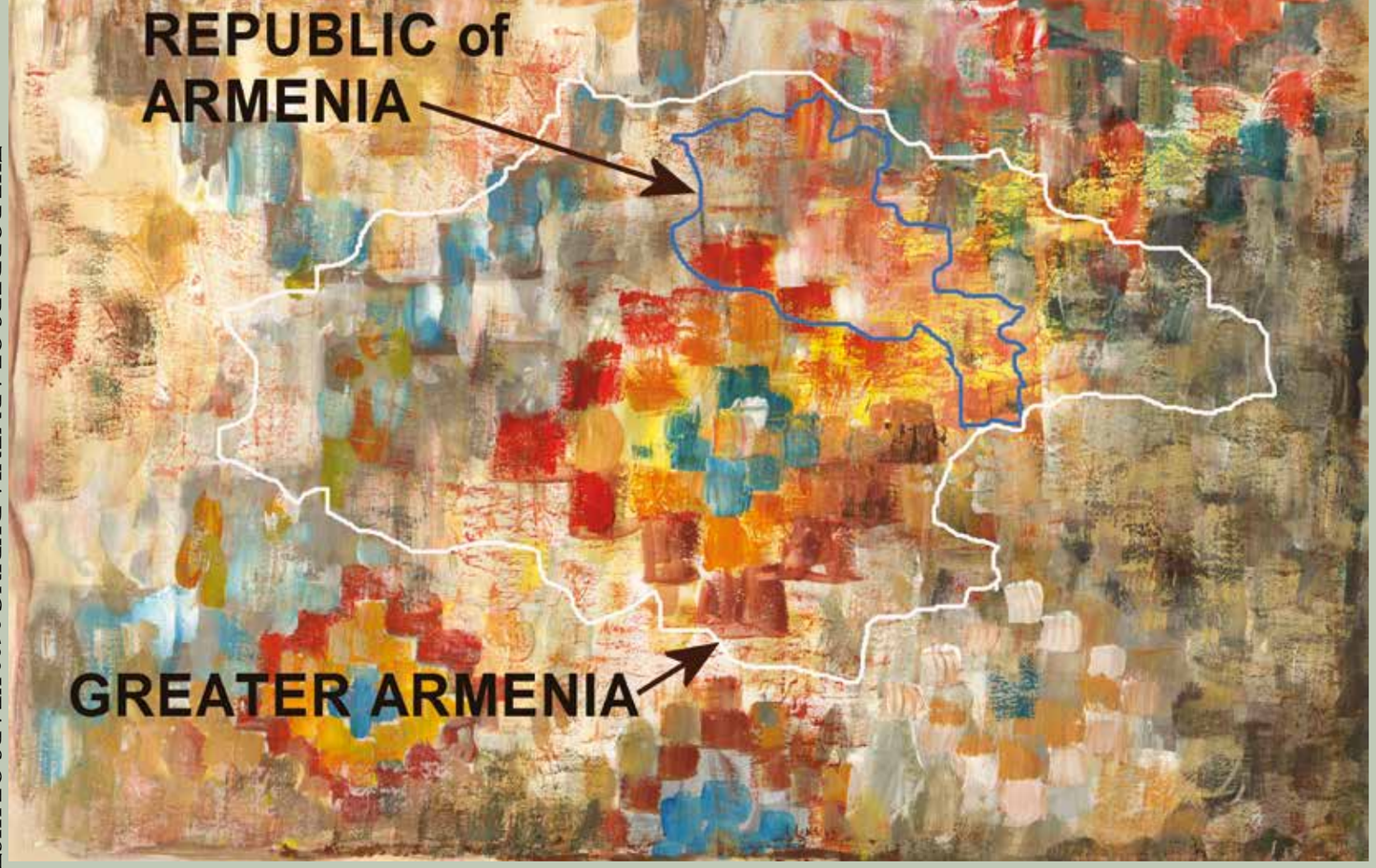

THE BORDERS OF ARMENIA DURING 2600 YEARS OF HISTORY

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Geographical, Cartographical and Historical Changes in Border Situation

ROUBEN GALICHIAN

Author's other book published in English

- *Historic Maps of Armenia. The cartographic Heritage, I.B. Tauris London and New York, 2004.*
- *Countries South of the Caucasus in Medieval Maps; Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, Gomidas Institute, London, 2007.*
- *The Invention of History: Azerbaijan, Armenia and the showcasing of Imagination, Gomidas Institute, London, 2009 and 2010.*
- *Clash of Histories in the South Caucasus: Redrawing the Maps of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iran, Bennett & Bloom, London, 2012.*
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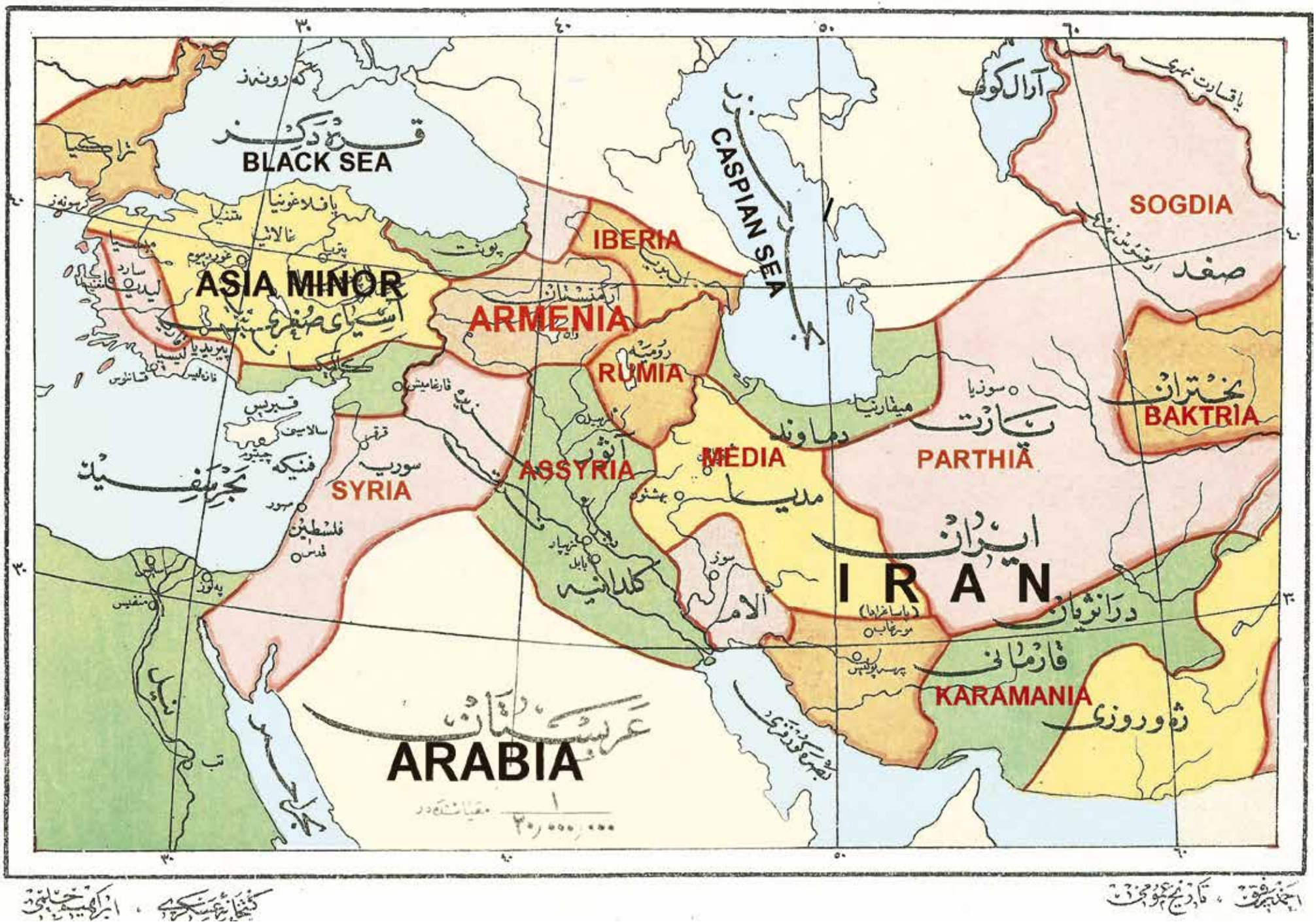
- *Armenia in the World Cartography, tri-lingual luxury volume, published by special order, 2015.*
- *Glance into the History of Armenia through Cartographic Records, Bennett & Bloom, London, 2015.*
- *History of the Armenian Cartography up to year 1918, Bennett & Bloom, London2017.*
- *Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey. Addressing Paradoxes of Culture, Geography and History. Bennett & Bloom, London 2019.*

Cover carpet painting by Tosya Hovanissyan, 14 year of student of Levon Galchian carfts studio in Myasnikyan village, Armavir, Armenia.

For auther's books and papers in all languages please see www.roubengalichian.com



Early 20th century Ottoman map of the Middle East in the early ages of the history. There is Armenia but no Azerbaijan. From R. Galichian collection in Matenadaran.

THE BORDERS OF ARMENIA DURING 2600 YEARS OF HISTORY

Geographical, Cartographical and Historical Changes in Border Situation

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ZANGAK
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The booklet is targeting the general public interested in the borders of Armenia and especially students of senior schools and institutions of higher education. Using simple and easily accessible language it explains the periodic changes in the borders of Armenia and the main reasons for these changes. The volume presents especially a small collection of important maps made by non–Armenians, part of which could be found in the author's previous works. The last twenty maps have been prepared during and after the establishment of the first independent Republic of Armenia in 1918.

It also shows how the borders of the later independent republics of Armenia were often changed illegally, to the detriment of Armenia.

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Preface

Dear reader, for the historian, only the white sheet of paper on which he puts down his thoughts and judgments regarding history, is the fully impartial party. However, there is only one type of evidence, the map, which silently takes us deep into the times bygone, bringing the Old and Middle Ages to us.

The maps presented by Rouben Galichian in this book were not drawn and illustrated by the author himself but were painstakingly collected from different libraries, museums and other rare collections of the world, to be presented here and provide information for those of us, who are interested in the history and cartography in general and that of our homeland in particular.

The knowledge of map itself is the keystone of one's feelings towards the subject. Homeland is not an abstract thought, but has geographic location, borders and toponyms, which often become the subject of conflict with neighbours. For recognizing the reason of conflicts and having a proper judgement, one has to have a good knowledge of the history, geography and cartography of the region.

Remember, the map is a tireless fighter, which will support you throughout your conscious and active life.

Ashot Malkonian, Academician
Director of the Institute of History
of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences
Yerevan, 2022

Author's notes

This booklet does not contain scientific innovations, since it provides publicly available historical–geographical information and mostly maps, which, for those who are interested in these matters, would explain the possible answers to some of the questions regarding the status of Armenia and its borders.

Having been involved in matters relating to maps and especially those of our region for more than forty years, I have collected many maps and cartographic information from different sources and countries, some of which have been included in my previous eight works. Among these there are some that deal with the historical, geographical and cultural problems between Azerbaijan, Turkey and Armenia, with their related paradoxes. These also reveal the distortions and other falsifications of our history actively carried out by our neighbours. I have also authored articles and given interviews on various news, radio and television platforms, related to these cartographic and historic matters.

The booklet also includes maps and essays from my archives and my above–mentioned literature, which were once discussed in detail in my various publications and works, but here these are presented in a simpler and more accessible format and without cumbersome scientific references. For more academic approach, the reader is advised to find them in my other works.

The booklet also contains brief historical information, and in the chapters on maps, each of the maps mentioned is accompanied by brief but important explanations regarding the map's author, date and the information it displays, which include the problems associated with these representations.

Targets of this volume are high school and university students, as well as those who are interested in the maps and borders of Armenia in general. Through maps and their descriptions it is intended to convey to the reader some of the important historical and cartographic information collected during the past 40 years or so of research. This information although freely available, cannot be easily accessed in a concise and generally informative format. In order to obtain such facts, much data and materials from various sources have to be studied from the vast volume of available literature. In addition many scientific and other articles and archives have to be analyzed, which makes it impossible for the layman or even specialists, who are involved in various other fields to study them thoroughly.

Rouben Galichian
Yerevan 2022

Introduction

In this booklet, we will present maps which include the regions of the Middle East and the South Caucasus, that is, the area which includes Armenia, whether it is the ancient kingdom or the current republic. But first, let us discuss some facts about maps, in general.

A map is a document that can convey to the viewer and reader a variety of pieces of information at a single glance, which, in written format, would probably take dozens of pages. Yet the map viewer can get his required information directly from it, provided that he/she is studying the correct type and genre of the map, whether political, topographical, hydrographical or other types.

Today's world could not possibly be unimagined without maps, which currently are probably the most popular document in printed format. However they now are in competition with their digital versions. These could be digital files, electronic articles or books, maps displayed on computers, tablets or smart phones in a variety of other forms.

In the Chapter Two of this volume we could see mostly foreign maps, indicating how mainly non–Armenian cartographers and geographers have perceived and depicted Armenia on their maps. These could also include neighbouring regions and their geographical relationship with Armenia. Borders could also be seen mainly on maps prepared after the fifteenth century.

Here the emphasis on the fifteenth century becomes important, since before that period, borders were usually not drawn on maps at all. The main reason was the fact that borders were subject to unpredictable and constant changes – and the more stable element involved for recording the reality and the true information, was the ethnic population living in the given region. Thus, the name of the indigenous people was often mentioned on the map, and the region of the given geographical area became synonymous with the name of its indigenous people. For example, the region inhabited by Armenians was called Armenia. That, which was inhabited by Persians was named Persia, those populated by Greeks became Greece, and those populated by Arabs became Arabia, and so on.

* * *

To the east of Armenia we have a unique country and government, born in 1918, that is trying to become an ancient one. In order to present their newly born country as a 3000 year old kingdom and statehood, their historians and rulers have been continuously distorting and falsifying history and geography since the early 1950s. Falsifications seem to be the chosen method for proving their ancient background. Since the majority of the public is ignorant of these historical details, we consider it our duty to provide a brief historical account of the distant and recent past of this neighbouring region.

Strabo, who is considered to be the father of geography, in his seventeen volume book entitled "Geography" devotes 60 paragraphs to Armenians, as well as Greater and Lesser Armenians. In the same book, he calls the country located east of Armenia and adjacent to the Caspian Sea, *Caucasian Albania* (which has nothing to do with the present–day Albania). In Armenian it is named Aghvank, and the Persians and Arabs call it Arran. According to Strabo, there lived 26 tribes, each with its own language. This can also be said for the current Republic of

Azerbaijan, where Lazes, Lezgis, Talyshes, Udis, Inigiols, Tsakhurs, Armenians, Jews, Turks and Kurds and others lived, who later on were joined by the Russians and others. Today none of them, except the Russians, have the right to teach and use their native language and all are forced to communicate only in Azerbaijani Turkish.

Most of the tribes living in that region accepted Christianity in the fourth century. After the invasion of the Islamic forces at the beginning of the seventh century most of these tribes embraced Islam, and presently only a small number of Udis remain Christian. Until the tenth to twelfth centuries the region was called Caucasian Albania (Aghvank in Armenian). In the middle ages Islamic khans and chieftains ruled the region, but from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries, the Armenian Meliks (landowners) were established in Artsakh–Karabakh, who lived and ruled autonomously. From the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries this general region was known to foreigners as "Shirvan".

From the ancient periods until 1918, the name "Azerbaijan" is completely absent from the territory located north of the Arax River; where, in 1918, a new republic with a predominantly Turkic–speaking and Muslim population was created. Their ultra–nationalist leader Mohammad Amin Rasulzade, in consultation with the extremists of the Ottoman Empire, decided to name the newly created country "Azerbaijan", which was the ancient name of their southern neighbour; the northwestern province of Persia/Iran. Iranian authorities complained about this misnomer, but the European powers, being busy with the struggle to divide the oil reserves of the Middle East, did not pay attention to this complaint and let it pass.

Before our era, the ancient name of Azerbaijan Province of Iran was "Lesser Media", which, in honor of its patriot ruler Atropat was named "Atropaten". The Armenians, have still preserved its ancient name and currently the region of Iranian Azerbaijan province in Armenian is "Atrpatakan". However, after the invasion of the Arabs, the Iranian name "Atropaten", evolved gradually and became Atropatkan, Adorbaigan, Aderbigan, Azerbijan and Azerbaijan.

In 1918, which is the date of the establishment of present day Republic of Azerbaijan, until 1936, the locals called themselves Turks or Muslims, and the Russians officially called them Turks or Tatars. Only in 1936, following the decision of the central leadership of the USSR, the inhabitants of the country were forced to change their names and become Azerbaijanis or Azeris.

Today, when the Republic of Azerbaijan negotiates and presents itself to European and Western countries, it claims the Christian Albanians to be their ancestors, who were supposed to have built all the monasteries and churches in Azerbaijan and even in Armenia. This claim disregards the fact that these churches and monasteries were built mainly during the twelfth to eighteenth centuries when majority of the local peoples had been converted to Islam. At the time, in the region under the Islamic rule, Christian minorities did not have the right to build monasteries, churches and other spiritual monuments without special edicts. The question is, how could the small Albanian Christian minority build such a plethora of religious buildings and monuments?

Even if we accept that the monasteries, churches and other monuments in Azerbaijan are Albanian, then the question arises; why does Azerbaijan destroy this historical heritage, which is supposed to represent a culture, which they claim to be of their own ancestors'? The destruction of Armenian monuments has been done since Soviet times and continues today. In 2005 Azerbaijani military forces destroyed 5000 Armenian funerary Khachqars, ("cross stones"), of Julfa in Nakhijevan, which they had claimed to belong to their own ancestors, the Albanians. In 1922 the church in the Azeri occupied Armenian village of Mekhakavan as well as other

churches and khachkars in locations under Azeri control were completely destroyed. Why does the government systematically destroy Christian monuments which are claimed to be "part of their Albanian culture"? Is the reason for their destruction the fact that they were built by the Armenians and therefore are not to be tolerated on "their Azeri" land, where Azerbaijan was founded only in 1918?

