

IMPORTANCE OF THE ARMENIAN TOPONYMS' ONTOLOGICAL INTEGRITY IN THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL SECURITY

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Armenian toponyms of the Armenian Highland¹ constitute an essential part of Armenia's historical resources. They symbolize the indigenous Armenian Nation's² cultural creation - the backbone of the Armenian statehood having more than five millennia old ethno-spiritual and civi-

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¹ In antique sources Armenia's natural environment is mentioned as *the Armenian mountains* [1, XI. 2. 15 et al], which in spiritual history are known as *the mountains of Ararat* (Gen. 8.4). Researching physical geographical, geomorphological and geological features of the orography of Armenia (Western and Eastern Armenia) Herman von Abich (1806-1886) introduced historically and scientifically grounded geographic term *Das Armenische Hochland* or *Bergland* (*the Armenian Highland*) [2].

² Since the 19th century the term *Armenoid* has been introduced in anthropology based on the study of the anthropological type of the Armenians and considering Armenia to be a focal area of its distribution from ancient times [3, p. 228, 240-244; 4, c. 7; 5, c. 25; 6, p. 11]. Th. Gamkrelidze and V. Ivanov proposed that "the Proto-Indo-European homeland of the 5th to 4th millennia B.C." could be "within eastern Anatolia, the southern Caucasus, and northern Mesopotamia..." and after the Indo-European linguistic community's fragmentation into dialect groups "the Greek-Armenian-Aryan dialect grouping began to crystallize", and "subsequently divided into Greek, Armenian, and Indo-Iranian..." [7, pp. 761, 791, 794]. But "eastern Anatolia" corresponds to *eastern Asia Minor*, "southern Caucasus" - to *the southern mountain ranges of the Caucasus* (to the north and east of the Kura), so the authors ought to denote the Armenian Highland. According to another opinion, based on the glottochronological analysis, Hittite lineage diverged from Proto-Indo-European around 8,700 years BP, "perhaps reflecting the initial migration out of Anatolia. Tocharian and the Greco-Armenian lineages are shown as distinct by 7,000 years BP" [8, pp. 435-438; cf. 9, pp. 957-960]. As is seen from the texts and sketch maps' inscriptions of these publications, the term "Anatolia" was applied not only to Asia Minor, but also incorrectly used instead of the term *Armenian Highland*.

lizational roots testified by archaeological monuments¹ and architectural relics, petroglyphs and cuneiform inscriptions et al.

Investigation of the ancient and medieval history of Armenia brought D. M. Lang to the following conclusion in his book *Armenia: Cradle of Civilization*: “The ancient land of Armenia is situated in the high mountains... Although Mesopotamia with its ancient civilizations of Sumeria and Babylon, is usually considered together with Egypt as the main source of civilized life in the modern sense, Armenia too has a claim to rank as one of the cradles of human culture. To begin with, Noah’s Ark is stated in the Book of Genesis to have landed on the summit of Mount Ararat, in the very centre of Armenia.... Armenia has a claim on our attention as one of the principal homes of ancient metallurgy, beginning at least five thousand years ago. Later on, Armenia became the first extensive kingdom to adopt Christianity as a state religion pioneering a style of Church architecture which anticipates our own Western Gothic” [15, p. 9].

Armenian toponyms, as important cognitive-protective factors of the national security system, constitute ontological integrity of the Armenian Highland’s historical geographic entity. Contrary to the historical reality, the Turkish hostile propaganda wages information warfare against the history and place names of Armenia and historical memory².

Turkish alterations and eradication of the Armenian toponyms were implemented in several stages. After the Turkish-Persian wars and

¹ In the Neolithic period obsidian was exported from Armenia to Mesopotamia and the countries of the Near East [10, p. 46]. Archaeological complexes (in Aghdznik, Tsopk, Bardzer Haik’, Ararat, Siunik, Gugark, Vaspurakan, Artsakh and other regions) of the Armenian Highland are evidence for the early agricultural and social-economic life in ancient Armenia of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods [11; 12, pp. 115-130], Bronze [13, 14, pp. 2-5 et al] and Iron Ages.

