

## A Historical Survey On Armenia

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**Abstract:** The original Armenia is the country of high mountain lands and an interesting natural castle whose walls are located in the land beyond Caucasia field to Anatoly plateau and also from the Black sea to Mesopotamia desert. The natural and geographical location of Armenia has made it look like the natural castle causing that the capture of this region for foreign tribes to be hard and difficult in the cold and sever winter. This paper offers a historical survey on Armenia. [Yasin Jeyran, Atefeh Setayesh Mehr. **A Historical Survey On Armenia**. J Am Sci 2013;9(1s):36-43] (ISSN: 1545-1003). <http://www.jofamericanscience.org>. 5

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### Geographical and natural status of Armenia

The original Armenia is the country of high mountain lands and an interesting natural castle whose walls are located in the land beyond Caucasia field to Anatoly plateau and also from the Black sea to Mesopotamia desert. This upland country consists of the several mountain ranges among which the chain of Pontic Mountains and "Toroos" mountain chains are very important. In addition to these mountain chains, this country consists of several plateaus with high and consecutive hills at the height of 1000 to 2000 meters. They have been separated by the deep valleys where the large rivers such as Aras, Euphrates an "Dejleh" flow. In these plateaus there are some high volcanic peaks that Ararat is the highest of all with 5200 meters height. In accordance with biblical tradition, it is identified as the mountain that Noah's ark rested on after the flood.

There are some big and small lakes between the uplands of amplitudes that are often dried. These lakes have given a special view to this region. ( Majian ,1369 ,14;Roshandel & Gholi pur, 1377,7) As it was mentioned, Armenia has a series of successive fields all of which are in the height above the sea level. The widths of these fields are limited, but they are very fecund and fertile; as an example we can point to Yerevan , Ghares, Arazroom, Alshgard, Van, Moosh and etc. Among these fields, Yerevan plain is very important for its latitude land and its various productions. Up to now Yerevan field has been the major capital and the center of the country in the different historical periods and has often been the most populous in this area. (For example, Armaviz, Artacasata, Dowin, Ochmiydazin, and Yerevan. On the other hand, the areas between Aras and Kora which are in the borders of Armenia were the most important and the most valuable base for the foreign tribes at wars before the destruction of channels. Foreigners could find the requirements and necessary foods and victuals easily in this area during the wars with Armenia.(Majian ,1369 ,3; Roshan del &Gholi pur,1377, 4)

The natural and geographical location of Armenia has made it look like the natural castle causing that the capture of this region for foreign tribes to be hard and difficult in the cold and sever winter. This mountain plateau is like a steep and impassable circle in the north and south .If the foreigners want to attack to this region, they will face with these steep slopes and they will have to pass these high mountains. Rarely, Armenia was occupied by the emigrants from Black sea boundaries.

Conversely, the access to this land was easier from east or west because of the direction of the main mountains and large river ways such as Aras and Euphrates.

Two natural ways are passing from this land, the first one is the Aras river's and the north branch of Euphrates river and the second one is the river flowing the south branch of Euphrates. The most important zones of Armenia are the places which make it dominate and disconnect their strategic situations. The important region to access the north road is Erzurum and for the south road is Moosh Pallo. ( Majian ,1369,16-17 ; Bakh ,1903,144-145)

In fact, these ways were the best ways for the invasions of different nations such as Medes, Chamenians, Sassanidaes, Mongolian, Turkmen, and it is also the mutual attack ways of west, Rome and Byzantine. ( Majian ,1369 ,4-5)

Although Armenia is ordinarily a part of Asia continent, in fact, it is a part of European's boundaries. We can exactly say that Armenia is in the point that connects Europe and Asia. This is the region of crossing of west Asian main ways to the East European main ways and it is a joint region of these two continentsThis country is the most important place for trade because it has connected the far East and the central Asia by the sandy way. It leads to Terabozan by passing the Caspian Sea or the north of Iran. Armenia is located in the famous road "Silk Route" which connected Europe to Far East and this situation with its own specifications has influenced the history of this country's. ( Majian , 1369 , 13;