Returning to their ancestors, Azerbaijanis having an Albanian origin is the first version of their claimed origin, accepted and announced by Aliyev's government. The other version is what they announce, when they negotiate and deal with "brotherly" Turkey. This time, the slogan regarding their ancestors is "Azeris and Turks are actually the same people, divided between two countries", even claiming that Azerbaijan was divided into "southern" and "northern" parts during the nineteenth century by Persian and Russian empires. Thus, they also intend to claim ownership to the Iranian province of Azerbaijan. This same slogan is also used by the Turkish authorities, claiming that Turks and Azerbaijanis have the same ancestors, who are the Oghuz Turks. This was officially announced by Presidents Erdogan and Aliyev in an Islamic convention organized in Shushi in 2022. Thus, when they are negotiating and dealing with Turkey, there is no mention of Albanian ancestry of the Azerbaijanis.

To resolve the matter of ancestry once and for all, in the 1990s, Heydar Aliyev organized a meeting of scientists and historians in Baku. The topic was "Who are we and who are our ancestors, Albanians or Turks?" At the end of this lengthy meeting, no conclusions were reached and the issue remained pending. The indirect result of this was that today conducting genealogical DNA research in Azerbaijan is forbidden.

* * *

Let us now return to the history of Armenia. In ancient times the name "Armenia" is mentioned during the sixth century BC on a cuneiform inscription of the Persian king Darius the Great and on a Babylonian clay tablet (see Maps 2.3 and 2.4), and then in Herodotus' History (see Map 2.5.) After that, there are many references in international historic archives about the expanded Armenia of the Armenian king Tigran the Great, during whose rule Armenia extended from the Caspian to the Mediterranean seas (see Map. 2.6.) During the second century, the Greek cartographer Ptolemy wrote and drew the maps of Greater and Lesser Armenias. In his cartographic volume entitled *Geographia*, he assigned 164 out of the 8,000 world toponyms to Armenia (see Map. 2.7 and Map 2.8.) On his maps there is no mention of Azerbaijan of any sort.

After converting to Christianity in 301, Armenia's relations with its neighbors became problematic. The Persians wanted to bring the Armenians back to their original religion, which was similar to Iranian Zoroastrianism. It was for this reason that in 449–451 after conquering Armenia, they tried to force Christian Armenia to renounce their newly accepted religion, however, facing unconditional resistance, in spite of winning the battle in Avarayr, the Persian king Yazdgerd II decided to stop the violence and from those days Armenia became accepted by Iran as a Christian neighbour (see 2.9 and 2.10.)

During the sixth and seventh centuries Armenia unwillingly became the battleground for the Byzantine and Persian empires (see Maps 2.14 and 2.15.) This was followed by raids and massacres by the Muslim Arabs, this time for the purpose of spreading their new religion. The next and most destructive conquerors were the Turkic tribes, Mongols and Tamarlane, who passing through Armenia destroyed everything he could.

After the eleventh century, part of the Armenians who escaped the battlefields, leaving their centuries–old homeland, tried to find peace in the northwest, reaching Ukraine, Romania, Poland and elsewhere. They settled

in those countries, founding local Armenian communities and colonies. Another part migrated south, settling in the northeastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea. There, they first established local principalities, then, starting from the twelfth century, established the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, with its capital Sis and the seat of the religious leader, the Catholicos, which lasted until 1375 (see Map. 13 and Map 14.)

It should be noted that these Cilician rulers and merchants had close ties with France, Venice, Genoa, Catalonia and even the Dutch trade centers and merchants. These connections continued until the seventeenth–eighteenth centuries, long after the demise of the Cilician Kingdom.

In the Middle Ages, the name "Armenia" was constantly represented on European and Islamic maps, even when such an independent state did not exist. The reason for the name was that Armenians lived in these lands, therefore the area was named "Armenia" (see Maps 2.13 to 2.17.) As mentioned earlier, during the Middle Ages, this was a common naming practice where, due to the uncertainty and frequent changes in boundaries, geographic regions were named after the local inhabitants.

During the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries, Armenia's eastern and western neighboring empires were both Muslim, but belonged to different sects of the religion. The Ottomans were Sunni, while the Iranians were Shia, and Christian Armenia sat between these two powerful empires. These two were often hostile to each other and regularly went to war, and their battlefield was once again, the territories inhabited by the Armenians, who, by successively being captured by one and then the other, were trampled upon and plundered, losing land and property and all related livelihood (see Maps 2.18 and 2.19.)

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the southern Caucasus was occupied by the Ottoman and Iranian empires, but Tsarist Russia also became interested in the Transcaucasian territories. Thus, in 1813 and 1828 through wars, Russia conquered Transcaucasia, dividing the territory into administratively convenient regions and provinces, whose territories and names were often changed according to the viceroy's whim, without due consideration to their demographic and ethnographic backgrounds (see Map 2.20 and 2.21.)

During all of these changes of borders and rulers, only one fact remained constant; there was no country called Azerbaijan north of the Arax River, and the name Azerbaijan belonged to the ancient northwestern province of Iran on the southern shores of Arax, which is called in Armenian by its ancient name, Atrpatakan. As previously mentioned the name of the northwestern province of the present–day Iran was formerly Lesser Media, which was renamed Atropaten, later evolving into Azerbaijan. And in 1918 the newly established country, located on the northern shore of the River Arax, adopted the name of its neighbouring Iranian Province, and became to be known as the Republic of Azerbaijan.

* * *

Chapter Three of the booklet deals with the territories and borders occupied by the Republics of Armenia during the 20th century.

At the end of World War I, during which the Ottoman Empire carried out the Armenian Genocide, three independent republics were established in the South Caucasus. Of these, Armenia and Georgia regained their ancient names, and the third, the newly created Muslim country, as previously mentioned, usurping and appropriating the name of the neighboring Iranian province, was also named Azerbaijan. For the future peace and the status of the Ottoman Empire and neighbouring territories, the congress of the representatives of the

victorious countries was held in the Paris suburb of Sèvres in 1920. As ratified by the treaty, the US President Woodrow Wilson was given the mandate for preparing a map of the borders of Armenia and Turkey. The map was drawn and signed, but for various reasons this resolution was not implemented. After the independence of the three Caucasian republics, no delimitation and demarcation took place between the three, the result of which is the current unclear, disputed and unacceptable border situation (see Map 3.1 and Map 3.2.)

When Armenia became Sovietized, its borders included 43,000 square kilometers of territory, but after Sovietization, Nakhichevan, Nagorno–Karabakh and Eastern Syunik were given to Azerbaijan, and Kars, Surmalu and the Ararat region were given to Turkey. It should be noted that the area once called Nagorno–Karabakh included the present–day Artsakh, as well as Kashatagh and Karvachar regions to its west, which were jointly recognized as one territory – Mountainous Karabakh (see Map 3.3 and Map 3.4.) After ceding above mentioned territories to Turkey and Azerbaijan, the territory of the Soviet Republic of Armenia was reduced to about 31,000 square km. (see Map 3.5.)

During the following years, with the approval of the Soviet authorities, three Azerbaijani enclaves were established inside Armenia, the main and official purpose of which is unknown. These are mainly located on strategically important roads, which gave the control of many Armenian highways to Azerbaijan (see Maps 3.6–3.10, Map 3.12 and Map 3.14.)

In 1923 the newly established republic of Azerbaijan announced that it would establish the Red Kurdistan province between itself and Armenia, where the Azerbaijani Kurds would live, whose sheep needed sufficient pastures to graze. Ostensibly for this purpose, more than 1500 sq. km. of Armenian fields and pastures were given to Azerbaijan, so that the Kurds would have sufficient pastures for their sheep. However, when in 1932 the creation of the Red Kurdistan province was annulled, the territories taken from Armenia for this purpose were not returned to their rightful owner, Armenia, but were appropriated by Azerbaijan (see Map 3.10 and Map 3.11.)

In the first half of 1920s, the border of Azerbaijan in Tavush ran along the river, which was later changed, and two wedge–shaped Armenian barren plots of land were given to Azerbaijan, through which the highway of Armenia had to pass. This could only have one purpose: in several points where the Armenian highway passes through the territory of Azerbaijan (see Map 3.13), it would be the subject of Azeri control. The same decision–making could be seen on the Goris–Kapan highway, which crosses the border of Azerbaijan several times, for a total length of more than twenty kilometers (see Map 3.14.) Some of these lands were taken from Armenia and given to Azerbaijan in the 1930s, but the Kapan highway was built in 1953–1956, and it is unclear why the leadership of Soviet Armenia agreed to build a road, whose significant part passes through the neighbour's territory, giving the possibility of future difficulties, as are faced today.

In the case of the Goris–Kapan highway, detailed maps of the Soviet Military General Staff, published until the 1970s and later, clearly show that the road crosses the Armenia–Azerbaijani border in several places (see Map 3.14), whereas until recently in maps published for the public–at–large, it is shown that the road runs entirely inside the territory of Armenia (see Map 3.15.) This is a case indicating how the state deceives its public, the reasons for which should be sought in 1928–1940s state and official archives.

The above explanations in this introductory chapter are brief and indicate only the general contents of the maps. In the following chapters, more detailed explanations are provided for each map, each on a separate page.

This is what we inherited from the Soviet Union and the Soviet Socialist Republic of Armenia. Borders,

which need new delimitation and demarcation, to be established with the involvement of international legal experts, under the supervision of neutral observers. The purpose of delimitation and demarcation is to eliminate wrong and forced border placements as much as possible. It should also give considerations to any violation of human rights. This could only be possible if we look at the maps prepared to earlier than those, made to suit the Soviet Union's divide–an–rule policies. This means maps, which are using for source the topographic ones prepared during the period of 1921–1923, which according to president Putin's own admission in October 2021, only Moscow has. These must be the maps prepared by the Soviet General Staff in early 1920s. No copies of the above–mentioned General Staff maps have, so far, been given or even shown to Armenian authorities.

One of the earliest maps of Soviet Armenia, dated 1926 and inserted in the first Great Soviet Encyclopedia, states that it has been approved by the security forces, therefore it could be the closest that we have to those original maps.

CHAPTER ONE

World Maps of Different Periods

In different eras of human history, the map was often depicted in many different ways, which sometimes did not correspond with our current perception of maps. That's why here we are showing several different types of world maps as examples of what they may look like.

These four images are intended to show samples of the so–called "World Maps", which depict the whole world prepared during different times – and which could be fundamentally different. It is obvious that in the middle ages and ancient times, the way mapmakers were showing their map layouts, compositions and toponyms were nothing like those, which we have today. Below are some examples of these representations of the world.

Map 1.1 – This is a modern world map, with which almost everyone is familiar.

On the map North is placed at the top of the page.

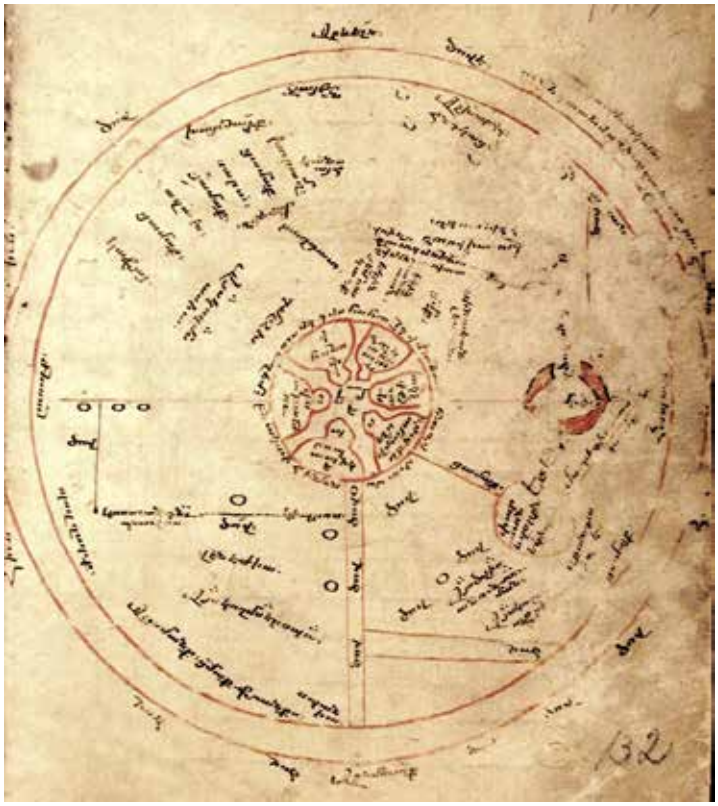
Map 1.2 - A 16th-century geographic map where Alaska is still shown incomplete.

Australia does not exist at all, and Antarctica occupies the entire southern part of the globe.

The map is surrounded by mythological and decorative images.

Map 1.3 The Map is prepared to represent the Christian dogmas of the 10th century.

The map is a sample of Italian cartographic style, where east is placed at the top of the map and center of the world is Jerusalem.



Map 1.4 - This map is a medieval Armenian map, on which east is also placed at the top of the map.

Here too, in the center of the world we have Jerusalem, with its six gates, and to its right, that is south, the Red Sea has been painted red.

CHAPTER TWO

Armenia in 2600 years of Others' Maps.

Map 2.1 – The Behistun inscriptions in Iran, dating 517 BCE

Map 2.2 – An extract from King Darius's Behistun Inscriptions

The name of Armenia appeared in many ancient historical texts. King Darius the Great of Persia has recorded the name "Armenia" in his famous Behistun Inscriptions, shown in the cuneiform text above.

In this trilingual inscription Darius mentions that he sent his Armenian general Dadarshi to neighbouring Armenia (in about 521 B.C.) to oversee the events there. On the trilingual text, the name of Armenia is named in Elamite as "Harminuya", in Old Persian as "Arminiya", and in Babylonian cuneiform, as "Urartu". These are all three names given to the same country, namely Armenia. Another modern example of giving different names to the same country is Germany, which the Germans themselves call "Deutschland".

According to the German cuneiform decipherer, three countries mentioned in the center of the world, as marked on the tablet are Assyria, Babylon and Armenia. This is the oldest written record of Armenia's existence.

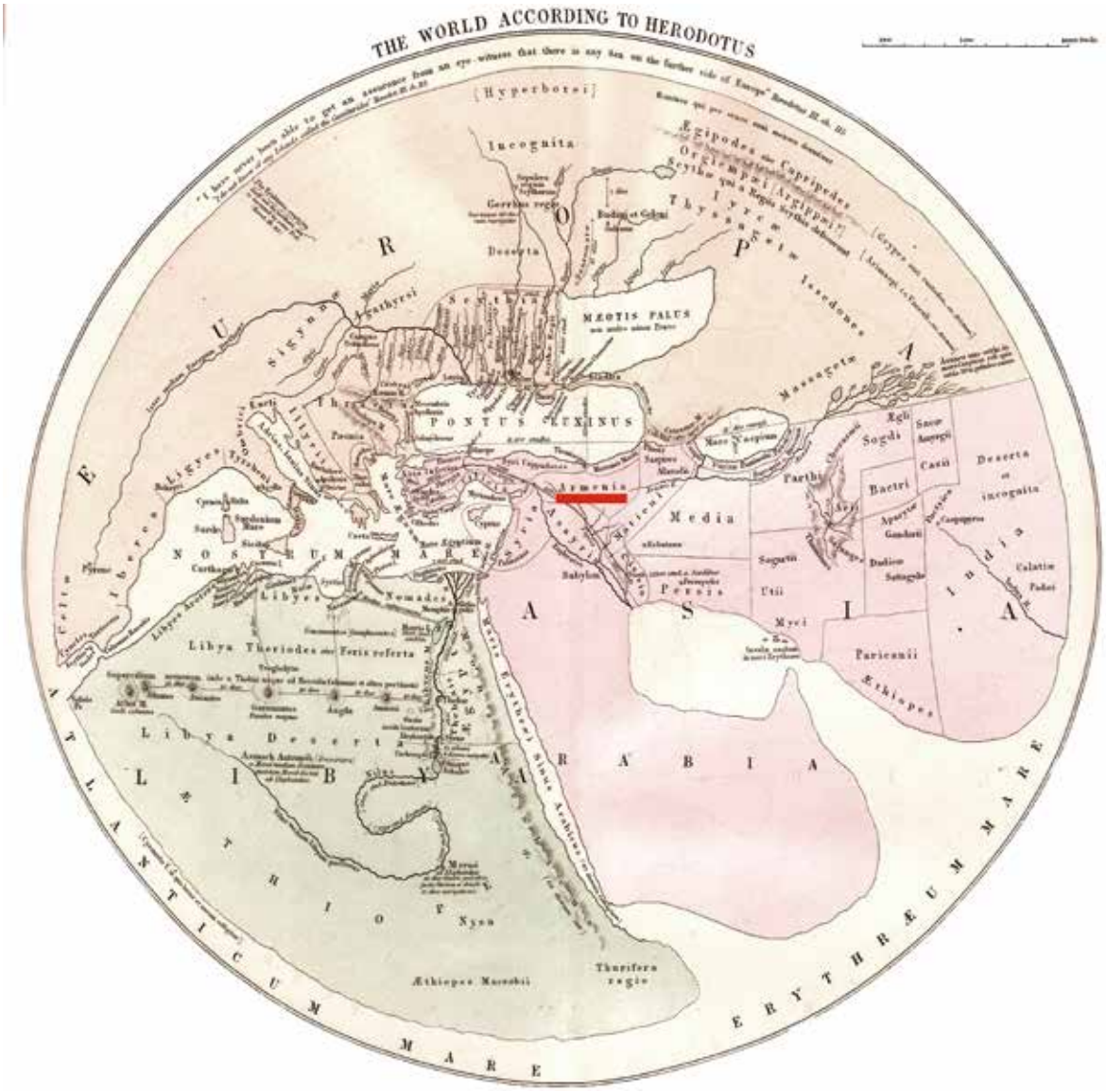
Map 2.3 – This is the oldest and most important world map, which is on a small Babylonian clay tablet.

Map 2.4 – Transcription of the Babylonian clay tablet kept in the British Museum, London, as translated by a German specialist.

The tablet measures 8x12.5 cm, and is kept in the British Museum, London, and is nearly contemporary with the inscription of Darius the Great on the previous page.

Here the world itself is shown as a circular disk, above which, in the north, it are mountains, the Armenian Plateau or Highlands, from where it the Euphrates River originates, flowing south. In the middle is Babylon, the center of the world, to its east is Assyria, and to the north we see Urartu–Armenia, as well as several unnamed cities.

According to the German cuneiform transcriber, the three countries shown in the center of the world are Assyria, Babylon and Armenia. This tablet is the oldest mention of Armenia's existence.