² Henry Theriault noted: “As the opening ontological considerations imply, a truly comprehensive understanding of the genocide of Armenians depends on attention to the broader genocidal process in the Ottoman Empire” and during the Young Turk and Kemalist regimes [16].

partitions of Armenia in the 16th and 17th centuries the Ottoman Empire undertook distortion of the toponyms of Western Armenia¹ and Cilician Armenia (Kilikia) as a result of expansionist policy, which was based on the bestial pan-Turkism ideology and over the course of time turned into the genocidal program against the indigenous Armenian nation resulting also in distortion of the western Armenian place names, which intensified since the emergence of the Armenian Question followed by the prohibition of using the name *Armenia* and the massacres of the Armenians in Western Armenia (1894-1896)² and Kilikia (1909)³. Turkish genocidal policy intensifying since the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the Ottoman Empire resulted in the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923⁴ committed by the Young Turk and Kemalist regimes [17; 21; 22] in Western Armenia, Kilikia and the Armenian-populated areas of Asia Minor [23 et al].

The Kemalist and successive governments of the Republic of Turkey have continued obliteration of the Armenian place names in Western Armenia and Kilikia forging the political-administrative map of the occupied territories⁵ by eliminating the native names, translating the

¹ Western part of Great Armenia, Armenia Minor and Armenian (Northern) Mesopotamia.

² W.J. Wintle, *Armenia and Its Sorrows*. Third edition, 1896, pp. 83-98. R. Safrastyan notes: "The first anti-Armenian program of genocidal nature appeared in the mid-90s of the 19th century. Its implementation ended in mass killings of the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire, with the number of victims totaling 300 thousand... The Young Turks, the Kemalists, right after coming into power, undertook drafting programs of genocidal nature" [17, pp. 114, 148].

³ 35.000 Armenians were massacred in Adana and the areas of Kilikia [18, pp. 5-6].

⁴ More than 1,5 million Armenians were killed and eight hundred thousand deported [19, c. 25; 20, pp. 24-25 et al].

⁵ "Cartographic war" [24; 25, էջ 9-25; 26, pp. 57-58] is waged also against history and historical geography of the lands far away from Armenia. Commenting on the militaristic, pan-Turanic policy during WWII A. A. Chichkin noted: "Indeed, along with military preparations of Turkey at the borders of the USSR, since the autumn of 1941 Turkish media also published geographic maps of the future state...", and with expansionist fever Turkish aggressors stated: "the border of Turkey is far away beyond the Caucasus and the Caspian Sea... Volga - the River, in which our ancestors watered their horses" [27].

indigenous place names into Turkish or inventing Turkish ones¹, alien to the indigenous Armenian environment.

In both the Soviet and post-Soviet periods falsifications of the history of Armenia and its place names have also been perpetrated in the artificially introduced unit of “Azerbaijan”. After the Artsakh Liberation War (1991-1994) the defeated aggressive Republic of Azerbaijan has been using these falsifications in the militaristic propaganda against the Republic of Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh).

Falsifications of the history and historical geography of Armenia, especially, toponymy of Western Armenia and Kilikia² are put into service of the genocide denial by the Turkish government, which spends millions for it [29]. Currently Turkey and Azerbaijan³ are going through a

¹ In this way archaeological sites of Western Armenia, including adjacent Armenian (Northern) Mesopotamia, Kilikia and Asia Minor are “presented” with falsified Turkish names. Touching on the subject of the state-sponsored discrimination in archaeology it is worth paying attention to the general methodological remarks expressed in the article “Archaeology in the service of the state: theoretical considerations” by Philip L. Kohl and Clare Fawcett (in a collection of articles “Nationalism, Politics and the Practice of Archaeology”): “... We particularly regret lack of coverage on the nationalist practices of archaeology in Israel, Turkey and other Middle Eastern countries... The articles collected here, however, are principally concerned with the *abuses* of the relationship between nationalist politics and archaeology... The case studies presented in this volume clearly show that archaeologists in the service of the state frequently have manipulated archaeological remains to justify the ownership of land claimed to have been held “from time immemorial” or to support politics of domination and control over neighboring peoples...” [28, pp. 3, 5, 8, 18]. If the authors took into account the state of affairs in the republics of Turkey and Azerbaijan, they would be convinced that Turkey – the perpetrator and the denier of the Armenian Genocide, as well as its ally Azerbaijan, share the top falsifiers and distorters in the fields of archaeology, history and toponymy. The criminal acts of appropriation of the indigenous archaeological monuments with the purpose to “create” non-existent “Turkey’s ancient history and civilization” have been perpetrated by genocide of culture: destruction of Armenian architectural monuments and obliteration of the native place names of archaeological and other historical sites in western part of the Armenian Homeland occupied by genocidal Turkey.