Rabno,1940,61;Roshandel & Gholi pur,1377,36; Majian ,1369 ,10;Ronan ,1869,1290)

It must be mentioned that Republic of Armenia (Armenia nowadays) has 29800 km expansion in west of Asia, in the west south part of Caucasia and with a distance from the East south coasts of Black sea and it is like a belt between Islamic Republic of Iran on one end and Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia on the other end. This country is the smallest Republic of Soviet union and it has a common border with Iran in the south, with independent Republic of Nakhjavan in the west-south, with Turkey in the west, with Georgia in the north and with Republic of Azarbaijan in the east. (Roshandel & Gholi pur ,1377 ,1)

#### **A glance at the history of Armenian nation:**

The country which is now called as Armenia was the settlement of native tribes before the entrance of Indo European tribes in the seventh and sixth centuries B.C. Archaeologies have searched in Armenia plateau and have found many tools that were used by the prehistory human beings in the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, It means that human lives existed in Armenia like any other neighboring countries so many years ago. As the result of these researches, archaeologies found that different races and nations lived in the west and central Armenia from 3000 years B.C and the most important of them was Soobarian nations. Soobarian were neither from Indo - European races nor Sami races, but they were a special branch of white race that lived in Caucasia, Asia Minor and north of Mediterranean. These nations had become weaker and weaker during the time as a result of the civil wars. They were under the dominance of Assyria about 1500 B.C. (Geriguian, 1959,12-13. )

The forces of Assyrians' empire on these tribes caused the combination of the Tassiri and Khaledi races together (don't mistake with Khaldean who lived in Mesopotomia) and they formed the Urartu government around Van lake under the leadership of Arameh in 860 B.C. (Hayraptiyan & Shahnazarian, 1983, 23; Piyotrovisk,1348,31;Nouri zade, 1376,18)

It must be mentioned that the language of the aborigine of Armenia was neither from the Semitic language group nor from Hitiye language group, but possibly it was a kind of language related to Caucasian language.( Majian ,1369 , 18 ; Havbet,1931, 497 )

Armenian like any other Indo-European tribes entered this land during the seventh and eighth centuries B.C. They were separated from the main body because of the series of situations such as the historical positions and geographic conditions and they settled in border of two continents. Their entrance to Urartu land (the initial Armenia) from the east is not exactly clear. There is one idea that the

entrance to this land was by passing of Caucasia with another Indo- European race called "Symerians" from the west and after passing Balkan and Asia Minor with another Indo-European race called "Frigians" that belonged to one family .( Majian ,1369 ,4-21)There is a hypothesis that the Indo-European Armenian came to Armenia through Balkan. This is accepted more today. This Indo- European tribes conquered the Urartu land and put their language to them. It is necessary to mention that the Armenian language belonged to the Indo- European language. They were separated as a special group between the Iranian and Greece groups.( Majian ,1369 ,23)

Armenian made a military aristocracy of country as their entrance to this land .The native aborigine "Urartu" or "Khaledi" became the lower class and subordinate group. Nevertheless, little by little, these two different groups were combined with each other and this combination of Armenian and the native aborigine "Urartu" led to the establishment of a new nation called "Armen" (Armenia or Rahani or Haya). This nation (Armenia nation) played the inter-mediator of cultural transition in borders of Asia and, in fact, it became a connector between Europe and Asia. (Majian ,1369 ,4- 22)

Armenian nation had been more important because of the military affairs. These abilities consist of the horse breeding and the metallurgy industry. In addition to these two matters, Armenians made a powerful and important military force in the Iranian government's military, as well as the Roman Empire and other empires. (Majian, 1369,11; Tezoruni, 1880,187)