Map 2.5 – Herodotus' "World Map"

The written documents that have reached us from the ancient Greco–Roman period, indicate no boundaries between countries. At the time regions and territories were named after the peoples who live there. This practice continued until the appearance of the printed maps in the fifteenth century.

In his "History", Herodotus writes about Armenia in eight different places. Based on his narratives, many European cartographers and specialists compiled maps to represent Herodotus's world, which are very similar in their layout.

In this map, made in 1884 by Karl Müller, Armenia, underlined red, is placed in the center of the world, surrounded by the Black and Caspian seas, Media, Assyria and Cappadocia.

Map 2.6 – Armenia of Tigran the Great according to Smith's Atlas, London, 1875.

During the first century before our era, Armenia had a powerful king, Tigran the Second or Tigran the Great (140–55 BCE), who created a huge Armenian Kingdom, extending from the Caspian Sea to the eastern shores of the Mediterranean, Syria and Palestine. On Map 2.6 Tigran's kingdom is marked in yellow. Armenia at the time of Tigran the Great ruled over Media, Caducea, Cappadocia, Syria, Commagene, Adiabene, Miletene, Cilicia, and other countries, none of which exist today. The map does not show any region named Azerbaijan.

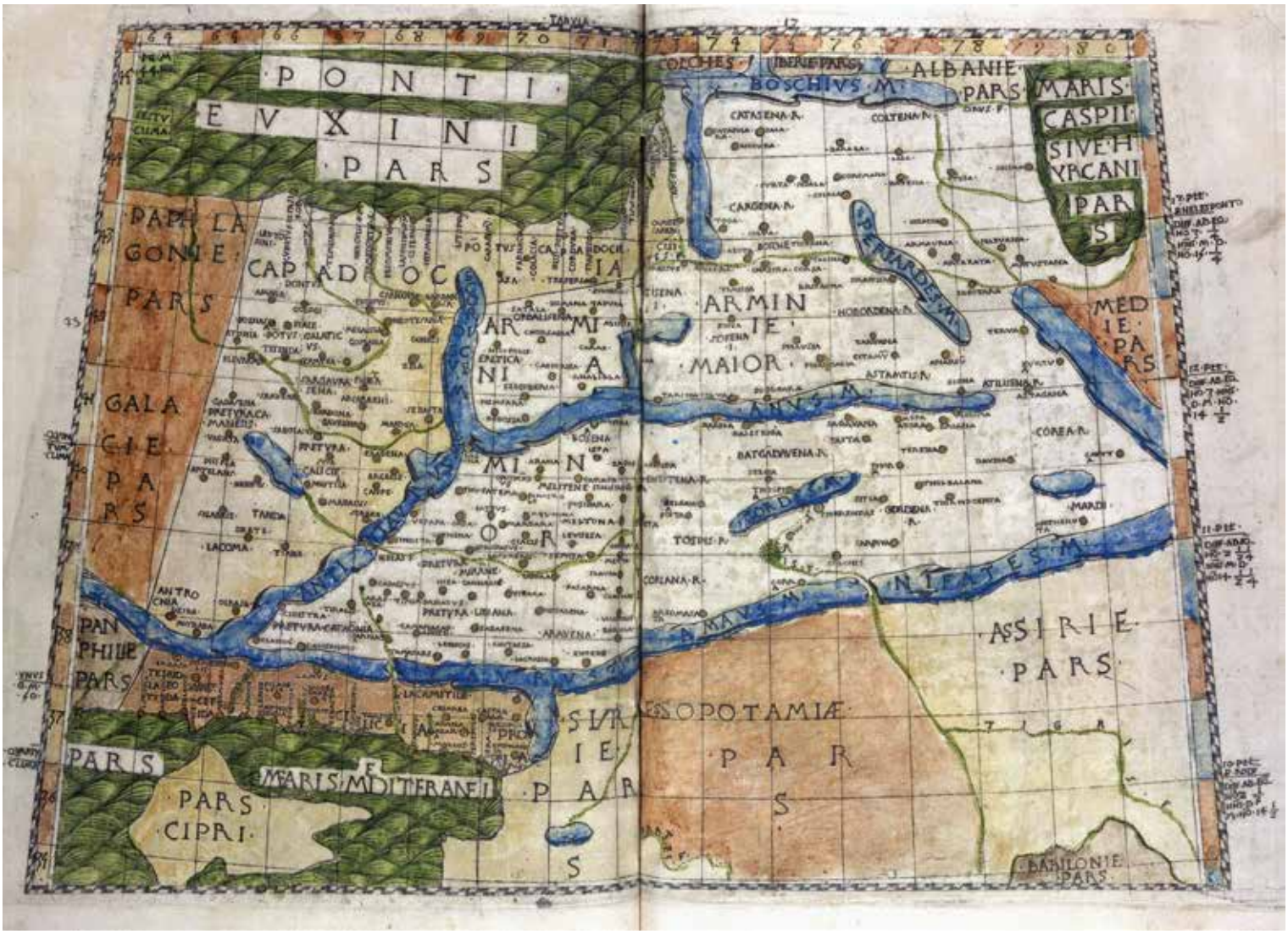
Tigran's powerful Empire could not be tolerated by the Roman Empire, and the Romans gathering their allies attacked Armenia, driving Tigran back to his own lands, the Greater Armenia, which extended from the Euphrates to the Kura rivers.

Map 2.7– Excerpt from Ptolemy's map, redrawn in 1513, in Strasbourg.

Claudius Ptolemy of Alexandria (c. 98–168) was the most famous Greek geographer. He is recognized as the founder of cartography. In his important work, "Geographia", he proposed methods of measuring distances and angles, as well as drawing of terrain and preparing of maps. His principles and methods were in use until the sixteenth century. In the book, there is a list containing about 8000 toponyms in the world, where every country is listed with its name and its regional map. Out of these toponyms 164 belong to Greater and Lesser Armenia.

The book contained 27 regional maps dedicated to countries in Asia, Africa and Europe, as well as a World Map. The above image is a fragment of his World Map, showing the region south of the Caspian and Black Seas. On the right is Armenia Maior (Greater Armenia) and to the left – Armenia Minor (Lesser Armenia), both underlined red.

Media, currently Iran's Provinces of Azerbaijan, is underlined green, and Caucasian Albania, where the present–day Azerbaijan is located, has been underlined blue.



Map 2.8 – The map of Greater and Lesser Armenians taken from Ptolemy's "Geography", drawn in Rome, 1482.

This is one of Ptolemy's regional map, that of Greater and Lesser Armenia, where they both are coloured white. Armenia Maior and Armenia Minor are surrounded in the east by the Caspian Sea and Media, in the north by Cappadocia, Colchis–Abkhazia, Iberia (Virq in Armenian) and Albania (Aghvank, in Armenian.) To the west of Armenia are Paphlagonia and Galatea, and in the south – Cilicia, Assyria, and Syria.

The name of Azerbaijan is completely absent.

Map 2.9 – World Map of Beatus from his "Apocalypsin", 8th century Spain.

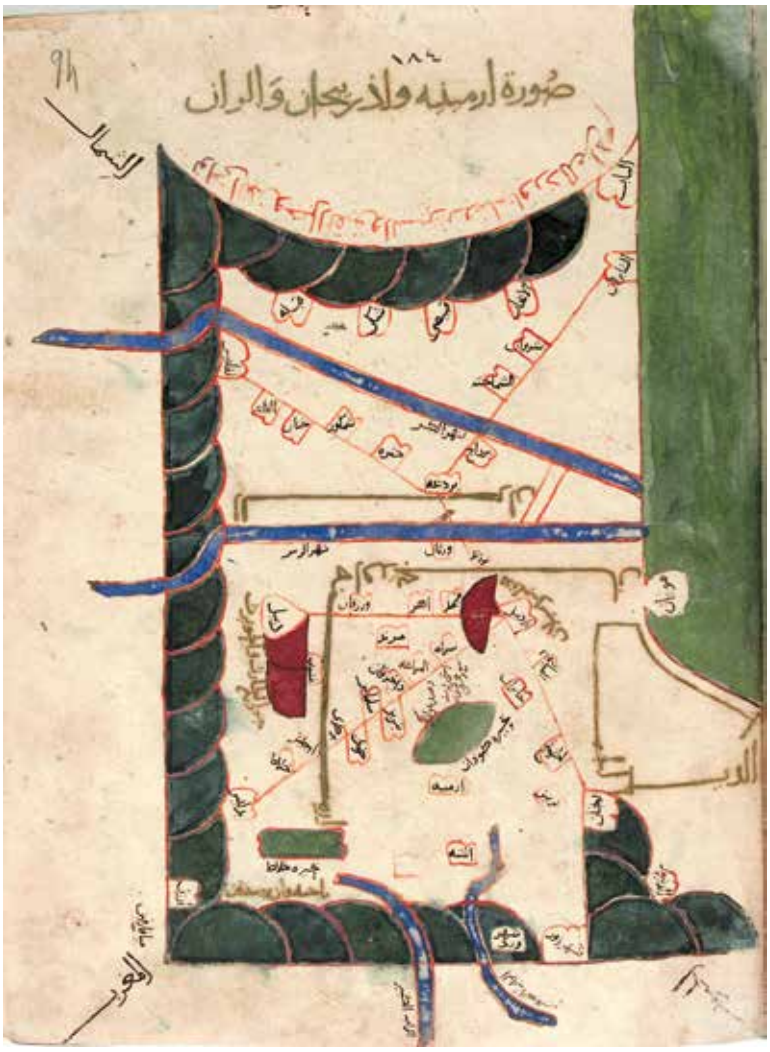
This Christian T–O type map places Heaven on Earth the East, located at the top, where we see Adam, Eve, and the serpent. The name "Armenia", underlined light green, is placed left of Paradise, near the Caucasus Mountains, with half of the writing obliterated.

Among the countries and cities mentioned in the region are Cappadocia, Pamphylia, Phrygia, Chalcedon and others. The world is divided into three parts by blue water expanses. The broad blue vertical line is the Mediterranean, with its islands, separating Europe from Africa. The horizontal blue on the left is the River Don, representing the border between Asia and Europe, and the blue one on the right is the Nile, running between Asia and Africa.

The small part on the right, separated by a vertical red line, is marked as the southern, uninhabited area of the world.

Such maps are called T–O maps because thereon the world is represented by the letter O, and the letter T, inserted inside the O, divides the world into three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa.

In Latin the Globe of the Earth is called Orbis Terrarum, therefore the maps are named T–O maps, since these letters represent the first letters of the two Latin words, Orbis and Terrarum.

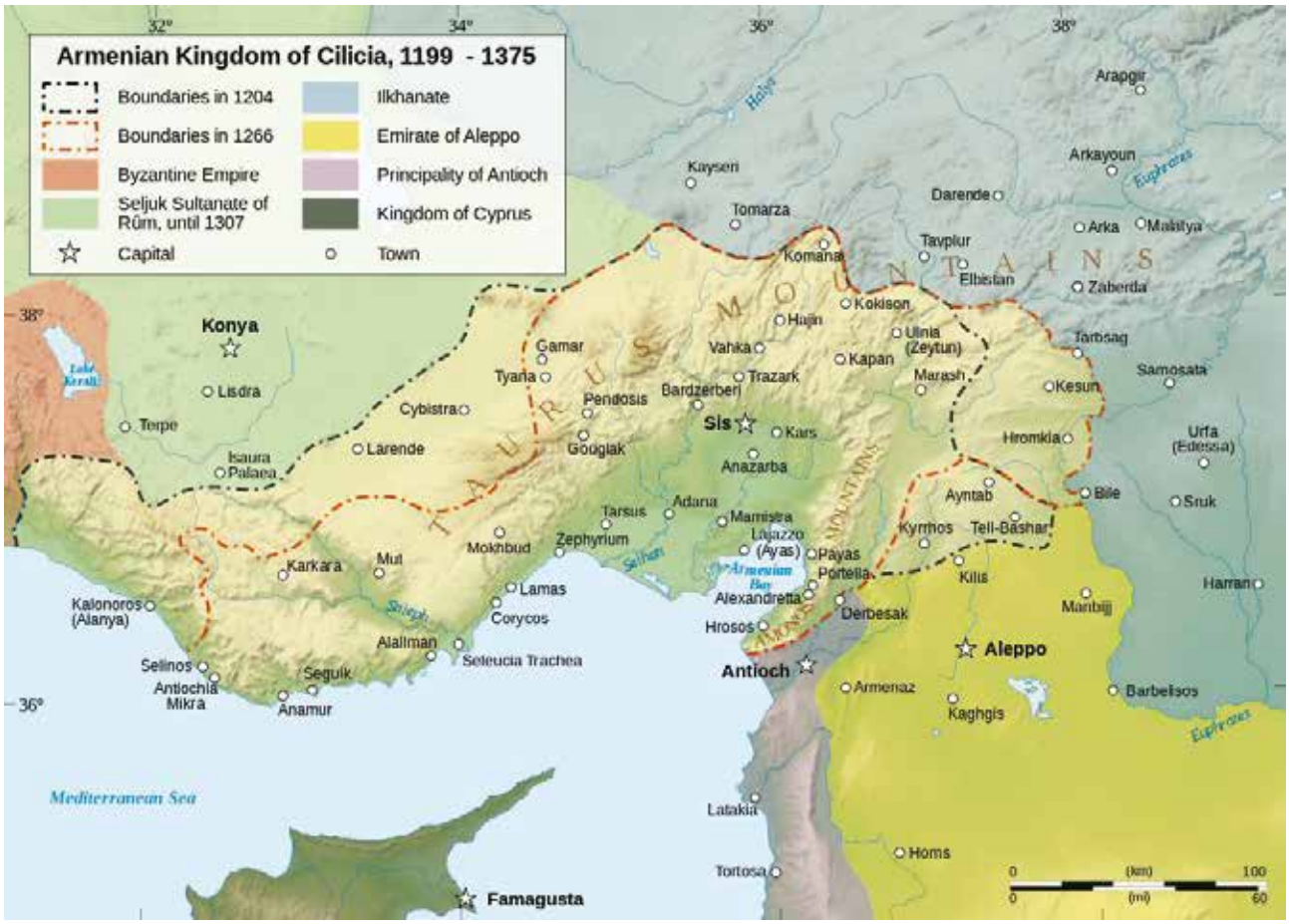


Map 2.10 – This tenth century Islamic map shows the region of the South Caucasus.

This Islamic map, as all the Balkhi school detailed maps, show only the Muslim countries. Armenia being the only Christian country south of the Caucasus is mentioned in these maps, because, according to them, "the Armenians have close commercial and political presence in Iran, including in Albania and Iranian Azerbaijan.

The green semicircles on the map indicate mountain ranges, and blue lines indicate rivers. The Caspian Sea is painted green. The two red mountains on the left are the twin peaks of Mount Ararat and the other is the Iranian Sabalan Mountain. The small squares mark cities, which are joined together by a road. The upper of the blue rivers is the Kura and the lower one is the Arax. Aran–Arran–Albania is placed between the Kura and Arax rivers and Armaniye–Armenia straddles the Arax River. The Iranian province of Azerbaijan is on the southern shores of Arax River.

All Islamic maps show Arran (Caucasian Albania) and Azerbaijan as two distinctly separate regions, one in the north of the Arax River and the other in the south. While the present–day Azerbaijan claims falsely that they are one country. In all of Islamic cartography there is no territory called Azerbaijan located north of Arax River.



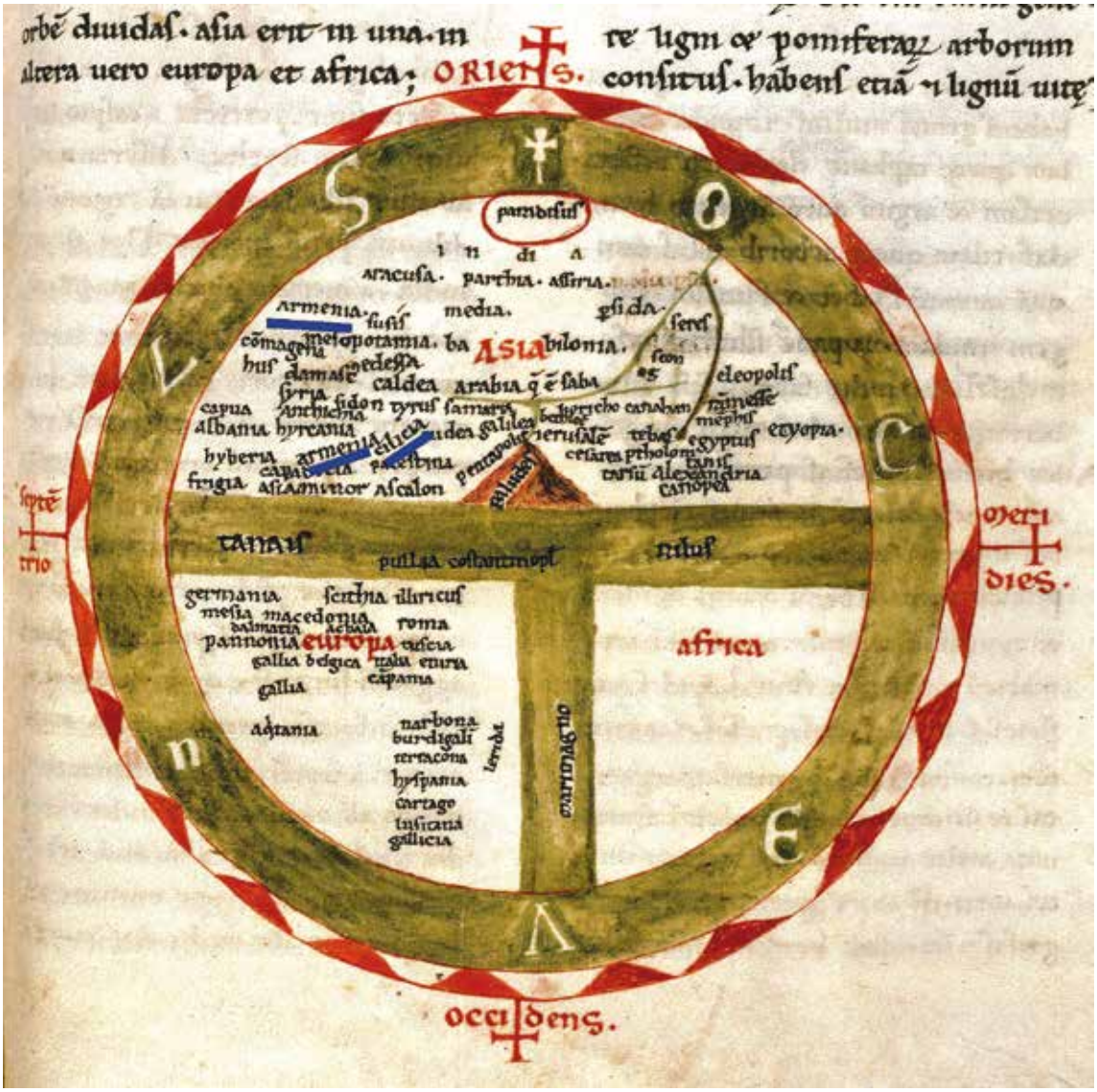
Map 2.11 – Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia.