² Turkey committing the Armenian Genocide, continues occupation of Western Armenia and Kilikia. It occupied also western territories of Eastern Armenia [Ardahan, Kars region, Sarikamish, Ukhtik (Olty), Kagzvan, the ruins of Ani, Mount Ararat, Surmalu, Igdir and Koghb et al.] by the illegal and anti-Armenian treaties signed in Moscow (March 16) and Kars (October 13) between the Bolsheviks and Kemalists in 1921.

³ It still occupies some eastern Armenian territories [Nakhijevan, Goghtan, the most part of Utik province and some regions (Shahumyan region with Getashen Subregion and Gulistan, et al.) of Artsakh] as a result of the above mentioned notorious treaties, unlawful Kavburo decision (July 5, 1921), aggression and occupation in 1991-1992.

new spate of falsifications and distortions¹. There are solid academic publications criticizing the baseless denial of the Armenian Genocide [36]².

Since the invention of “the Turkish History Thesis” and till the present times the Turkish state’s ideological machine has been spreading disinformation in the world informational arena using political, financial and propaganda means³. At present it is continued through the criminal practices of the Turkish authorities which eradicate the names of the *Armenian Highland, Western Armenia* and many other Armenian place names, hydronyms and mountain names.

The complete system of the Armenian ethno-geographic names characterizes the natural historic environment and cultural and social-political history of **Armenia-Haiastan** - the cradle and the Homeland of the Armenian nation. Since the 3rd millennium BC and further the Armenian statehood (as represented by ancient and medieval kingdoms and principalities) has been attested in cuneiform, antique and medieval written sources with the names of *Aratta* [40; 41; 42; 43], *Armanum* [44, c. 64; 45, c. 32-33], *Haiasa* [46, էջ 453; 47; 48; 49]), *Nairi, Ararat (Urartu)-Van (Biaina), Armina* (cf. *Arminiya*) [50, p. 55], Ἀρμενία

¹The Republic of Turkey relies both on the genocidal experience of the Ottoman and the Young Turk regimes, and pseudo-scientific surrogate – “the Turkish History Thesis” of the pan-Turkic trend [for its fundamental criticism see: 30; 31, pp. 10-16; 32, pp. 131-153], which was fabricated under the supervision of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in the 1930s. Artificially formed “Azerbaijan’s” criminal record is based on genocidal actions in Baku (September 1918 and January 1991), Shushi (March, 1920), Sumgait, Kirovabad (Gandzak) (1988), Getashen (1991), Maragha (1992) and other places against the native Armenian population, the destruction of the Armenian architectural monuments and falsifications of the “Bunyatovshchina” type (from the 1960-80s up to date, grown by leaps and bounds of the Turkish Armenophobic policy) [33, c. 177-190; 34, c. 41-49; 35, c. 92, 158-162, 168, 175, 202-211, 221-222].

²Gregory H. Stanton, particularly, notes: “Denial, the final stage of genocide is best overcome by public trials and truth commissions, followed by years of education about the facts of the genocide, particularly for the children of the group or nation that committed the crime. The black hole of forgetting is the negative force that results in future genocides...” [37].

³For example see, Turgut Özal’s pseudo-politological book with very ambitiously falsified title: “Turkey in Europe and Europe in Turkey” and totally distorted “historical” context [38], which has been completely criticized by Jr. Speros Vryonis [39].

Μεγάλη (*Great Armenia*) and Ἀρμενία Μικρά (*Armenia Minor*) [51, V. 12. 1; 6. 18], Cilician Armenia (Kilikia)¹ et al. In this respect it is worth mentioning the Babylonian map of the world (7th - 6th cc. BC) and the maps of the world by Hecataeus of Miletus (550 – 476 BC), Herodotus (484-425 BC), Eratosthenes (276 – 195 BC)², the maps of Great Armenia and Armenia Minor by Claudius Ptolemy (83-161 AD), “Geography” of Strabo (64 BC – 24 AD) and other antique and medieval authors’ works, particularly, Movses Khorenatsi’s (5th century) “Ashkharhatsoyts”³, as valuable ancient and early medieval geographic and cartographic sources about the history and geography of Armenia.