#### **Armenian religion:**

Before accepting the Christians religion, Armenians adored the natural components like any other Indo- European nations. Aramazad , Anahid, Astghik and Vahagen were the main gods of Armenian in that time. There are various symptoms and works that belong to that period. The most famous of them is a "Garni" temple in the south of present Armenia that is very similar to the Greece Helenian works.( Roshandel and Gholi pur,1998,46; Nouri zade,1376,226; Majian ,1369,103)

After the emergence of Jesus Christ , at the first years of A.D, the first Christian propagandists entered Armenia and started to preach their new religion to the people of this region. Saint Bartogimeus and Saint Tadeus were the first Christian propagandists In Armenia .They were the students of Jesus Christ. These propagandists were killed by Armenian pagans and heathen governors. Later a church was made in their shambles. The holy Tadeh -Church "Ghareh"- is the place where Saint Tadeus was killed.(Roshandel and Gholi pur,1998,28)

Although, some Armenian converted Christianity from the first years of Christianity and especially the second century, most people had been in their own previous religion by the end of the third century A.D. In fact, it was the fate that the Armenians converted to Christianity by Saint Gregorios who was known as Losavevrich meaning "illustrative". This religion was announced as official religion of Armenia by the effort of Tirdad III. Armenia's kings accepted the Christianity. This event is very important in two aspects. The first aspect is related to Armenia's history. The tendency of this nation to Christianity is the most important history event of Armenia. In fact, all of these changes that the Armenian's people faced with had been influenced by Christianity. The second aspect is related to the Christian history, this event also is the most especial and the most important event, because Armenia's nation was the first nation that accepted the Christianity as their formal religion. (Roshandel and Gholi pur, 1998, 48-28; Nouri zade 1376, 429; Majian, 1369, 105)

With the prevalence of Christianity in other countries, a number of sects and different principles in this religion were made and developed. In the initial centuries, one of the most important topics that different churches disputed about was the Christ's nature. Armenia's church had to take a powerful position about this matter. The most important principles consisted of Aryan principle that believed in the complete human-nature in Christ. Nestorian principle believed that the Christ was a dual symbol of human-God, and Single-spirit principle (Monophysics) believed that the God's spirit dissolved the human-spirit and nature of Christ in itself, and Christ was just the "God". The churches of Rome and Byzantine convicted the Aryan's principle in the Nika religious committee in 325 A.D and announced that the Christ was the same as the God's nature. For the first time, the Armenian Church accepted this principle and then joined to the Single-nature Principle that in fact; it was the result of the same belief. (Roshandel and Gholi pur, 1998, 50; Nouri zade, 1376, 433)

Later, in the religious meeting of Chalcedon, Rome and Byzantine churches converted to the new belief of Great Leon Papa. (481 A.D) In accordance with this principle, two separated natures were in Christ nature; one was human nature and other one was Heavenly spirit, and these two natures were connected together but didn't combine together. The Armenian Church remained faithful to their own belief of Single-nature (Monophysics) and this matter caused Armenian Church to be separated from the Rome and Byzantine churches. The complete separation of Armenian Church had happened in 491 A.D. (Roshandel and Gholi pur, 1998, 50)

At first, Armenian Catholics had settled in Echmiyadezin and then transmitted to Rome in Marzbanan time, afterward in the 10<sup>th</sup>, they were transmitted to Ani. With the fall of Bagratons and the occupation of Armenia by Seljuk-Turkish tribe, a group of Armenian migrated to Cilicia in Asia Minor. They established a new Armenia. Armenian Catholic Church was transmitted to Cilicia in the eleventh century. After the fall of the Armenian reign (Cilicia), some Armenian Bishops wanted Cilician to come back to Echmiyadezin. Catholic Bishop didn't accept to transmit to Echmiyadezin and he let them select a new Catholic Bishop in Echmiyadezin and actually Armenian people had two Catholic Bishops who were elected by the Selective Committee and this matter caused Armenia to be divided to two parts, West and East. Nowadays, Armenia has two Catholics that one is in Echmiyadezin and the second one is in Cilicia. The capital of Cilicia was in Sis, but it was transmitted to Lebanon in 1923 because of the mass murdering of Armenian people by Ottoman and it was settled in Antiliban in Beirut. (Roshandel & Gholi pur, 1998, 28-52)