After the destruction of Ani by the Turkish tribes and the capture of other Armenian settlements, part of the Armenian refugees, passing south, reached the region of Cilicia on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, where in 1080 they established principalities, and were organized as the Cilician Armenian Kingdom in 1198. Armenian Cilicia was ruled by Rubinian, Hetumian and Lussignian families. In a period lasting more than two centuries, the kings of Cilicia and their merchants established close ties with Venice, Genoa, and other European centers, often obtaining trade monopolies from them.

Sis became the residence of the Armenian Catholicos where many churches were built, with their scriptoria, centers of education and art, which flourished and were of special importance for all Armenians. Many miniature painters worked in the Cilician kingdom, amongst whom were the master of miniature painting Toros Roslin, Sargis and Grigor Pitsaks, and others, who produced many masterpieces of medieval Armenian art.

The flourishing period of the Cilician kingdom coincided with the crusades. In the mainly Islamic region Armenian cities were friendly haven for the Christian armies marching to Jerusalem. It should also be noted that not all Crusaders were worthy of their Christian calling, since many of them were in a hurry to get to Jerusalem in time to have their share from the rich spoils of the city.

The Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia ceased to exist in 1375, after the occupation of the region by the Mamluks.



Map 2.12 – 12th century French "World Map".

This T–O type map was made in France and is similar to other T–O maps. Here, the circular world is divided to three parts by the bodies of water, the rivers Nile and the Don, and the Mediterranean Sea. These parts are: Asia on top, Europe on the left and Africa on the right, with Jerusalem in the centre of the map. East is on the top, where the Earthly Paradise is indicated and inscribed "Paradisus".

The French had close ties with the Armenian kings of Cilicia, therefore, in the upper part of this map, which covers Asia, there are two Armenias; Greater Armenia, as well as the Cilician Kingdom of Armenia, both underlined blue.

The one is on the left – at the north of Mesopotamia – is Greater Armenia, and the other, in the northeastern corner of the Mediterranean, is the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia.

Among the countries of Asia, the name of Azerbaijan is absent.

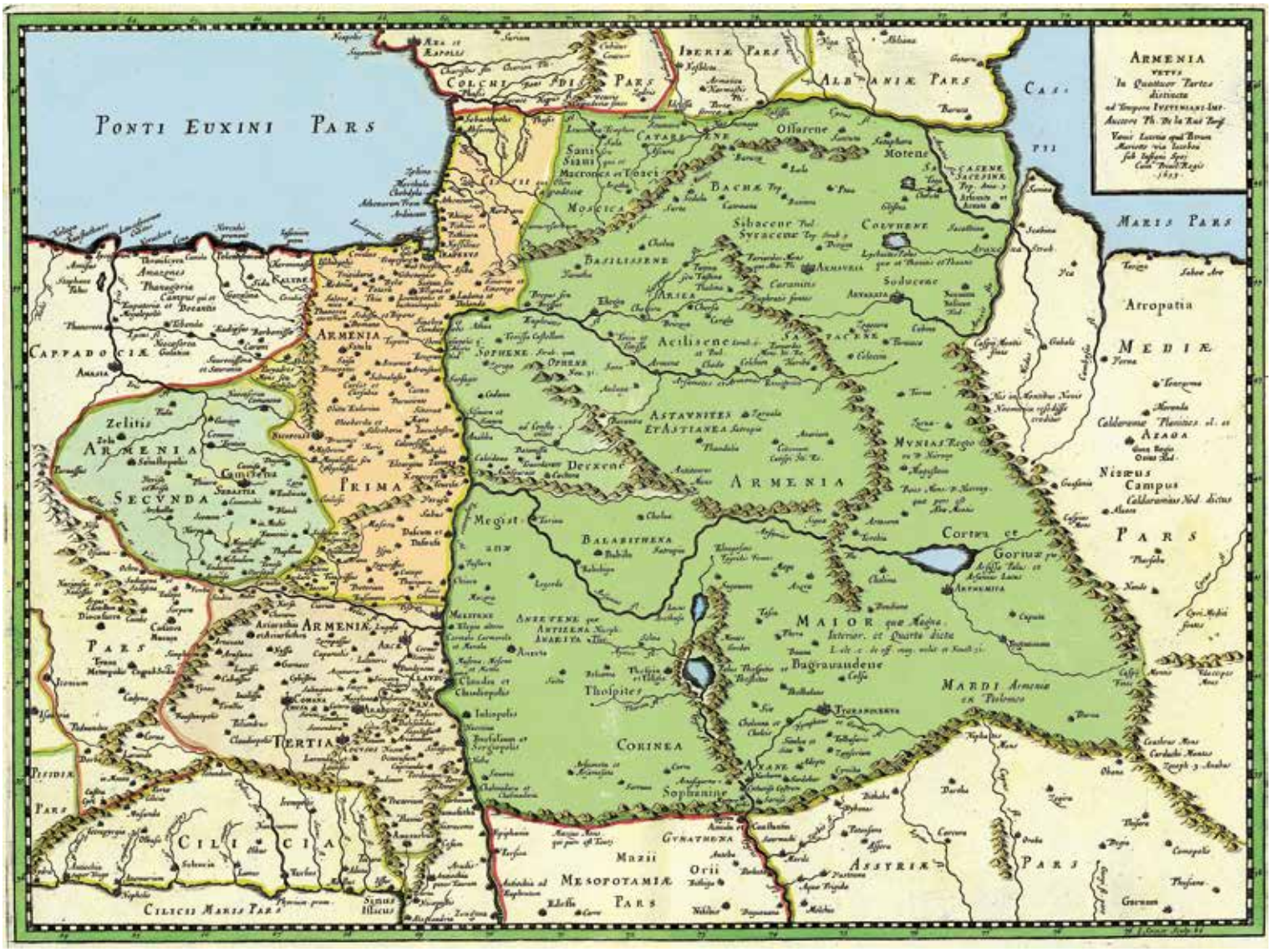
Map 2.13a – Ortelius' 1595 "World Map".

One of the important medieval cartographers was the Dutchman Abraham Ortelius (1528–1598).

Due to the small size, in his 1595 World Map, he shows only the important countries. These include Greece, Italy, Germany, Russia, France, all mentioned in Europe. But in the region of Anatolia and south of the Caucasus, he mentions only the countries of Armenia, Syria and Persia (see Map 2.13b.)

Map 2.13b – . This detail from Ortelius' map shows the South Caucasus with only one country, Armenia. Near it only a few important cities are mentioned, which include the names of Derbend to the north, Tauris to the east, Mosul, Aleppo, Shiraz and Shosh, as well as Jerusalem and Baghdad to the south, also Trebizond and Troy to the west. There is no country named Azerbaijan on this World Map.

2.13b➔



Map 2.14 – Philip Dela Rue's map of Armenia during the rule of Emperor Justinian, drawn in 1653.

Emperor Justinian I of Byzantium ascended the throne in 527 with the fantastic prospect of rebuilding the Roman empire. With his two generals, Belisarius and Nerses the Armenian, he conquered parts of Italy, Africa and Spain, as well as Lesser Armenia, which was the area west of Greater Armenia and the Euphrates River.

In order to facilitate his control, Justinian divided Lesser Armenia into three administrative regions of "First Armenia" (orange), "Second Armenia" (light blue) and "Third Armenia" (pink).

The territory of "Greater Armenia" was still under the Persian suzerainty (green), whose northern border was the River Kura, and to its south was Iranian Province of Azerbaijan, on the southern shores of the River Arax.

Here Atropatakan (Iranian Azerbaijan) province is called Atropatia and Media.

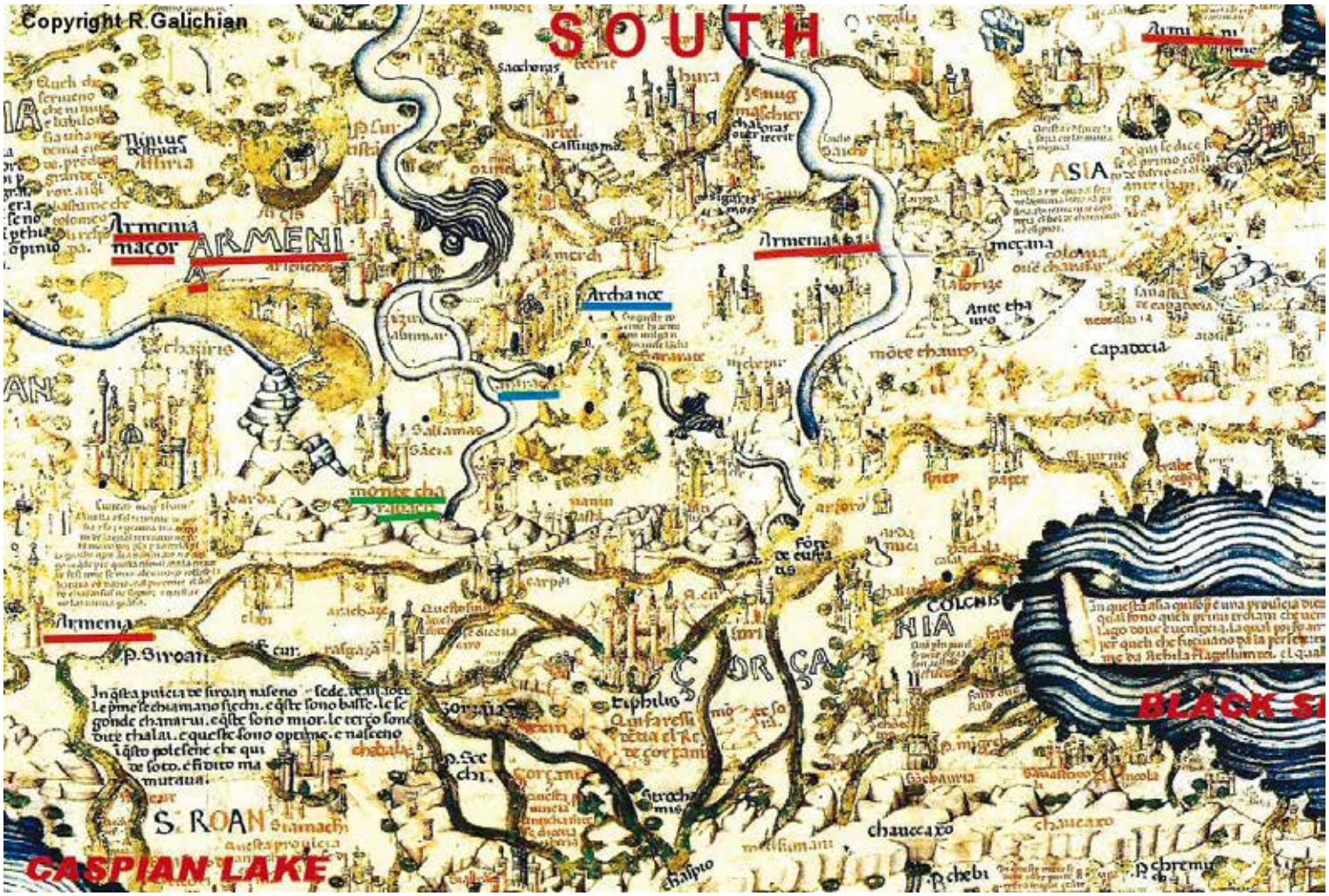
Map 2.15 – Detail from Homan's map of the Ottoman Empire.

This section of the map of the Ottoman Empire was taken from Johann Baptist Homan's 1748 "New Atlas". The western part of Lesser Armenia is shown here inside the Ottoman Empire. The eastern part of Armenia, including Karabakh and Yerevan, both north of Arax River and underlined red, are in Iranian occupied region.

The name Armenia is underlined in blue, and extends from the south to the confluence of Arax and Kura Rivers.

The names of the lands west of the Caspian Sea are Dagestan, Lezgi and Shamakhi, parts of which are today included in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On this general area the name "Shirvan" is indicated, underlined yellow. The name "Azerbaijan" is shown south of Arax River, as the northwestern province of Iran, which the Armenians call Atrpatakan, and here is named as "Adherbeizan".

Karabakh is on the eastern edge of Armenia, extending from Lake Sevan to the confluence of the Arax and Kura rivers. As mentioned above, the region north of Kura is named "Shirvan", a region, which the present–day Republic of Azerbaijan occupies.



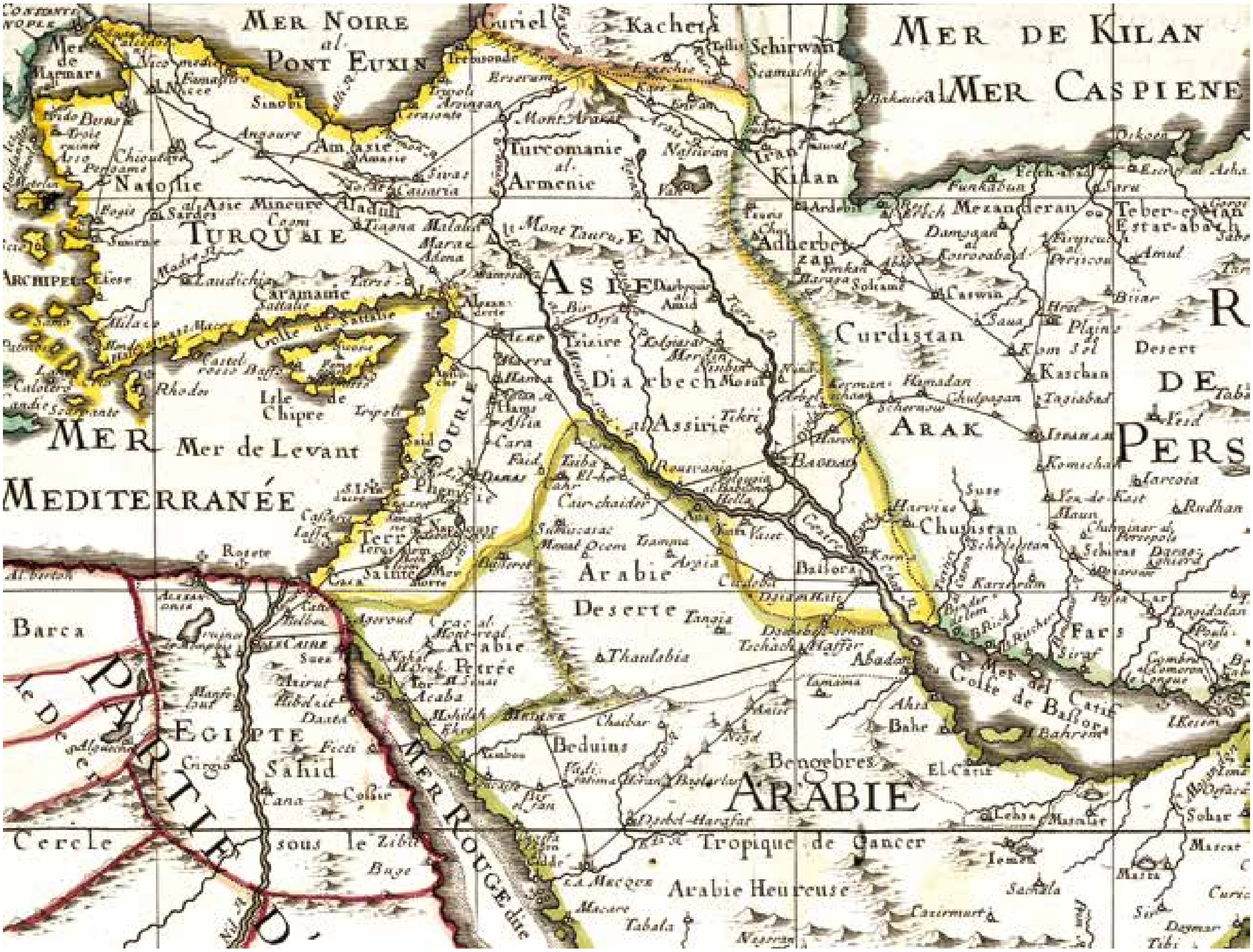
Map 2.16 – Detail from Fra Mauro's "World Map".

This is the central part of the map of Venetian monk Fra Mauro, made in 1460 Venice. South is at the top of the map.

Here you can see the Caucasus and its western and southern regions. In the western vicinity of the Caspian and east of the Black seas, as well as in the corner of the Mediterranean (top right), the name "Armenia" is shown five times. First as the "Greater Armenia", then (in 3 places) as just "Armenia", and finally at the top of the map near the Mediterranean's corner the Armenian kingdom of Cilicia is indicated, named "Armenia". All the toponyms of Armenia are underlined red.

In the central region of Armenia, "Ararat" and "Noah's Ark" are underlined blue, and the name of "Karabakh Mountains" is underlined green. Here, for the first time on any European map we see the name of Karabakh.

Mentioning the name of Armenia several times shows that amongst the educated and commercial society of Europe Armenia was a recognized and important country. From our neighbouring countries only the names of "Georgia" and "Abkhazia" are shown once, placed near the Black Sea, while near the Caspian Sea there is only one name, "Shirvan". The name Azerbaijan is totally missing from Fra Mauro's World Map.



Map 2.17 – Detail from du Val's map of Turkey, Iran and Arabia, 1676.

This map is by the French cartographer Philippe du Val. As mentioned in the previous page, back in 1653 Greater Armenia was occupied by Iran. Here, however, the border has changed, and Greater Armenia is almost entirely taken over by the Ottoman Empire, shown by the yellow border line, where the region to the west is named by the title "Turcomanie, al. Armenie" (Turkish Armenia or Armenia). The Ottoman Empire borders reach east of Lake Van, Nakhichevan, Mount Ararat and Yerevan. To the right of the border, lies the territory of Iran, which has occupied Karabakh and Shirvan. Thus, the Ottomans have pushed back the Iranian border to the east, by occupying the territories of historic Armenia.