According to Strabo, “The Euphrates... rises in the northern part of Taurus, and flows toward the west through Armenia the Great, as it is called, to Armenia Minor ... [1, XI. 12. 3; cf. 54, III. i. 17; v. 1] it leaves this and Commagene on the right hand; on the left Acilisene and Sophene, belonging to Great Armenia...” [1, XI. 12. 3; cf. 54, III. ii. 2; iii. 1)]. According to Claudius Ptolemy, Great Armenia “is terminated in the north by a part of Colchis, by Iberia, and Albania on the line which we have indicated as running along the Cyrus (Kura) river; on the west by Cappadocia along the accessible part of the Euphrates and the part of

¹ The Armenian statehood as manifested by the ancient and medieval kingdoms [generated and reigned by the Haikian (Haikazun) dynasty (from the 3rd millennium BC) and its branches (until I c. AD), the Armenian Arshakuni (until 428), the Haikazun-Sisakyan-Aranshahik (Vachagan the Pious of Artsakh, 484 - the mid-6th c.), the Bagratuni (885-1045) and its coeval and the subsequent ones (Vaspurakan, Kars-Vanand, Tashir-Dzoraget, Parisos, Siunik, then Kilikia (Principality – 1080-1197, Kingdom - 1198-1375)], and also manifested by the early and late medieval principalities (e.g. the Mamikonyans of Taron, Sasun and Taik, the Zakarians, the Arstakh Melikdoms et al.) had been based on the Armenian system of principalities.

² Eratosthenes: “The Tigris and Euphrates flow from Armenia to the south and enclose Mesopotamia” [53, p. 186].

³ Ashkharhatsoyts” [“Geography” or “World Atlas” - the geographic and cartographic description of Great Armenia, Armenia Minor, Armenian (Northern) Mesopotamia, neighboring and remote countries on the basis of the ancient and early medieval mapping of the “inhabited (or known) world” – *oikumene*] was edited and continued in the 7th century by famous Armenian geographer, mathematician, the founder of Armenian natural philosophic thought Anania Shirakatsi.

Pontus Cappadocia... on the east by a part of the Hyrcanium (Caspian) sea from the mouth of the Cyrus river... and by Media on the line leading to the Caspius mountains... on the south it is terminated by Mesopotamia... then by Assyria... The part of Armenia Minor farthest north is called Orbalisene, below this Aetulane, then Haeretica and below this Orsene and further south after Orsene is Orbisene...” [51, V. 12.1; 1, XII, 3. 29].

Great Armenia, Armenia Minor and Kilikia included correspondingly the whole territory of the Armenian Highland, adjacent hills of Armenian (Northern) Mesopotamia, as well as the coastal zones of the Black, Caspian and Mediterranean Seas.

A research on the Ottoman documents and publications revealed that “the government of Sultan Abdul Hamid II fallaciously substituted the name Armenia by such terms as Kurdistan¹ or Anatolia” [58, p. 12] and Turkish forgers started to use wrongly “Eastern Anatolia”² in relation to *Western Armenia*. They falsify even former Ottoman publications and maps in which Armenia had been mentioned [58, pp. 21-22].

¹The present-day Kurds sometimes are mistakenly confused with the inhabitants of ancient Korduk (Corduene) [55, p. 177]. But, Korduk was an Armenian region in Korchayk, the 6th province of Great Armenia [56, էջ 108]. As noted N. Adonts, “immigration of Kurd tribes into Armenia” started only since XVI c., as a result of Selim I’s expansionist policy [57, pp. 51-52].