#### **A brief glance at Armenia history from the Ancient time to Ghajarian period:**

Before the entrance of Indo-European tribes, the early inhabitants of Armenia had become weak because of their civil wars. About 1500 B.C, it was dominated by Ashur Empire. The authority of Ashur empire officers caused the unity of the Taseri and Khaledi nations and they formed the Urartu government under the Arameh's leadership in 860 B.C. The capital of Urartu was Toshpa which renamed to Van later. (Pioterveski, 1969, 23; Roshandel and Gholi pur, 1998, 17; Nouri zade, 1376, 13)

Arkishti I, the king of Urartu had commanded to establish Erboni city in 782 B.C. It was renamed to Yerevan in the next period. (Hayraptiyan and Shahnazarian, 1983, 23; Roshandel and Gholi pur, 1998, 17; Pioterviski, 1969, 28-30; Nouri zade, 1376, 6-20) In addition to Mose Urartu (Arameh) one of the kings of this area, we can mention "sardouri", "Ish puni", "Meni", "Argishti I" and "Argishti II" in the 8 century B.C. (Majian, 1369, 19; Pioterviski, 1969, 33-35; Nouri zade, 1376, 20)

The authority government of Urartu was forgotten completely until 590-580 B.C. The powerful neighbors and long wars with them were the reasons of the collapse of Urartu government. The power of the Armenian speaking races dispersed through Armenia. Urartu governments were destroyed by Mede invasions. "Tcushpa" was destroyed completely during these wars and "Medes" dominated Armenia. The domination of this country by Medes lasted just only for several years (possibly from 590 to 559 B.C)

and later Armenian dominated on it very soon and then their king unified with the Great Cyrus.(Pioterviski ,1969,63; Majian ,1369 ,26; Nouri zade,1376,22)

After the death of Kambojiyeh (king of Iran), there were some revolutions in the Hakhamaneshian reign and also the half -independent government of Armenia revolted. This revolution was destroyed by the Great Darius in 520-522 B.C. and the half-independent area of Armenia fell to "Satrapies' livings" of the Hakhamaneshian Kingdom. This situation lasted for nearly 2 centuries. The name of Armenia was seen in Darius cuneiform in Bistun for the first time in 521 B.C. In this cuneiform, it was told that " ... I conquered Armenia and Pontus ...." And by this , Armenia entered to the general history in the sixth B.C.( Nouri zade,1376,23; Majian , 1369, 27)

Armenia as one of the thirteen Satrapies livings in Hakhamaneshian Empire was responsible to give some militaries to Hakhamaneshi's king and they had to pay 500 Talan every year in addition to the tools such as horses.( Majian ,1369,29)

By Alexander invasions, Hakhamaneshian Empire collapsed in Darius III time. Armenia got free from the Hakhamaneshian Kingdom. The attack of Alexander to Hakhamaneshian had two very important results. First, it directly or indirectly caused the first Armenia period of independence and the second one was that Armenia was kept in contact with Greece Hellenic culture. (Nouri zade,1376,25 ; Majian ,1369 ,31; Roshandel & Gholi pur,1998,18)

After the attack of Alexander to Hakhamaneshian in 322 B.C, the history faced with the freedom and independence of Armenian kingdom .The history saw an independent kingdom of Armenia that was established by orders of Orients I (Herant or Yerevand). The history of the first independent Armenia's kingdom was with the wars against the powerful neighbor ,Soluki's government. Through one century, Armenia stood against the Soluki attacks in triumph .It was just in 215 B.C that the Soluki could occupy this land and Armenia lost its freedom for a short period of time.( Majian , 1369 ,32; Nouri zade,1376,25)