This was the period of Iran–Ottoman wars, when the borders of the two great empires were constantly changing, and Armenian villages and cities found in these regions were regularly becoming the battlefield between these two empires. The results were thousands of innocent Armenian casualties, while the survivors suffered economic hardship and loss.

From the early nineteenth century, the two conflicting countries were joined by a third party, the Russian Empire, who had revived their southward expansion plan.

Map 2.18 – Katib Chelebi's map of Iran, 1732.

This is the map of "Iran" by the Ottoman geographer Katib Chelebi, dating from 1732. Comparing it with the previous map, it could clearly be seen that the Ottoman and Iranian borders have been shifted. The Iranian border has been pushed westward, thus taking over in the west the regions of Erzurum and Diyarbakir as well as most of Greater Armenia; in the north, occupying southern Georgia, plus Caucasian Albania and Shirvan and the rest of the southern Caucasus.

The cartouche of this map shows the borders of Iran during the contemporary Safavid rule. Here, one could once again see the fate of the indigenous Armenians, who were regularly trampled on by the two conflicting empires.

It was for this reason that in 1604–1605 the Persian Shah Abbas deported more than 300,000 Armenians from Karabakh, Syuniq and Nakhijevan to Iranian regions. This was to achieve two main purposes. The first was creating a "scorched earth" region, by depopulating and making it barren, as a result to be useless and undesirable for the Ottomans to conquer. The second reason was to bring to Iran the know–how and connections of the Armenian merchants, craftsmen and artisans, in order to boost and improve his economic relations with Europe.

Relocating the Armenian merchants to his capital, Isfahan, the Shah gave them trading monopolies, which were used to benefit the Iranian economy.

Map 2.19 – This is detail from the Guillaume Delill's map of 1730.

The map is entitled "Countries of the Caspian Sea Region". It shows the Caspian Sea region, with Armenia, Mingrelia, Kartveli, Georgia, as well as Dagestan, Derbend, Shamakhi regions – the last three under their common name of "Shirvan". It can clearly be seen that north of the Arax River, there is no country called Azerbaijan.

Instead the region is ruled by Muslim Khans, whose domains are highlighted green. Since 1918, this territory, which bears the common name of Shirvan, has been renamed the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On the map the Iranian territory south of the Arax River is named Aderbijan, highlighted maroon, which is one of the provinces of Iran.

The names of Yerevan and Armenia are highlighted yellow. This country extending from the River Arax to the south, as well as towards the north and west reaching Bayazed, Sharur, Ararat, Maku, Etchmiadzin (Uchkilisa), Artashat, Dvin, Nakhichevan, Kapan, Lake Sevan, etc.

Map 2.20 - Tsarist Transcaucasia in 1829.

Map 2.21 - Tsarist Transcaucasia in 1881.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Tsarist Russia began to seriously implement its plans of expansion towards the south, thus ending almost three hundred years of the dominance of Iran in the south Caucasus.

During its final decades, the Qajar dynasty of Iran lost its two important wars with Russia, gradually surrendering what it had previously conquered in the South Caucasus. In 1813 under the treaty of Gulistan Derbend, Shaki, Shamakhi, Gandzak, Talish and Karabakh, as well as Syunik, Lori and parts of Georgia were surrendered to Russia.

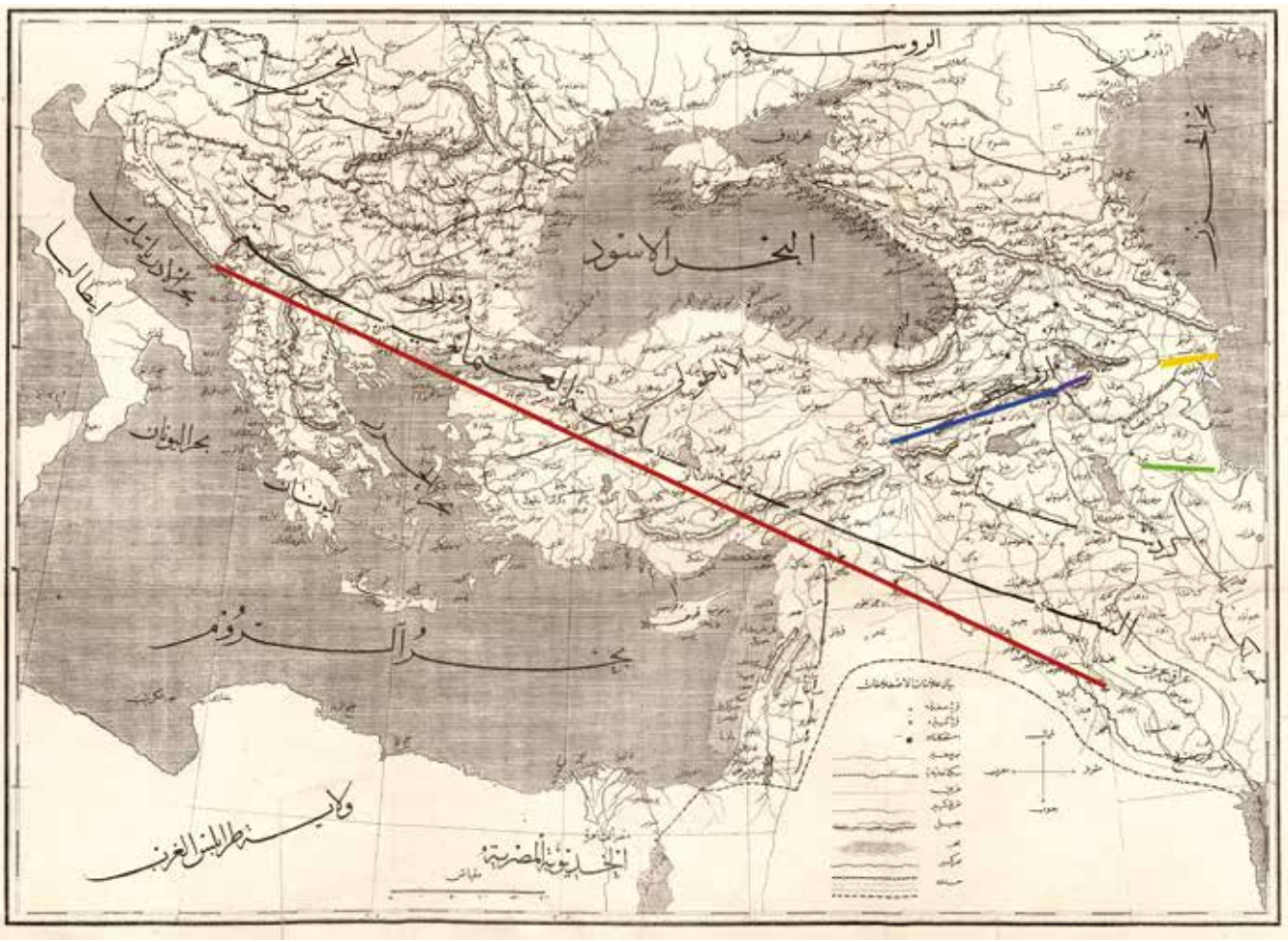
In 1828 Iran also lost to Russia the Khanates of Yerevan and Nakhichevan, as per the treaty of Turkmenchay. The Ottoman border now passed through the river Arax and the peaks of Mount Ararat. In 1878, the Ottomans too lost the regions of Kars, Surmalu and Ararat to Russia.

After the acquisition of the latest territories, for several years the region of Yerevan was named the "Armenian Province". Russia later changed the name to "Erivan Province", which included the regions of Nakhichevan and Kars.

The provincial naming of the region south of the Caucasus and its border was simply applied to suit the Russian administrative system. They were done purely for administrative use, with no consideration given to the demographics of the regions. A the time the Province of Baku included only the Absheron peninsula and the region from Kuba southward, reaching the Iranian border, thus covering an area equal to one fifth of the present–day Azerbaijan, and excluded the cities and regions of Shushi, Elizavetpol (Gandzak) and Nukhi.

The two maps above indicate two of the alternate samples from the dozen of Russian alternative internal administrative divisions, used from 1829 until 1918.

Notwithstanding all these changes, in 1921 the Soviet leaders, with the treaties of Moscow and Kars returned to Turkey the region of Kars, as well as the Ararat mountains and the region of Surmalu. This was done by an agreement – which has not yet been officially ratified by Armenia.



Map 2.22 – 1877 Ottoman military map.

This Ottoman map was compiled by the Empire's Ministry of War, in order to illustrate the situation of the war with Russia. Here the name *Armenia* is mentioned on the territories of Erzurum in the north, Lake Van and Bitlis in the south, Malatia in the west and, the region of Sevan in the east. This name is underlined blue. It covers regions under Ottoman and Russian control, which included the above mentioned regions, while "Azerbaijan" is shown as a province inside Iran, underlined green and located on the southern shore of the Arax River. Georgia and Dagestan are placed north and northwest of Armenia.

The territory of the present–day Republic of Azerbaijan is called *Shirvan* and is underlined yellow. During all this time, on the northern shores of River Arax, there was no country named Azerbaijan.

As in the past, this time, too, the fate of Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire remained in the hands and discretion of the conflicting European powers. As retribution the Ottoman government handed over Cyprus to Britain – to comply with the British Empire's military objectives. Thus the Sultan and Disraeli resolved their problems at the cost of the Armenians.

The head of the Armenian delegation, Khrimyan Hayrik, who had also participated in Berlin conference of 1878, returned disappointed and empty–handed.

Map 2.23 – The zone of Turkic–speaking countries, where Armenia is the obstacle.

During the 19–20th centuries, the Turkic leaders in Russia and the Ottoman Empire founded the Pan–Turkic movement, whose aim was to establish a continuous belt of Turkic speaking countries extending from the Balkans to Siberia. These are shown yellow on the map above.

It must be noted that the five present–day ex–Soviet Central Asian republics as well as Azerbaijan were established during 1918–1936, mostly by the Soviet Union, using the local tribes names as the name for these newly born countries. They also forced the mainly nomadic people to settle down in permanent settlements. Today these countries form the backbone of the Pan–Turkic movement, the continuity of which is only broken by Christian Armenia (coloured red on Map 2.23.)

The ranks of Pan–Turkism later included the Ottoman sultans and especially the leaders of the Young Turks, who organized the two consequent genocides of the Armenians in 1894–1896 and 1915–1923, thus ethnically cleansing the eastern vilayets of the Ottoman Empire from Armenian, Greek and Assyrian Christians. This cleansing fully served the aims of Pan–Turkism and its adherents.

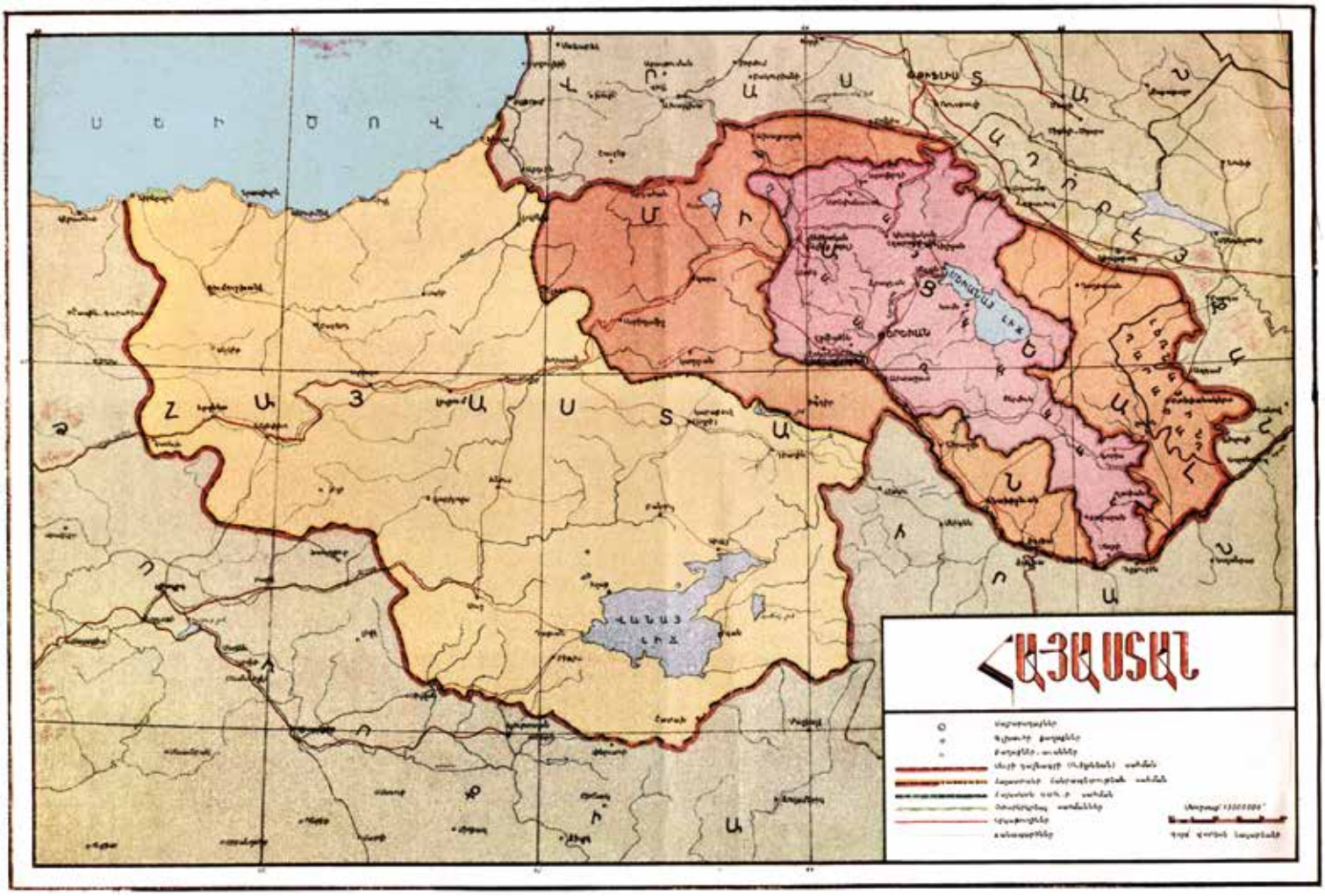
The implementation of this plan was halted by the establishment of Communist Russia and soon, the Soviet Russian Federation and the three Transcaucasian Republics in 1918.

After the independence of Azerbaijan, its authorities were very much encouraged by the establishment of "Grey Wolves" extremist nationalists. The movement was founded in Turkey around 1968. Turkey, together with Azerbaijan began working towards the same goal, aiming to remove the wedge, called Armenia from their path or bypass it completely in order to establish the Pan–Turkic belt of nations.

To this end in November 2021 the head of the "Grey Wolves" organization in Turkey, presented the President of Turkey, Mr Erdogan, a version of the above map, which included a huge chunk of land from Siberia as well, extending the belt to the Arctic Ocean. In this regard, a number of high–ranking officials of the Russian Federation expressed their anger, only because the Pan–Turkic belt included a huge part of Russia's Siberian lands.

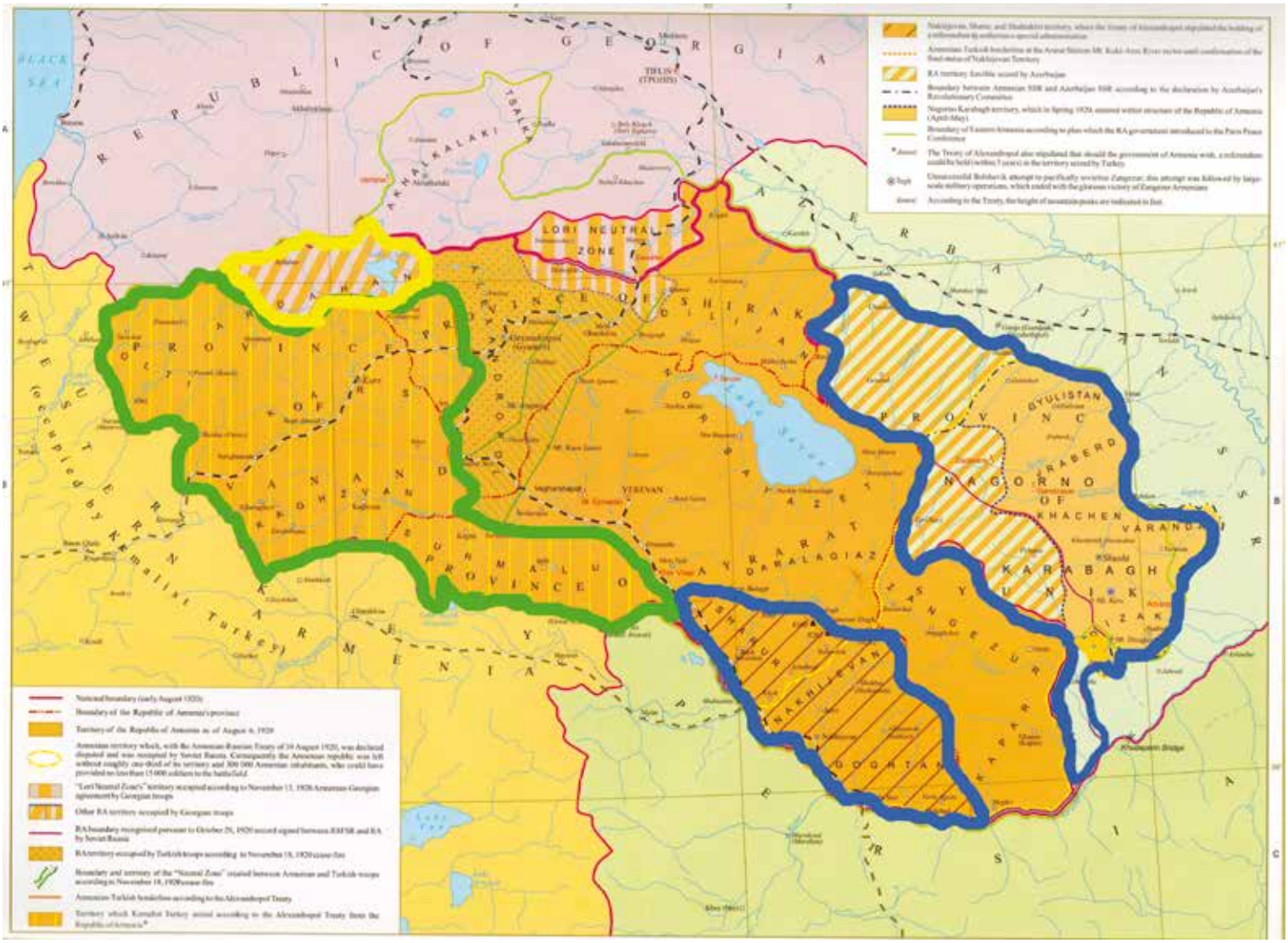
CHAPTER THREE

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE REPUBLICS OF ARMENIA



Map 3.1 – This is a map above, was made for the territory of the newly established Republic of Armenia, which was based on the decisions of the Treaty of Sèvres. If implemented, the territory of Armenia would include all the regions shown by the three colours, yellow, red and pink.