²Continuing genocidal occupation and re-divisions of Western Armenia and Kilikia, the present-day administrative division of the Republic of Turkey had been established by the state-sponsored First Geography Congress, which was held in Ankara in 1941. Thus, the Turkish government continued the implementation of the plan to cover up the Armenian Genocide, at the same time, moving its military divisions to the borders of the Armenian SSR for purposes of aggression. Thus, Western Armenia was divided into the so-called “Eastern Anatolia” (“Upper Euphrates”, “Erzurum-Kars”, “Upper Murat-Van”, “Hakkari” Subregions), “Southeastern Anatolia” (“Middle Euphrates”, “Tigris” Subregions) Regions and “Eastern Black Sea Subregion”, and Kilikia was divided into “Adana” and “Antalya” Subregions of the “Mediterranean Region” [59]. Western Armenia has been wrongly called “Eastern Anatolia” in Turkish official documents and pseudo-scientific literature. An example of genocidal “territorial appropriation” propagandized in the Republic of Turkey is the program of “Turkish Geographical Society. Activity Report, 2010”, where a “three years plan” (2010-2013) includes activities “in homeland (Internal and East Anatolian Fieldwork...)”, i.e. occupied Western Armenia is presented criminally as an “homeland” of Turkic nomadic invaders and their descendants - the genocide perpetrators.

Contrary to such a fraud, the truth is that the word stem of the term “Anatolia” is the Greek word ANATOLH (“east”) [60, p. 123]¹ and “Anatolia” relates only to Asia Minor.

G. Ripley and Ch. A. Dana noted: “Asia Minor, a peninsula at the western extremity of Asia... bounded N. W. by the Dardanelles (the Hellespont of the ancients), N. by the sea of Marmora (Propontis), the Bosphorus, and the Black sea (Pontus Euxinus), E. by the Armenian mountains... S. by the Mediterranean, and W. by the Archipelago (the Aegean Sea)...”. With the same correct methodology Great Armenia and Armenia Minor are depicted to the east of Asia Minor on the map titled “Ancient Asia Minor” [63]².

Henry Lynch (1862–1913) also correctly wrote: “I have invited attention to the characteristics which Armenia shares in common with her neighbours in the series of the Asiatic tablelands, Persia on the east and Asia Minor on the west” [64, I, p. 439]. An adequate geographic perception is present also in “The Encyclopedia of World History”: “Asia Minor, or Anatolia, is a peninsula stretching westward from the Armenian mountains to the Aegean Sea, with the Black Sea to the north and the Mediterranean to the south ... Armenia is a mountainous region lying between the Black and Caspian Seas” and at the time of King Menua (810–786 BC) the Urartian (Araratian-E.D.) Kingdom included “the entire Armenian Highland area” [65, p. 46].

Thus, according to the historic sources and historiographical and geographical literature, *Anatolia* with all its parts (northern, southern,

¹ Byzantine imperial *theme* system in Asia Minor was formed since the middle of the 7th century to protect the Empire from the attacks of the expanding Arab caliphate [61, pp. 193, 194]. The *Anatolikon theme* [62, p. 73] was in central Asia Minor, being settled by the army of the East (ANATOLH).

² Ancient country names and aboriginal peoples of Asia Minor (Hatti, Hittites, Kasca, Kizzuwatna-Cilicia, Troada, Mysia, Bithynia, Aeolis, Ionia, Doris, Lydia, Caria, Lycia, Pisidia, Pamphylia, Phrygia, Lycaonia, Paphlagonia, Galatia, Pontus, Cappadocia) are quite well known from ancient and medieval sources and maps.

eastern and western) corresponds to Asia Minor situated to the west of the Armenian Highland [66, c. 14-15; 67, էջ 30-37].

The Turkish official circles' anti-Armenian policy of distortion and falsification of the Armenian geographic names is targeted at deleting from the historical memory the indigenous place names of the western part of the Armenian Homeland – Western Armenia and Kilikia, which suffered the genocidal devastation. D. M. Lang noted with distress: "It is difficult to convey the horror of events of 1915, as the Ottoman government set into action its design for genocide. In April 1915, the Armenian intellectual and community leaders in Istanbul (Constantinople-E.D.) were rounded up and transported in ships to their doom; among the victims were a number of priests, poets, doctors, and the great composer Komitas" [15, p. 288].

Toponymic destruction was also planned by the criminal organizers and perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide. On January 5, 1916, during the genocide Enver Pasha (Deputy Commander-in-Chief) sent a "Decree" to the Turkish military-political authorities with the following misanthropic demand:

“1. It is important to change into Turkish all the names of provinces, regions, villages, mountains and rivers belonging to Armenian, Greek, Bulgarian and other non-Muslim peoples. Making use swiftly of this favourable moment, we beseech your help in carrying out this order.