In 190 B.C Artaxerxes I( Artash I), one of the Armenia's famous military and political persons, announced himself as the Armenian king. At the same time, Zaryadres (Zareh), the Minor Armenia's governor announced to the independence and established the second independent government of Armenia, Minor Armenia (consists of the extensive regions among Sivas and Arzanjan and Tatia).( Nouri zade1376,27; Majian ,1369,34) In Iran, with the falling of Soluki's kingdom, the Parthian reign came to power. Mehrdad II ,the king of Parthian kingdom started to fight with Armenia's king, Artavazd I(115-

160 B.C) .Later the wars had done with Parthian kingdom in the Grand Tigran period for several times. Mainly it can be said that the Ashkani policy against Armenia can be divided into two periods. In the first time, they wanted to attach Armenia to their own empire like Mesopotamia. Armenia's people could keep their freedom and independence during the Artaxerxes government (In the second century and the initial of the first year B.C) .Then Parthian policy toward Armenia changed with the appearance of Roman government. They tried to keep Armenia like a correlation government with Rome. The Armenian kings were selected by the Roman Empire with the fall of Artaxerxes kingdom. ( Majian , 1369 ,78;Nouri zade,1376,31-38)

From 54 B.C to 428 A.D, the second independent Armenia dynasty was established by the leadership of Arsaid (Arshaks). This kingdom was one of the kinfolk of Ashkani kingdom in Iran and they had the connections with them by the emersion of Sasani in Iran in 226 A.D. The fall of the last king of Parthian empire, Sasanian tried to dominate all of West Asia and they drove out Roman military of the Middle East and jointed Armenia to their realms .This government was a serious danger in Armenian kings for the communication of Arsaid with Parthian.( Majian ,1369,113)Armenia was in the attacks of this government and Rome in the Sasani period. In the Sasani period, Armenian government continued to govern not as an independent country but as several independent emirates. These emirates managed the country autonomously, but they were under supervision of the Iranian lords.( Nouri zade,1376,41; Majian ,1369 ,139)In the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> A.D, The Arab government came down to the history. They attacked Sasani government in 630- 640 A.D. They developed their dominion from Pamir to Atlantic Ocean coast and from Caucasia mountain ranges to the Persian sea. The Arab militaries attacked from the south to Armenia for the first time in 640 A.D and they crossed all villages of Ararat plateau and they occupied Davin . After a short time, they conquered the capital of Armenia and they went back to their hometown with many trophies and they captured one thousand soldiers. Later, in 642-650 A.D, they attacked Armenia some more(Nouri zade,1376,52; Roshandel & Gholi pur,1998,18)Although Armenia had a lot of resistance rebellions and movements against the Arab nations, Arabic nations dominated Armenia. In this period, there were some regions in the Armenia emirates that had kept their independence and these regions were governed by the leadership of Arab that made the garrisons. Especially they sat up their powers and forces in Davin, Nakhjavan, Arazrom and Ganjeh.( Majian ,1369 ,151)Later, they called it "Armenian emirates" with the East Gorjistan

and Aghvanak attached to Armenia by the Khalifah's command. At first, Davin was the capital of Armenian emirates, and then it was transmitted to Parthava. The first governor was a person who was invested as Theodoros Rashtavi general. Also the second and the third general governor were the Armenian citizens and related to the Maikonian family. The Armenia governors were from Arabic and Iranian rich men and they managed the country with the domination of Khalifah. (Nouri zade,1376,52 ; Majian ,1369 , 152)