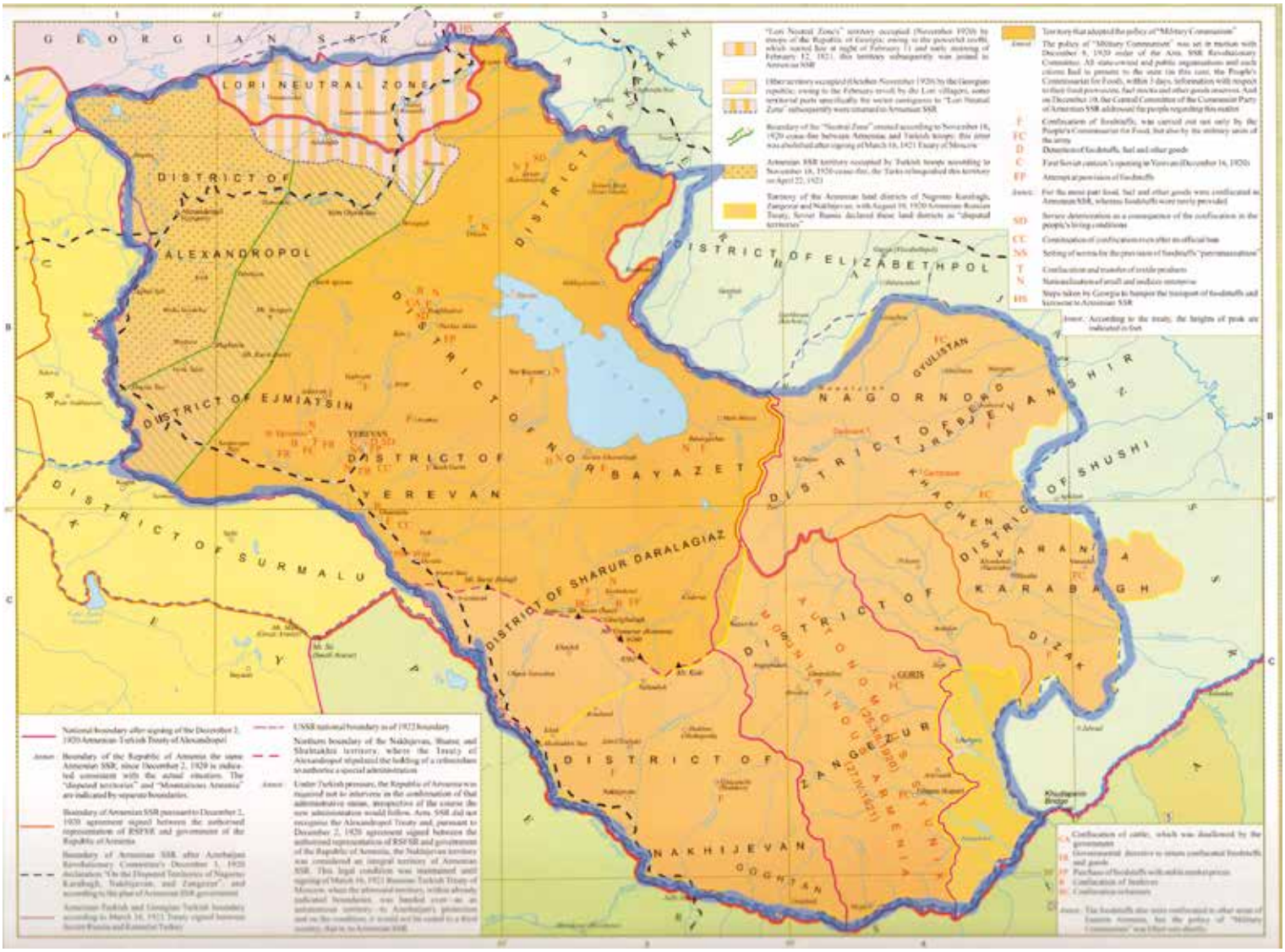
As the negotiations of the Entente states collapsed, since the west tried not to exert pressure on Turkey and Atatürk, thus their decisions were not implemented and the First Republic of Armenia was given the lands marked red and pink. However, within a year after Sovietization, Soviet authorities in Russia gave parts of Armenian lands, coloured red on the map, to Turkey and Azerbaijan. Therefore Armenia was left with only the small area coloured pink.



Map 3.2 – There was an organization called the "Caucasian Commissariat" preceding the First Republic of Armenia and this is the map of that period. Here Armenia extends from Olti to Karabakh. But at the time, the newly established Republic of Azerbaijan already had its territorial ambitions and demands. The areas shown on the map were all handed over to Soviet Armenia as per the December 2, 1920 agreement.

The area surrounded with green line on the map including Ani, Mount Ararat and Borjalu, as well as the province of Kars, were handed over to Turkey by the Moscow and Kars treaties. This was done to appease the leadership of Turkey to maintain friendly relations with the communists of the Soviet Union, which, however, proved to be in vain, because Turkey, gradually distanced itself from the communists and leaned towards the western powers.

Fore more information see descriptions of Map 3.4.



Map 3.3 – On November 29, 1920, Armenia adopted the Soviet order, and the next day the Communist leadership of Azerbaijan made a decision based on the ownership of disputed territories. It said that effective immediately Nagorno–Karabakh and Nakhichevan, inhabited mainly by Armenians, would therefore be an integral part of Armenia.

It should be noted that t at the time Artsakh, Kashatagh (Lachin) and Karvajar (Qalbajar) were all constituent parts of the region named "Nagorno–Karabakh". Together they were all considered the unified territory of Nagorno–Karabakh.

Thus, in December the entire territory of 43,000 sq. km. was given to the Sovietzed Republic of Armenia. As mentioned on the previous page, the Russian Federation and then the Soviet leadership lost little time before beginning to change these borders and territories to the detriment of Armenia.

In order to improve their standing, the Soviets began allocating plots of Armenian lands to her neighbours. Beginning with Nakhichevan and Nagorno–Karabakh Armenian lands were handed over to Azerbaijan, and Azeri enclaves were created inside the territory of Armenia, solving all their problems at the cost of the Armenians.

Map 3.4 - On this map the areas circumscribed green are those that on the 30th of November 1920, the authorities of Azerbaijan announced to be part of Armenia. The regions included Nakhijevan, Mountainous Karabakh and Eastern Syuniq.

In spite of this agreement, on March 1921 Lenin, with the treaty of Moscow first gave Nakhijevan the status of Autonomous region, and then placed it under the control of Azerbaijan.

On July 4, 1921, Stalin in Baku initially ratified the Azerbaijani decision to place Karabakh under the control of Armenia, but after a meeting behind closed-doors with the Caucasian Bureau, on July 5 reversing his announcement, declared that Karabakh also should be transferred to Azerbaijan.

This, Azerbaijan was awarded with the above mentioned regions, which also included the Eastern Syunik, whose eastern border up to that time was the Hagari (Aghavno) River. According to this decision, in addition to Nakhijevan and Nagorno Karabakh, several hundred sq. km. of Armenian lands were also handed from Syuniq to Azerbaijan.

Map 3.5 – "Soviet Armenia" according to the map taken from the Great Soviet Encyclopaedia of 1926.

Here, in the territory of Armenia, the lands later given to Azerbaijan during the following decades are marked green. Also, there exist no enclaves either in Armenia or in Azerbaijan.

The statement "Borders of Armenia on April 1,1926" are printed at the bottom of the map". In the Soviet Union if a map was printed, then it must have had the approval of several ministries. This map also bears the names of the approving authority, which is the Ministry of Internal Security. Therefore, as far as practically possible, the map shows Armenia's true and actual borders during 1926.

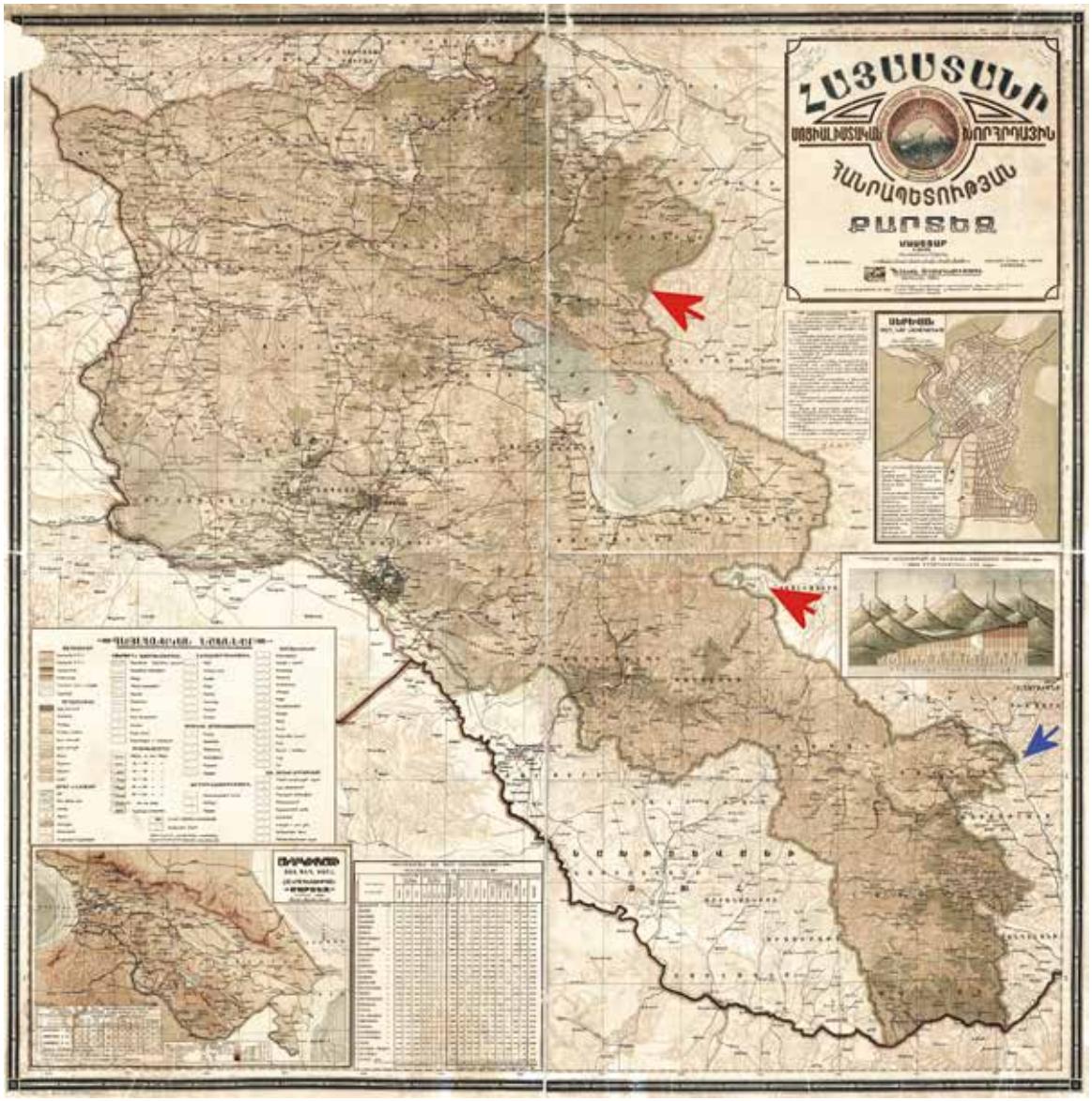
When, on October of 2021 President Putin announced that Russia must participate in the new delimitation and demarcation process to take place between Armenia and Azerbaijan, he reasoned that, only Moscow has the required accurate maps. As far official maps go all interested parties have copies of the Soviet General Staff maps made between 1929 and 1980s, however earlier maps, such as the above–mentioned 1921–1923 detailed topographic maps, are held solely by Moscow and no copy was given to the subject sides. Hence, it could be concluded that maps mentioned by President Putin are the maps of General Staff prepared during the early 1920s, which would be the main source of Map.3.5 above.

It must be mentioned that on the map Armenia and Artsakh have common border, since they were only separated by the Hagari or Aghavno River. This point is marked blue on the map. The border, however, was changed at a later date, with Azerbaijan appropriating further territories from Artsakh, thus cutting it off from Armenia.

Map 3.6 – This map was published in 1927, in Armenia, after the 1926 population census.

The map shows no Azeri enclaves in the territory of Armenia, which would be a territory of Azerbaijan, placed inside the borders of Armenia. Here the village of "Artsvashen" is connected to Armenia by a isthmus belonging to the latter.

In this map, the Al lakes and the eastern parts of Syunik are still in Armenia proper, which were handed over to Azerbaijan during the years of 1927 to 1938.



Map 3.7 – Map of Armenia in 1932.

According to this map, made five years after the previous one, "Artsvashen" is still inside Armenia, and there are no Azerbaijani enclaves in Armenia. However, the red arrows show that the region of Al Lakes, some 200 sq. km. of Armenian land has already been given to Azerbaijan. This action has been "justified" citing the needs of the Kurds, who were to be settled in the region, which did not have sufficient pastures for their flocks. Therefore, to cater for their needs they were given pastures from the sovereign territory of Armenia, often without the knowledge of the local Armenian population.

The blue arrow shows that in Lachin region Azerbaijan has already appropriated lands from Artsakh, distancing them from adjacent Armenia. The intention was to remove the common border between Artsakh and Armenia, thus physically separating the two Armenian populated regions from each other.

For comparison of the borders, see Map 3.5.

Map 3.8 – Map of Armenia in 1938.

On this map two newly established Azerbaijani enclaves are already visible. Both of these are in Tavush Province of Armenia. The third enclave, in Ararat Province named Tigranashen–Kyarki does not exist yet.

However, the "Artsvashen" enclave, which has an interesting history, has already appeared in the territory of Azerbaijan. As seen on Map 3.5, in 1926 Artsvashen and its region were inside the territory of Armenia. Then, in 1927 Azerbaijan appropriated the region surrounding it, leaving the village connected to Armenia by an isthmus, seen on Map 3.6. But on Map 3.8, Azerbaijan has also taken over that isthmus, making Artsvashen an Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan.

Map 3.9 – Map of Armenia in 1940.

Only two years after the previous map, on the Map 3.9 a third Azerbaijani enclave – "Tigranashen", has also appeared. This is shown by the red arrow on the lower section of the map. Armenian enclave of "Artsvashen" is still here, marked with the blue arrow.

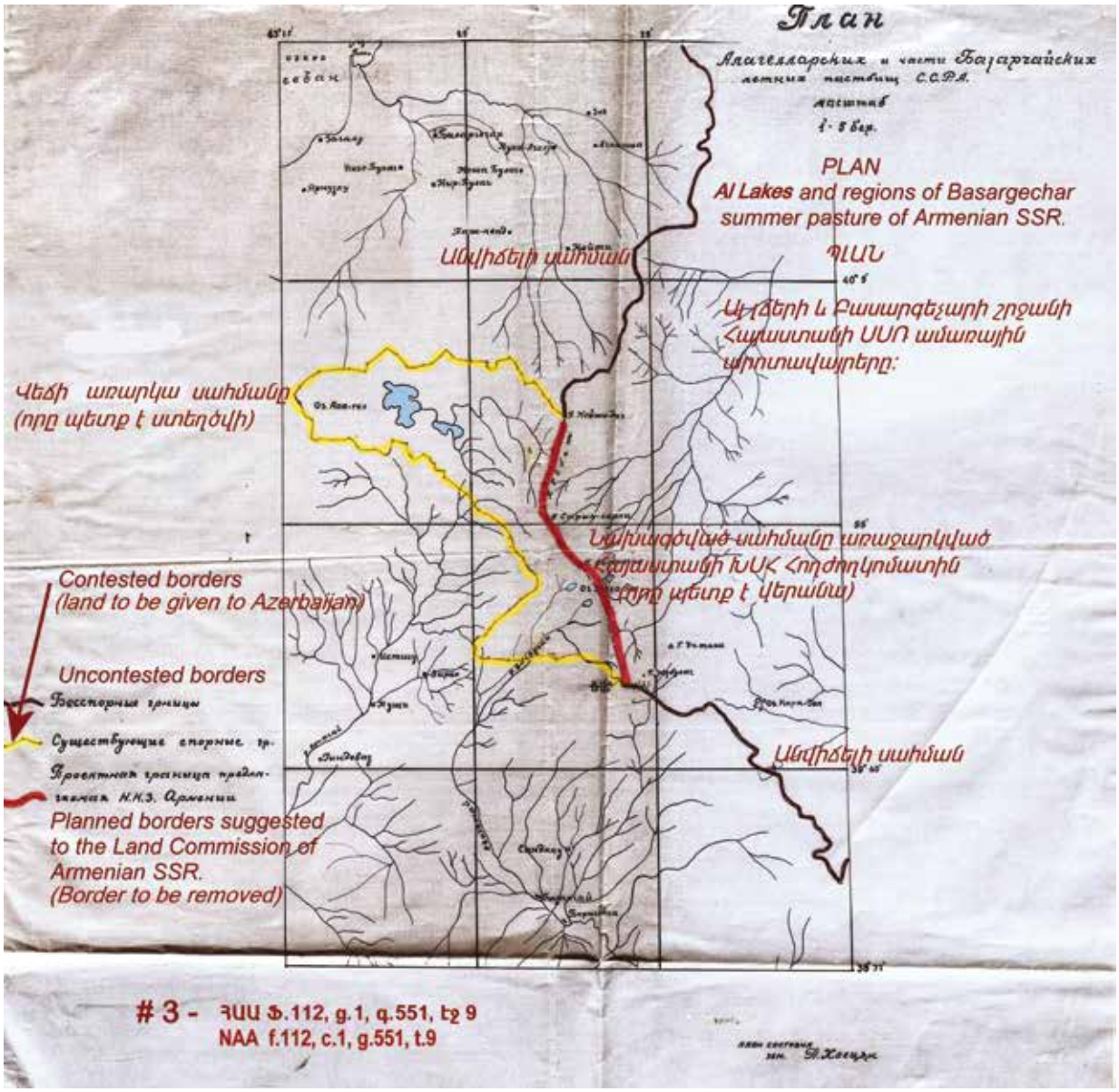
It is important to note that the creation of enclaves appears to have had a political purpose. The reasoning that Azeri–inhabited villages/areas were to be given to Azerbaijan, and the Armenian–inhabited regions/villages to Armenia, could not be valid, as during the Soviet era, there were many other Azeri villages in Armenia, which were not enclaves. There also were many Armenian populated villages inside Azerbaijan, which were not enclaves. Using the same principle, this reason should have been applied to the majority Armenian–populated Artsakh, which should have been an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan. Thus, it is concluded that the establishment of enclaves must have had another reasons.