2. Cooperating with military commanders and administrative personnel within the boundaries of your jurisdiction, respective lists of name changes should be formed of provinces, regions, villages, etc. and be forwarded to military headquarters as soon as possible...

3. It is imperative that the new names reflect the history of our hard-working, exemplary and praiseworthy military... It should be

borne in mind that any sudden change of a conventional name into an inconvenient or improper one may bring about the continuation of using the old name by the population. Therefore, new names should be chosen taking all this into consideration...” [58, p. 14].

Clive Foss notes that the Turkish government “has been systematically changing the names of villages to make them more Turkish. Any name which does not have a meaning in Turkish, or does not sound Turkish, whatever its origin, is replaced by a banal name assigned by a bureau in Ankara, with no respect to local conditions or traditions” [68, p. 268]¹.

From the very beginning of their rule the Kemalist leaders and their accomplices in the Republic of Turkey used the former Turkish regimes’ genocidal experience and methods of falsification of the history of Armenia and toponymical distortions for the criminal denial of the Armenian Genocide. With regard to falsification of the history of Armenia by Esat Uras, Christopher Walker in his book-review unveiling the fallaciousness of Esat’s book, noted “Uras shows no understanding of the history or even the reality of Armenia” [69, p. 166]. Uras denies the Armenian Genocide by falsifying the Armenian history and historical geography [70, pp. 123, 155].

In some studies (with methodological manipulations) the obliteration and distortion of toponyms in Turkey were erroneously attributed to the so-called “nation-building projects in Turkey”, instead of unveiling their criminal background. For example, Asli Gür writes: “If we examine the relationship between the archaeological practices and the na-

¹ Examples of many thousands of changed and distorted names are “*Sipkor*” instead of Armenian Surb Grigor (St. Grigor), “*Göz*” instead of Arm. Kes (half), “*Muradie*” instead of Arm. Berkri, “*Murad-su*” instead of Arm. Aratsani, “*Bitlis*” instead of Arm. Baghesh, “*Bingyol*” instead of Arm. Byurakn, “*Sos Hüyük*” instead of Arm. Sosi, “*Aghri-dagh*” instead of Arm. Ararat-Masis and many others.

tion-building projects in Turkey since the early twentieth century, we see that dominant ideologies of nationalism influenced the way the names and images of archaeological sites and artifacts were appropriated and circulated publicly through icons, images, slogans, and stories...”, and presents Ataturk’s sponsored forgery as an act influenced by “dominant ideologies of nationalism” [71, p. 73], instead of defining it as a part of genocidal policy, because all the actions of “the Turkish state-building” have been motivated and led by discriminative, violent and illegal actions based on the criminal denial of the Armenian Genocide. The pseudo-scientific rhetoric of the author disguises the fact of the Turkish predatory policy, primarily with regard to the occupied Armenian territories and cultural heritage. Asli Gür had to remember that the heritages of other ethnic groups [Assyrians, Greeks (against whom the crime of genocide was also committed [20, p. 25]), as well as of those who passed away long ago (in the 2nd-1st millennia BC Hittites, Lydians, Phrygians and others)] have also been systematically plundered by the orders of Turkish authorities.

World history is fundamentally falsified in “the Turkish History Thesis”. Concerning its absurdity Clive Foss critically writes: “...**This might seem to be manifest nonsense**, especially as it was obvious that Chinese and Indians were not Turks. There was an easy explanation: the Turks arrived, brought civilization, then were absorbed by the local population”. Clive Foss reveals the goal of Kemal’s fraud: “Far more important for the future were developments in the Near East, which the migrating Turks entered by a route south of the Caspian. They brought irrigation and drainage to a land of swamps and established the first organized Turkish states and cities in Sumer and Elam. The Sumerians developed the world’s first writing system... using it to express their Turk-