In 747, 748, 762, and 774 and from 849 to 855 A.D some noticeable revolutions had been done in Armenia against the Arab domination. In the same conditions, as the result of national liberal movements of Armenian and the general weakness of Arab government, Armenia obtained its political independence in the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century. In 875 A.D, a decision was taken in Armenia Nakhari committee and they wanted Khalifah that he would accept the independence of Armenia and announced Ashot Bagrathonian as Armenian king. In 886, Khalifah accepted this request and he accepted the country should be governed inheritability in the Bagrathonian families.(Majian ,1369 ,181; Nouri zade, 1376,55) This matter can be considered as a start of regeneration of independence for Armenian. The government of Ashot Bagrathoni I (886-890 ) was the productive and weighty years to growth of national governments and the economic cases. The union with Armenia was necessary for Arab and Byzantine. Therefore, everyone tried to have a good connection with Bagrathonian kingdom. After the death of Ashot, there were some struggles among the deputies of the empire; by the way, they could protect their independence and they improved in social and economical cases. They made the country's official system and military system tight. The cultural life flew naturally and developed. There was a danger of feudal separation .It was more serious than before during the Gagic I kingdom .(989-1020 A.D )

The foreign political situations of Armenia were highly dangerous after the second half of 10<sup>th</sup> A.D. The Byzantine Empire that considered themselves powerful enough again to take the occupancy policy on Armenia, occupied Armenia cities one by one.

In 1041 A.D, after the death of the last king of Bagrathonian dynasty, Byzantine sent a military to occupy Armenia, but they couldn't success and their military were destroyed. Gagic II (1042-1045 A.D.) came in to throne in the country and went to heroic defensive wars against Byzantine kingdom, but the Byzantine Kaiser called him to Konstantinopolis , the capital of his government, with the discussion pretence and put him in the prison and sent a new military to Armenia. In 1045, the Shirak and Ani kingdoms lost the war against Byzantine and again the

Armenia lost independence and national autonomy. ( Nouri zade,1376,56 ; Minosky, 1375,22) The Byzantine domination in Armenia didn't last so long time and the Turkish of Saljugid began to attack Armenia in 1048. (Basel, 1915,427) ;Roshandel and Gholi pur,1998,18;Satar zadeh,1386,51) After the capture of lands such as Iran and Atharpatkan , they attacked Armenia and after the ravage, they returned Iran. The second attack was in 1049 and the third one was in 1054 by the leadership of Toghrol Bayg Seljugid and again they attacked Atharpatkan. The fourth attack was done in 1062. Alb Arsalan, the successor of Toghrol Bayg entered Armenia through Aghvanak and Georgia. He overcame Laury and Sionic empire and conquered Ani and then attacked to south Armenia and Eastern lands of Byzantine .After he conquered some parts of Armenia, Agvanak and East Georgia in 1071 and conquered Byzantine in Manazkert war (Manazagard or Malazgerd) and at last, Saljugid military captured the very extensive lands of Armenia as a result of a peace treaty with this imperial.

After Malek shah Seljug (1072- 1092 ), Alb Arsalan established many emirates in Armenia that consisted of Ani, Davin, Khalet and Karin emirates the Armenia and Anand, sionic, Lori and Nakhari Mamigonian, Sason ,Arstroni, van and etc. They began unequal wars against Saljukian Empire in the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century. By the end of twelfth century and the early thirteenth century, Armenia with the help of Georgian released Ganjeh, Ani, Davin, and other emirates such as Ambert, Bejni, Ararat fields, Sionic, Bagravand, Manazkert, Arjish, Khalat and many other north - east lands of Armenia from Seljuk dominance.( Nouri zade,1376,66 ; Majian ,1369 ,281; Satar zadeh,2006,61-62)

In 1206, the migratory Tatar- Mongol tribe established a great government under the leadership of Temujin (Chengiz Khan) and they began the attacks to occupy the countries. Mongolian began their attacks to Aghonak, Georgia and North Armenia with a military with 30000 soldiers by the leadership of "Toghanuyan and Bostaynuyan" in 1236.( Hamedani, 1373, 535; Vilts,1368,50-51; Teymuri,1377,73)