Further study shows that the "Artsvashen" Armenian enclave is located in a remote corner of Azerbaijan which is of no strategic importance. But the Azerbaijani enclaves in Armenia are mostly installed on Armenian main highways, giving the "de facto" control of Armenian highways to Azerbaijan! These are the legacies of the Soviet rule in Armenia.

Map 3.10 – This map represents Armenia and Artsakh in 1985. Here the areas indicated in blue were taken from Armenia and given to Azerbaijan under various pretexts and reasons during 1925–1940. The main excuse for handing these areas over to Azerbaijan was that between Armenia and Azerbaijan proper, Azerbaijan was planning to create a province called Red Kurdistan, where the Kurds living in different regions of Azerbaijan would be moved to. According to the Azerbaijani census, the total Kurdish population was about 34,000 souls.

The Azerbaijani territory to be allocated to the Kurds, being mountainous, did not have sufficient pastures for the Kurdish flocks of sheep. With this in mind, the Transcaucasian Federation of the time, which included Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia, during various sessions, decided to give the Kurds some of Armenia's pastures and fields, which added up to one thousand five hundred sq. km. These were handed over to Azerbaijan mostly without even the knowledge of the local inhabitants. For a sample of one of these border changes see Map 3.11.

Territories were handed over from Syunik, Gegharkunik and Tavush provinces. Apart from these, three Azerbaijani enclaves were created in the territory of Armenia, as well as the Armenian enclave of Artsvashen, in Azerbaijan. However, when, in 1932, the creation of Red Kurdistan was annulled, and Kurds were not brought to the region, the borrowed lands were not returned to their rightful owners and Azerbaijan appropriated them all.



Map 3.11 – This map shows the Al Lakes region of Armenia, southeast of Sevan, which is an important water resource.

The territory belonged to Armenia until around 1929, after which the local authorities were informed that part of the Azerbaijan–Armenia border marked red has been removed and replaced by the yellow line. Thus, effectively, more than 200 square kilometers of Armenian territory was given to Azerbaijan.

When the villagers of the region found out about this handover, they submitted an official complaint to the authorities, but very quickly the complaint was rejected on grounds that "the delimitation has already been completed, and could not be further discussed".

The map and the letters of protest attached thereto are available in the National Archives of Armenia.

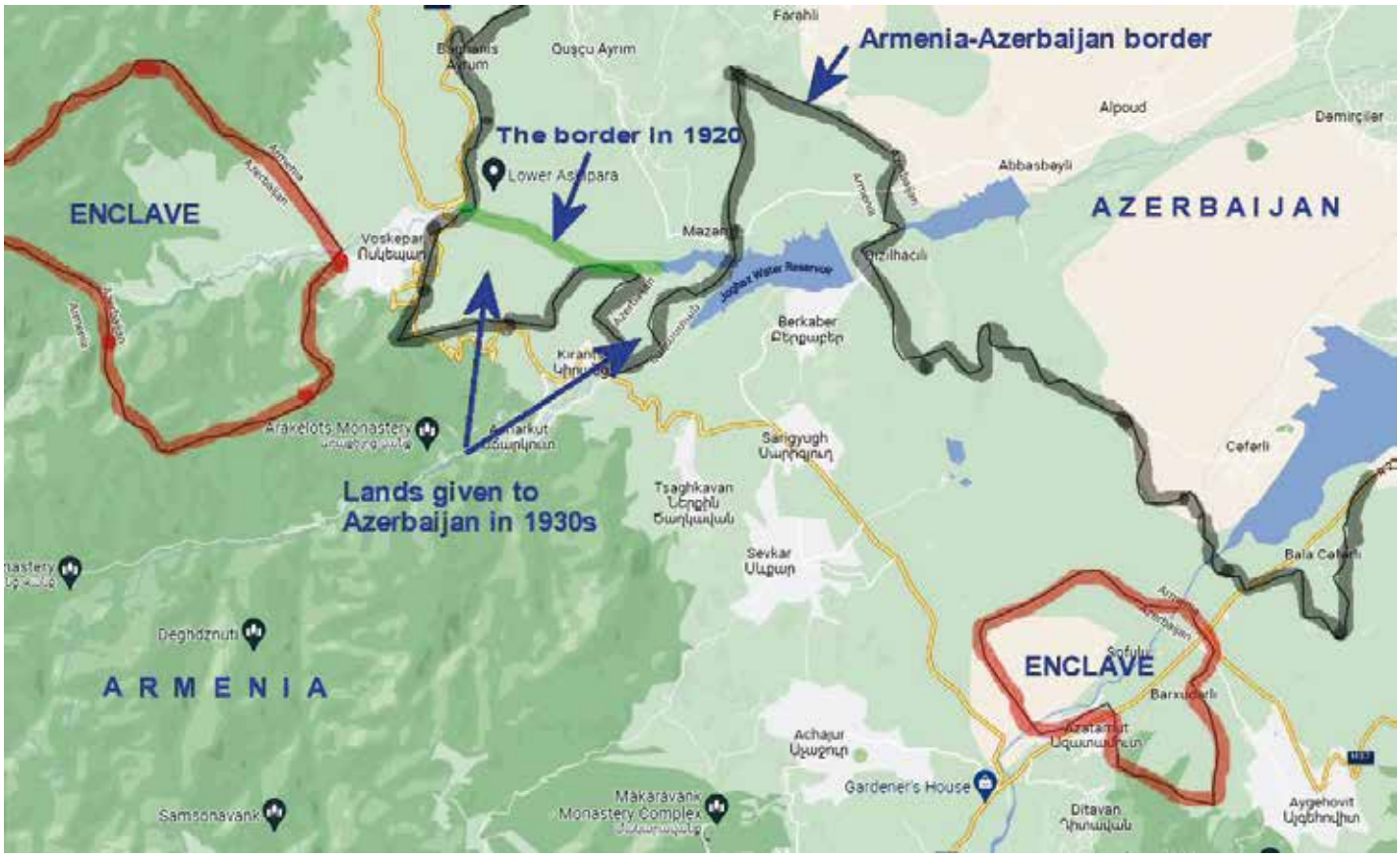
Map 3.12 – The Tigranashen–Kyarki enclave

On maps 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8 of this volume it can be clearly seen that until 1938 there was only a dirt road connecting Tigranashen village to Zangakatun and another one to Sadarak. The above mentioned maps confirm that until 1938 there was no Azerbaijani enclave on this location.

Suddenly, in 1940 this new enclave appears on the map, and is called "Kyarki" or "Tigranashen". It is important to note that the present road – the M2 highway – being the most important highway connecting Yerevan to the south and the east, is intentionally made to pass through the enclave, thus offering its control to Azerbaijan.

Currently – if Azerbaijan takes over this enclave – the highway M2 from Yerevan to Areni, Vayots Dzor, Sisian, Goris, Artsakh, Kapan, Meghri would be blocked for heavy lorries and buses, since the alternative road being is a secondary one, is unsuitable for these vehicles.

The question arises, why would the Soviet authorities hand over the control of Armenian highways to Azerbaijan? The answer lies in the archives of the USSR.



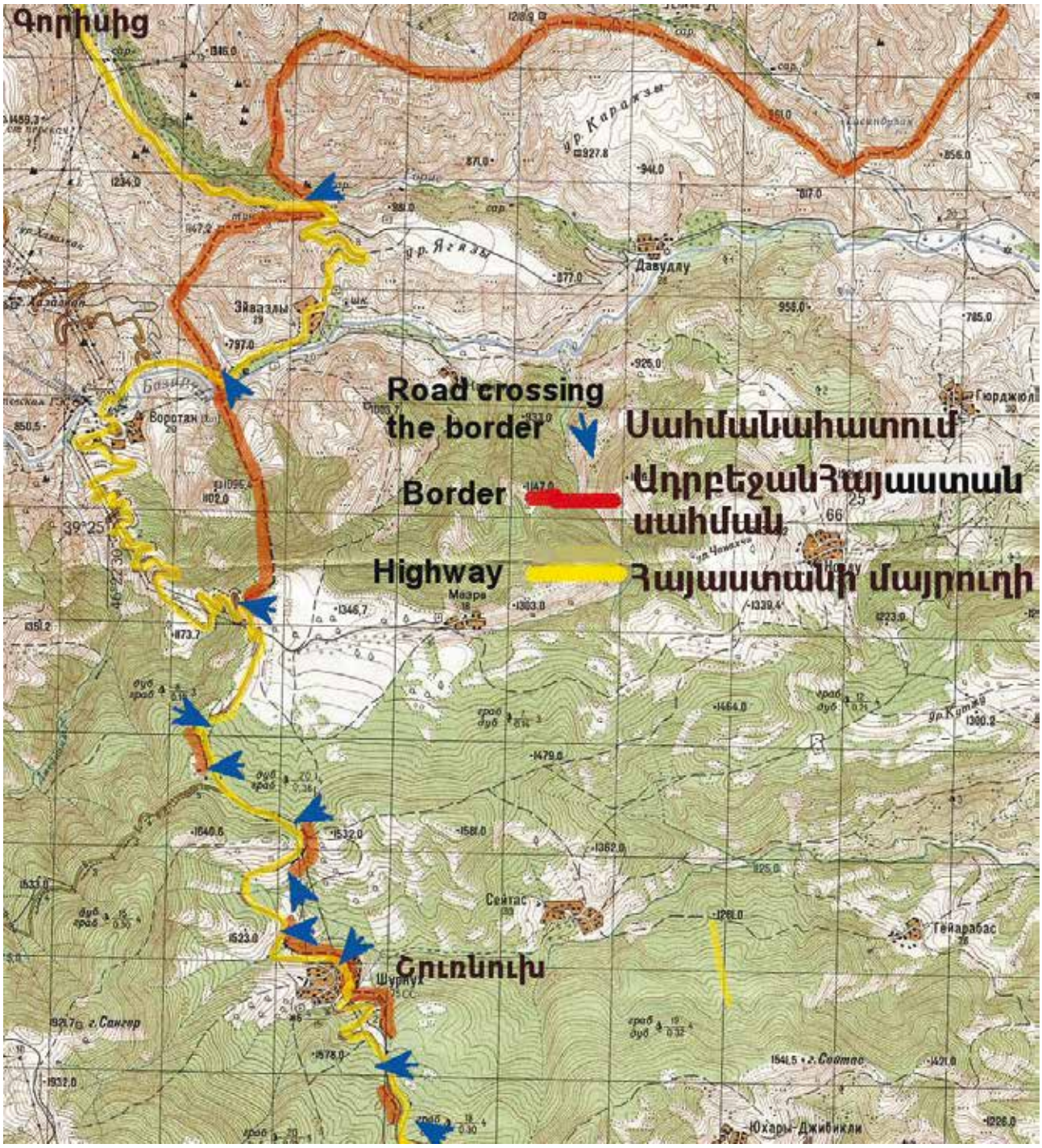
Map 3.13 – Map showing the region of northern Tavush, borders of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the M–16 highway, leading from Ijevan to Noyemberyan.

If we look at the 1926 map of Armenia (Map 3.5), it is visible that the Azerbaijani border passes along the river marked light green on the above map. On the map there are the two Azerbaijani enclaves, which were mentioned on the Map 3.8.

As we can see, the newly created enclave called Barkhudarlu is placed on the Armenian highway M–4, connecting Ijevan to Kazakh. But, the larger enclave of Askipara, west of Voskepar, does not sit on any road at all. Therefore, in order to "correct this deficiency", the two wedge–shaped barren pieces of Armenian land were handed over to Azerbaijan, in order to make the Armenian M–16 highway to pass a few times through these Azerbaijani territories.

Thus, establishing Barkhudarlu and also giving the wedge shaped plots to Azerbaijan, the USSR would be confident that the highways leading to from north of Armenia to Georgia and Azerbaijan are under the direct control of Azerbaijan.

With these changes, the Armenian village of Voskepar remains a hostage between Azerbaijani land and enclave, connected to the rest of Armenia only through a narrow isthmus.



Map 3.14 – Detail from 1970 Soviet military map of the Shurnukh region. These military maps, according to USSR law, are kept secret, but today they are freely available on the web.

On the map the Armenia–Azerbaijan border is marked red, while the Armenian highway is marked yellow. The points, where the road crosses over the border of the two countries are marked with blue arrows.

Since 2021, Azerbaijan has installed border posts on the top two crossover points, but only in August of 2022 Armenia decided to have there its own border posts. For over one year the road crossing was controlled by the Russian forces, whose effectivity has hardly been reliable.

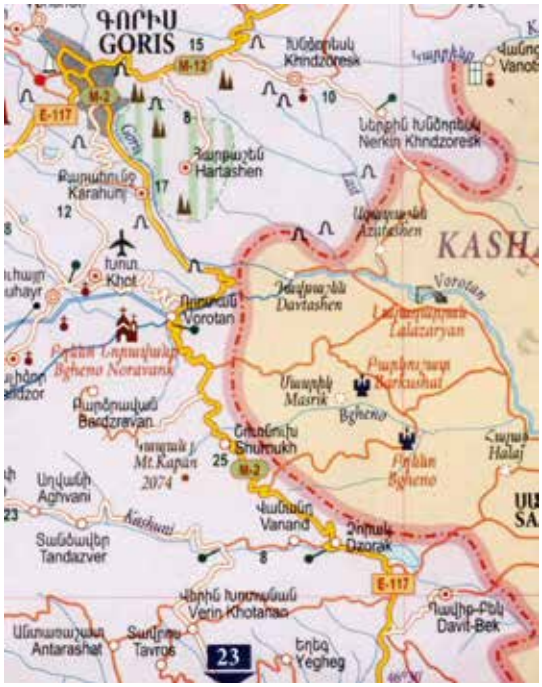
On Map 3.14, the Azerbaijan–Armenia border is shown in red, which has been delineated by the Soviet General Staff. The border has been like this since the 1930s but the Armenian M–2 highway was built in 1953–1960, which here is shown in yellow.

On the military maps of 1930s to 1980s it had been clear that sections of the Goris–Kapan highway enters the territory of Eyvazlu village of Azerbaijan, passing more than twenty kilometres in Azeri territory then returns to Armenia and crosses the border several more times with shorter runs, and eventually reaches Shurnukh.

In Shurnukh the border is the white line in the center of the road passing through the village, where one side is Armenia and the other is Azerbaijan, thus dividing the village into two countries.

In the days of Soviet power, this was not a problem, because they were so–called "brotherly republics", and there was no apparent or practical border between these republics. But its important came to light, when the two countries became independent and had to have clearly marked borders.

This is one of the means by which the Soviet Union intended to create problems between two adjacent countries. In order to hide the truth, until very recently all maps published for the public, of which one example is Map 3.15, show that Armenian highway M–2 is running completely through the sovereign territory of Armenia, which does not correspond to the reality.



Map 3.15 – This road map published in 2000s is like the map in the Atlas of Soviet Armenia, of 1961. It is similar to all other maps printed for public consumption. The map shows that the whole length of the Armenian highway M–2 passes only though the sovereign territory of Armenia.

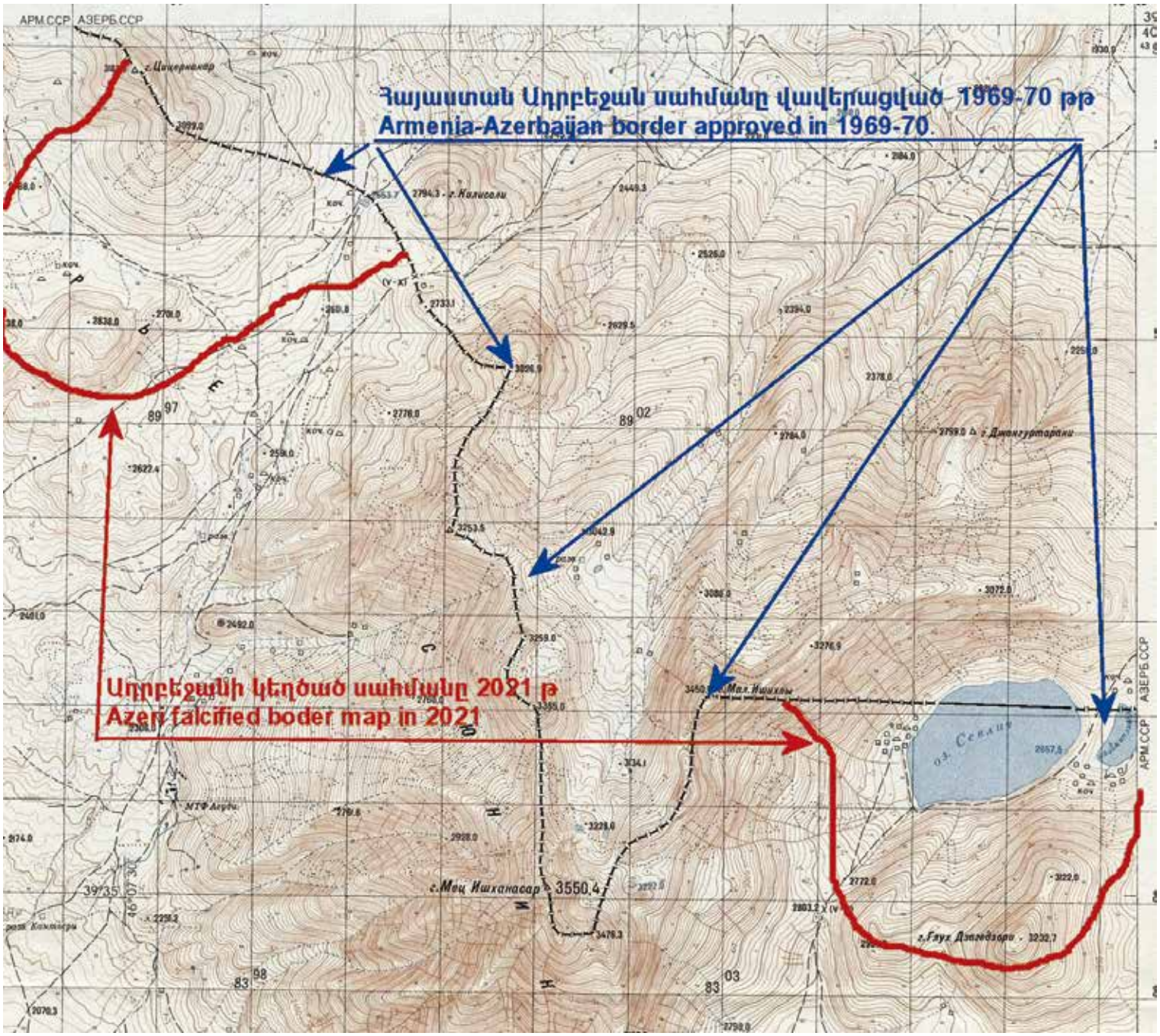
As mentioned, the present road has been crossing the Azeri border in a number of places since the 1930s. Please note that the road was built only during the 1950s, as per the Soviet Central government construction plans, offering no explanations whatsoever for this odd selevted route, where the road criss–crosses the border.

The incorrect presentation has been done in order prevent questions and problems arising between the republics, who were considered to be "brotherly" until the USSR disbanded and independence arrived, bringing its own problems.

Map 3.16 – This is the Soviet military map, kept in the Ministry of Defence of Armenia, dated 1969–1970. The map shows that almost 90% of the Sev Lij (Black Lake) is inside Armenian territory. The map has been signed and sealed by the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan as their mutually agreed border, marked by a black line.

This border was also approved in 2010 by the government of Armenia, within the internal administrative divisions of Armenia.

Map 3.17 – On this map, forged by the Azerbaijanis, the Black Lake and its southern region, as well as Ishkhanasar region are shown within Azerbaijan. The representatives of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan presented this map to Armenian Border Guards claiming this falsified map to represent the true border. The map ignores the mutually sealed and signed Soviet–time border, which, in the absence of new delineation, is still the valid border, shown on the existing Soviet maps.



Map 3.18 – This map is the clearer version of Azeri claims and falsifications in the region of the Black Lake and its surrounding area, showing them on the Soviet General Staff maps.

The black line indicates the border approved by Azerbaijani and Armenian authorities in 1970. The red line is the falsified Azeri border, which they claim to be the real one. In May 2021 Azerbaijani forces entered the Armenian territory and now claimed that they have established their true borders. Our borders, which are supposed to be protected by our ally Russia, was thus violated and our allies did not object or interfere!

For border approvals see Map 3.16, and for the forged map of Azerbaijan see Map 3.17.

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Inside the front cover. Map of the Middle East during the beginning of our era. Ottoman Empire, early 20th c.
Inside the back cover. Von Spruner's 1855 map of the Antique Middle East, with Armenia and its provinces.

Glossary of frequently used names

Aderbigan or Adherbig(z)an – *see* **Azerbaijan**.

Albania or Caucasian Albania – Historic country, which was located south of the Caucasus Mountains and north of the Kura River, where most of the present–day Republic of Azerbaijan is situated.

Anatolia – The old name given to Asia Minor. In Greek this means 'Where the sun rises from', i.e. to the east of Constantinople.

Ararat – The holy mountain of the Armenians, located in Armenia, now just inside the Turkish border. This is where according to the Bible Noah's Ark landed. Armenians call it Masis. It has two peaks: Greater Ararat or Greater Masis with a height of 5165m, and Lesser Ararat or Small Masis with a height of 3903m.

Arax or Araxes, Araz – River on the borders of Turkey, Iran and Armenia, flowing to the Caspian Sea. For the Armenians this river is historically important.

Armenia – Country to the east of Anatolia and south of the Caucasus range, situated on the Armenian Highlands and the areas nearby. Armenia is divided into two parts: Greater Armenia (Armenia Maior) and Lesser Armenia (Armenia Minor). Greater Armenia is the part that is situated on the Armenian Highlands, as well as the area to its northeast (present day Republic of Armenia). Lesser Armenia is located on the western side of the Highlands, in the eastern part of Anatolia. Armenia has also been called the 'Land of Ararat'.

Armenian Highland(s) or Plateau – A mountainous plateau, situated in the Eastern Turkey and the Republic of Armenia, extending into the northwest corner of Iran. The mean elevation of the plateau from the sea level varies between 1000 and 2000 metres, the area covered is over 300,000 sq. km.

Aran or Caucasian Albania – The historical names given to the approximate area of the present–day Republic of Azerbaijan.

Asia Minor – Name of the peninsula between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. The Byzantians called it Anatolia. (*See* **Albania**.)

Atropatene or Atropatena – The old name of the Iranian Province of Azerbaijan, previously 'Lesser Media'.

Azerbaijan – There are two regions named Azerbaijan. One is the historic Persian (Iranian) province of Azerbaijan, located south of the Arax River (now regrouped into three provinces of Eastern, Western Azerbaijan and Ardabil province). Persian Azerbaijan has existed for centuries as Lesser Media, later renamed Atropatene, Aderbigan, etc., named after the ruler of this land, Atropat, during 321 BCE. The other is the Republic of Azerbaijan, born in 1918 and situated north of the Arax River, west of the Caspian Sea, southeast of the Caucasus and neighbouring Armenia, which until around the tenth century was known as Caucasian Albania (Arran, in Arabic and Persian) and later, until 1918, was principally known as Shirvan.

Black Sea – Also known as Pontos Euxinos or Pontus. The sea to the north of Anatolia.

Byzantium – The Eastern Roman Empire that ruled over Anatolian part of Turkey and surrounding regions, with its capital in Constantinople, by the Sea of Marmara.

Caspian Sea – The largest of the inland lakes, situated to the north of Iran, south of Russia, between the Caucasus and Central Asian Republics. It is also called the Hi(y)rcanean Sea, Bahr–e–Khazar (in Arabic), the Sea of Tabarestan or Gilan.

Cilicia – Area in the north–eastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea, inside Anatolia and near the Gulf of Alexandrette (Iskenderun).

Cilician Armenia – or Kingdom of Armenia in Cilicia, sometimes erroneously called Lesser Armenia. From the twelfth century over a period of 300 years this area was ruled by Armenian kings.

Constantinople – Capital of Byzantine Empire and one of the centres of learning in antiquity, renamed Istanbul by the Ottoman Turks. The Armenians shortened the name to 'Polis'.

De Lille, Guillaume (1675–1726) – was the greatest French cartographer of the 18th century, who first published the accurate map of the Caspian Sea.

East Armenia – Part of Greater Armenia, which is situated to the north and northeast of Mount Ararat, where the present–day Republic of Armenia can be found.

Eastern Anatolia – Name erroneously given to the Armenian Highlands, which are located in the east of Anatolia.

Erevan – *see* **Yerevan**.

Euphrates or Eufrates – River flowing from the western side of the Armenian Highlands southward through Kurdistan and Iraq into the Persian Gulf, being one of the rivers of Eden.

Fra Mauro (1400–1464) — a Venetian monk and cartographer, who in 1459 made a giant World Map for the Spaniards. It contains detailed information in Latin. On the map the name Karabakh is mentioned for the first time in western cartography.

Georgia – In this volume, Caucasian Georgia. A country on the eastern shores of the Black Sea, which consists of the historic countries of Iberia, Colchis, Mingrelia, etc.

Greater Armenia – *see* **Armenia**.

Herodotus (484–425 BC) — Greek historian recognized as the founding father of historiography.

Hyrcanian Sea – *see* **Caspian Sea**.

Iberia – In this volume used mainly to denote Caucasian Iberia, which is the western part of today's Caucasian Georgia.

Istanbul – *see* **Constantinople**.

Katib Chelebi (1609–1657) — The first Ottoman cartographer who travelled in the Middle East, and wrote his volume "Geography", which included several maps. The text has explanations about the Armenians, and their origins, even describing the myth of Hayk and Bel.

Lesser Armenia – *see* **Armenia**.

Lesser Media — the northern region of Media, a part of the Iranian Empire, which coincides with the area of present–day Atrpatakan province of Iran, renamed Atropaten. See the explanation of Azerbaijan.

Masis – The Armenian name for Ararat (qv).

Mede or Media – A kingdom that existed since the first millennium BCE, in the north–western part of the Persian Plateau. The country of the Medes, who established a powerful empire.

Mercator, Gerardus (1512–1594)— The greatest Flemish cartographer of the sixteenth century. His "World Atlas" was one of the first to be published. In the future many of his maps were copied and reprinted.

Ortelius Abraham (1528–1598) — famous Dutch cartographer, whose atlases have been translated and published in several languages throughout Europe.

Ottoman Empire – Successor empire to that of the Seljuk Turks, who had occupied the area of Asia Minor in the eleventh century. The Ottoman (Turkish) Empire expanded from Bursa to the Balkans, extending it over a wide territory. Established in 1453, demised in 1923.

Parthia or Perse or Pars – The old name of Persia, now Iran.

Persia – Country, now called Iran.

Ptolemy, Claudius (around 98–168) – the greatest Greek cartographer who came from Alexandria, whose described methods of surveying were used for more than 1500 years. Hi is the author of the first atlas, entitled *Geographia*, which included maps.

Shirvan – The name of one of the main regions which lie inside the present day Republic of Azerbaijan. Also see **Azerbaijan**.

Strabo (c. 63 BC–24 AD) – Greek geographer, whose most important work, *Geography* has seventeen volumes, where 60 pages are allocated to Armenia and the Armenians.

Talish – Name of one of the regions and peoples which lie inside the present–day Republic of Azerbaijan and Iran.

Tigran II or Tigran the Great (140–55 BC) — Armenian king who conquered the lands from the Caspian Sea to the eastern Mediterranean, including Mesopotamia, Syria and Cilicia.

Tigranocerta or Tigranakert – One of the ancient capitals of Armenia; probably the site of present–day Silvan, in Turkey. Recently a second fortress city named Tigranakert was discovered in eastern Artsakh (Karabakh). See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tigranakert_of_Artsakh

Tigris – River flowing from the Armenian Highlands southward through Kurdistan and Iraq into the Persian Gulf. One of the rivers of Eden.

Toshpa or Tushpa – *see* **Van**.

Turcomania – A name given to Armenia by the Turks and also sometimes used in some western cartography around the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Derived from the combination of the words *Turkey* and *Armenia*.

Turkey – The country that is now situated in the area of Asia Minor. The heirs to the Ottoman Empire.

Urartu – An ancient country, which existed during the early part of the first millennium BCE, and was gradually evolved into Armenia. According to some historians the names Ararat and Urartu are the same.

Van – City, one of the oldest capitals of Armenia, situated to the east of Lake Van in the Armenian Highlands. In ancient times it was called Toshpa, Tushpa, Thospitis.

West Armenia – Main part of Armenia, situated on the Armenian Highlands. This includes Greater Armenia to the southwest of Ararat and Lesser Armenia, including the area now occupied by the present–day Republic of Armenia.

Yerevan – Capital of present day Armenia. In Russian – Erevan, Persian – Iravan, in antiquity – Erebouni. It is one of the oldest towns having been continuously inhabited since Urartian times, for over 2800 years.

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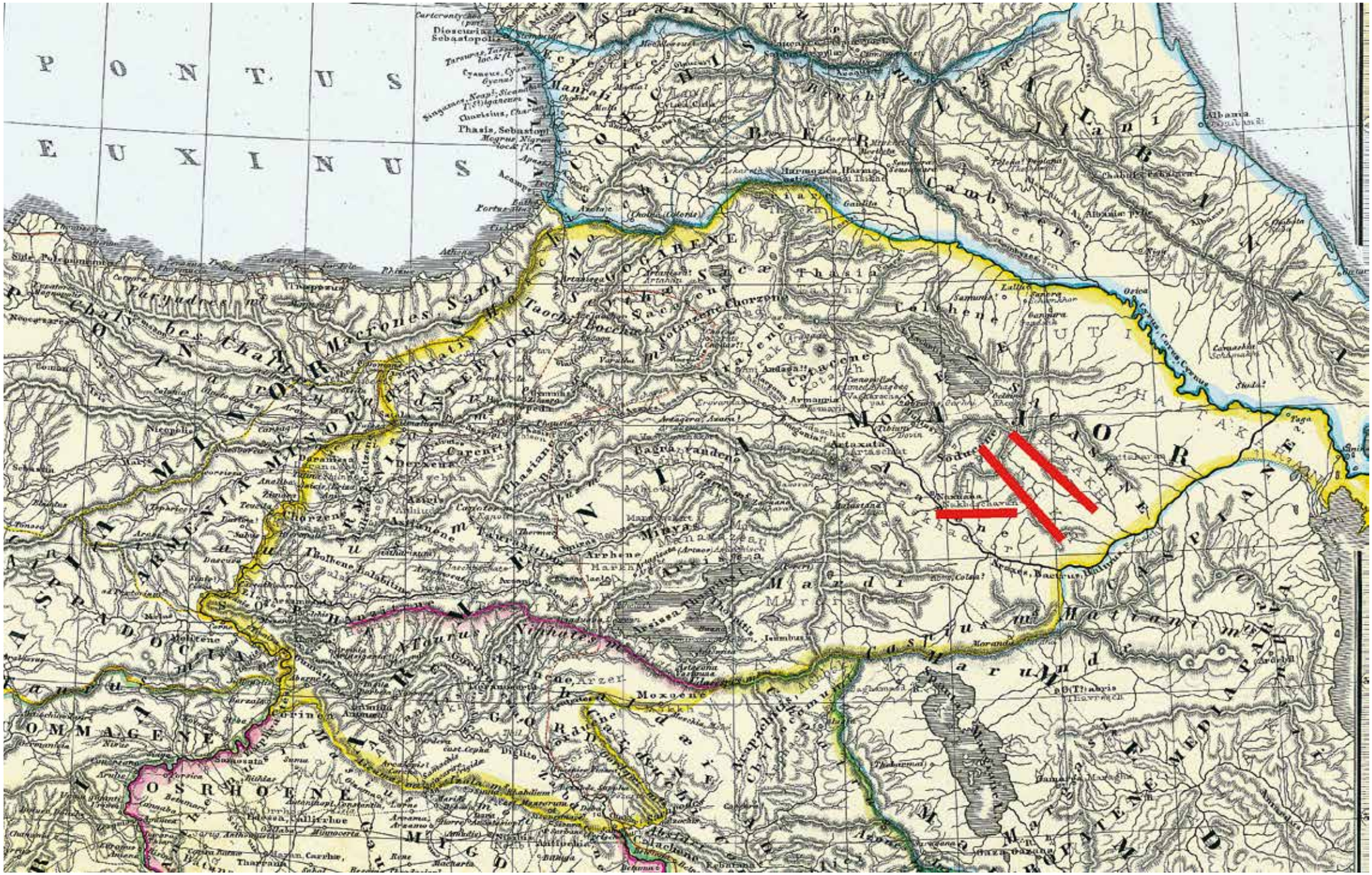

Part of German graographer Karl von Spruner's "Map of Armenia. Mesopotamia, Babylon, Assyria and Neighbouring Countries" from his 1855 "Atlas Historicus". The map shows the status of the region in the earlly ages of our history. Here is Asia Minor thereare a multitude of countries, none of which exist today. Armenia is here, together with the Iranian province of Atorpatene-Media, placed south of the River Arax. This region was later named the Iranian Province of Azerbaijan. The Regions of Artsakh, Siunik and Nakhijevan are shown as parts of Armenia. On the map these three, which are also named with their old Armenian names are underlined red.

From R. Galichian collection in Matenadaran, Yerevan, Armenia.

Rouben Galichian's Short Biogrpahy

Rouben Galichian (Galchian) was born in Tabriz, Iran, to a family of immigrant Armenians who had fled Van in 1915, escaping the Genocide and arriving in Iran via Armenia, Georgia and France.

After attending school in Tehran, Rouben received a scholarship to study in the UK and graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Electronics Engineering from the University of Aston in Birmingham in 1964.

Rouben's interest in geography and cartography started in early life, but he began seriously studying the subject in the 1970s. In 1980 he moved to London with his family, where he had access to extensive cartographic material in the western libraries.

He has so far published eight titles regarding the cartography of Armenia, as well as the historical, cultural and geographical falsifications of Azerbaijan regarding Armenia and Armenians.

For his contributions to Armenian cartography, in 2008 he received Honorary Doctorate of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, and in 2013 he was the recipient of "Movses Khorenatsi" presidential medal.

www.roubengalichian.com
www.roubengalchian.com

Rouben Galichian is a researcher of the cartography of the South Caucasus, whose focus is on the territories and borders of historical as well as present day Armenia.

At the present Armenia - as a Christian country - is inserted as a wedge between two Turkic-speaking republics, Turkey and Azerbaijan. This geographical situation has given the extremists an opportunity to create many political, cultural and ethnic problems. The implementation of Ottoman Turkey's plan for creating a belt of Turkic-speaking countries by connecting these peoples from Europe to Central Asia and Siberia, has one obstacle - existence of the wedge. which is Armenia.

The starting point of the above program was the implementation of the Armenian Genocide, by which Turkey got rid of Armenians and other Christians living in its eastern territories. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan are trying to do everything to call the Armenian people - newcomers to the region – forgetting that they have lived and created in this part of their homeland for more than three millennia. Every effort is made by the Azeris to remove Armenian historical and cultural monuments from their territory or, alternatively, to appropriate them. To achieve this aim all sorts of fabricated historical and cultural falsifications and even inventions are published and dispersed worldwide.

The purpose of this booklet is to present to the reader how foreigners have perceived and presented Armenia in their maps, even when Armenia had lost its independent. It also clarifies how, even after independence in 1918, our neighbours have usurped and appropriated Armenian territories and changed its boundaries.

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