The main attack was done in Ani. Although Ani's people had a heroic defense of their city, it was captured by the enemy. In the last of 1236, the North Armenia was captured by the Mongols. The Mongols captured the west and south states of Armenia in 1242 and 1245.In 1245 A.D, Mongols captured the North Miyanrod and Asorik, they also captured all parts of south Armenia.(Nouri zade,1376,68;Etighawzen et al, 1384,87 ; Teymuri,1998,73; Spuler ,1988,33-34)

Some of the local government of Armenia such as Sionic, Sason and van continued to their existence in the Mongols' periods (13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries), and

they could play the main role in their country's social life. The results of Mongols governments and their dominance were the destruction of cities, economic and culture of Armenia. (Nourizade, 1376,68; Majian, 1369,282; Teymuri,1998,348;Spuler,1988,48)

Hetomids' dynasty established a new government in Armenia in 1220- 1342 during the dominance of Ilkhan Mongol in Iran .After the crusade in the new Armenian period, these two governments co-operated and joined together because of their same purposes mainly for their opposition against Egypt nations.( Majian ,1369 ,253;Teymuri,1998, 421) On the other hand, in the last of the eleventh century a new Armenian government entered to the field of Cilicia in the eastern coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. Armenia was under the occupation of foreigners without any national independence. It continued to be alive about 300 years (1080 -1375). This government is called "Sis Van" in Armenia's history resources and "Sis" in the Arabic resources.Armenian king of Cilicia was threatened by Egypt nations and also Igonia Empire. The Egypt nations overthrew the Armenia king of Cilicia in 1375.( Nouri zadel376,73; Etighawzen ,2005, 77)

At the end of 14<sup>th</sup> century, Armenia had been the new battlefield for Taymour Lang and his military. Taymour Lang established a new powerful government in 1370. He could capture many countries during the short time as well as Caucasian. Taymour attacked Armenia in 1386, later he attacked it several times. At least, the Taymour's military captured all parts of this country ravaged and destroyed Armenia in 1390. (Majian,1369,283;Nouri zadel,1376,74; Mirjafari, 1385,191; Roimer et al, 1382,69)

Taymour died in 1405 and there were some struggles, competitions and conflicts to take power among the successors of Taymour. At least Two tribes of Turkmen Ghira Ghuyunlu and Agh Ghuyunlu came to the power in the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century in Armenia; Ghira Ghuyunlu in the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and Agh Ghuyunlu in the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The Taymour attacks and his wars brought the full cultural falling and destruction of the culture in Bagrathonian period. These wars brought complete destruction of wealth, massacres and the total weakness. (Majian,1369,283;Nouri zadel, 1376,74; Mirjafari,1385,291;Roimer ,2003, 163; Savarvy, 1380,22-26)

Two governments of Safavid in Iran and Ottoman Empire in the Asia Minor tried to dominate Armenia in 1502. At the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, many wars happened to dominate Armenia and some other neighboring countries between Ottoman and Safavid empires. During these wars, some extensive areas of Armenia were destroyed. In 1555, Ottoman and Safavid empires admitted conspiring that the east

Armenia should be under the Safavid domination and the west Armenia under the capture of Ottoman Empire. However, this peace didn't continue for a long time and again the Ottoman military attacked some areas beyond Caucasia in 1578. They captured a wide area of Caucasia. Shah Abbas the king of Safavid came to the power in Iran in 1587.He had to admit a new conspiring to Ottoman in 1590. Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgian were delivered Ottoman as the result of this conspiring .In 1603, Safavid' king attacked to land beyond Caucasian, while the Ottoman Empire involved civil wars of its military power. He captured the ultra parts of Azerbaijan and Armenia. A lot of villages were destroyed in Armenia for the reactions of war between Ottoman Empire and Shah Abbas. In 1604, about 350000 people were migrated to Iran by the command of Shah Abbas. These people were settled in the east regions and villages of west and central provinces of Iran. Then they made a new Armenian city near Isfahan. Today it is a part of Isfahan(Roshandel and Gholi pur,1998,18; Nouri zadel,1376,76;Majian,1369,289;Yazdi,1366,27;Turkman,1350 ,61;Taheri,2004,372 ; Falsafi. ,1973,5)

In 1616, Safavid declared wars on Ottoman and it continued till the last of 30 decade of the 17<sup>th</sup> century with some wins and some losses. In 1639, both empires accepted the truce, and again the west Armenia was connected to Ottoman and the east Armenia to Savafid. This situation lasted up to the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Ottoman captured the west Armenia and the west Armenia was divided into the states which consisted of Arazroom, Ghares, Sebastia, Van and Diarbekr states that were governed by the leadership of Pashas. In the east Armenia, a series of Khan's governments were founded which were leaded by Khans. The main Khan's government was Yerevan which was in the central part of east Armenia. Yerevan's Khan was called Sardar too. The Yerevan was divided into 15 sections, that the major cities of which were Yirvan, Ochmaiadzin, Sardar Abad and Ashtarak .Local governments were managed by Blocks, the cities were managed by Kalantars and village leaders were kadhoda , whom were selected by Khan and Sardar of Yerevan, and usually they belonged to the rich and higher classes.(Nouri zadel,1376,76 ;Falsafi,1973, 106; Navaei,1360,108)These kings and Khans were omnipotents of this country, and they did whatever they liked. They treated inhumanity and inequity with the people, and the people had to pay a lot of heavy taxes. These performances caused that the east and west Armenia people revolted against them.

In the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Safavid government passed its terminal periods and this government had been threatened by the civil wars and the revolutions of nations under the dominance. In

1722, with falling of Safavids government, the Ottoman Empire was ready to its new progression and victory in Caucasian and Iran. In the same time, in 1721, Peter I, the Russia Czar, called himself as "the Great Peter", won the wars against the east European countries and Sweden. He began his war operations in order to get some goals. This war was to capture the west coasts of Caspian sea to gain trade benefits and the opposition with Ottoman empire over Caucasian. In the summer of 1722, the Russian military entered to Astarakhan (Haji Tarkhan) and attacked south and captured Caucasian and the next year, they captured Baku, Rasht, and many regions around the Caspian sea. In the last decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a lot of battles happened in Armenia and Georgia. This time was contemporary with the emersion of Ghajariyeh empire in Iran. It was a new event in history of relations between Iran and Armenia. (Nouri zade, 1376, 77-78)

As it was mentioned, Armenia was in the center of attention for different governments and tribes for its geographical situation and its strategic position. The old history of life traces reverted to the time before the history. Because the access to this region caused to get to the opportunity to catch way that it connected the east Europe with west Asia. On the other hand, Armenia was very important place as one of Silk Route inn for trade and economic connections. From the old period, the Ashour government and Iran and Rome's empires tried to access this region, the accessing on Armenia had very high benefits, it caused to make the threats of two governments easier. Of course, sometimes the keep of Armenia as one media government could open new policies for these two empires.

After the attacks of Arab to Iran and the occupation of the regions of old Rome and other areas, Armenia was in their aims to access too. These invasions were repeated in the Turkish and Tatar, Mogul and then Savafids and Ghajar governments. Armenian attempts and efforts were successful to establish an independent government during the different periods. This government –such as Bagrathonian families- caused to promote the Armenian culture and economics, and it brought peace and success for Armenia. This situation didn't last forever, and Armenia was under the foreign government's dominance during the different periods. The dominance of foreign government on Armenia that hadn't any especial love to this land caused to do many damages and losses in society, policy, economy and culture and etc, and it needed to so long time to recover and compensate these losses and damages. For these problems, according to its so old history, the Armenia people could only give the sobriety and

relaxation to this country when this country gained an independent government and independent identity.

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