ish language. Archaeology reveals the grandeur of their civilization. From there, around 5000 BC, Turks entered their holy land of Anatolia and a millennium later had established the Turkish Hittite (Eti) civilization; all this confirmed by excavations in Asia Minor. The language of the Hittites was Turkish, not Semitic or Indo-European...”. Unmasking the pan-Turkist background of Kemal’s fraud, Clive Foss, writes: “Atatürk’s accomplishments... owe much to the previous discredited regime, the CUP, the “Young Turks” who ran the country from 1908 until the end of the First World War. They... had ideas that find resonance in the Thesis. Their great nationalist ideologue, Ziya Gökalp (1876 -1924), wrote an immensely popular poem describing how the five sons of the ancestral Türk Han rode out from Central Asia to establish the Sumerian, Hittite, Chinese, Indian and Scythian civilizations. Schoolbooks in use in these years presented the Turks... as one of the most ancient nations, originators of agriculture, textiles, and metal tools and weapons. Radiating from Central Asia, they founded states and supported the arts and sciences... The Thesis exercised an influence that has not completely disappeared” [31, pp. 13, 16].

Moreover, pseudo-scientific “interpretations” of history and falsifications of toponyms involved even some archaeologists and historians from other countries who fed grist to the mill of Turkish forgers of history. Such politicized activities resulted, for example, in publication of pseudo-scientific books entitled “Ancient Turkey: a Traveller’s History” (1989, 1999) by Seton Lloyd [72] and “Ancient Turkey” by Antonio Sagona and Paul E. Zimansky [73], where the terms “*Eastern Turkey*”, “*Eastern Anatolia*” and many other modern Turkish names have been falsely used [74] instead of ancient and medieval Armenian toponyms of western part of the Armenian Highland. Thus, archaeo-

logical materials are politicized by falsifications and as a result of such discriminating activities ancient cultural heritage of Western Armenia has been brutally plundered¹.

In contrast to the falsified concept of “ancient Turkey”, the progressive British², French, Russian figures in the 17th-20th cc. associated cultural-spiritual perception of Armenia with the Biblical Paradise and the cradle of mankind and civilization³ expressing their inspiration for Armenia⁴ and its spiritual roots in history. A spiritual concept concerning *Ararat* and *Armenia* was observed in British [78, pp. 40, 70], as well as in French religious literature (e.g.: “L’Arménie revendique pour elle l’honneur d’avoir été le pays choisi par Dieu pour y créer l’Eden; aux sources de ces quatre fleuves... Noé sortit de l’arche et descendit jusqu’au pied du mont Ararat... L’ Arménie doit être considérée comme le berceau du monde” [79, p. 590⁵] concerning *Ararat* and *Armenia* [80, I, pp. 18, 354; 81, p. 403; 82, t₂ 3-13].

¹Turkish and Azerbaijani falsifications in archaeology may be exemplified by the following spurious publication: “Azerbaijan - Land between East and West. Transfer of knowledge and technology during the „First Globalization“ of the VII-IV millennium BC International Symposium Baku, April 1-3 2009 [75]. Archaeological sites of Armenia are falsely presented as if located in “Eastern Anatolia” and “Azerbaijan” by the Turkish and Azerbaijani forgers, appropriating abominably the cultural heritage of Western and Eastern Armenia But, in reality, on the one hand, the term “Eastern Anatolia” has nothing to do with the territory of the Armenian Highland, which is to the east of Asia Minor, and, on the other hand, the name of “Azerbaijan” historically corresponds only to the Iranian province of Adarbaigan-Azerbaijan, i.e. ancient Atropatene, which was to the south-east of Great Armenia.

²The British spiritual and cognitive interest towards Armenia was earlier reflected in the Hereford Mappa Mundi (“unique in Britain’s heritage, an outstanding treasure of the medieval world, it records how thirteenth-century scholars interpreted the world in spiritual as well as geographical terms...” [76]. The Hereford Mappa Mundi - World map reflects the Biblical perceptions of Armenia: Noah’s Ark in the mountains of Armenia, Armenia Superior (Great), Armenia Minor.

³Père Dom Augustin Calmet, George Gordon Byron, M. J. Saint-Martin, Marie-Félicité Brosset, Sergei Glinka, Valery Bryusov, Sergey Gorodetsky, A. H. Sayce Arnold J. Toynbee, David M. Lang et al.

⁴Movses Khorenatsi’s works (“History of Armenia” from ancient times till the beginning of 440 AD and Ashkharhatsoyts”) were translated into Latin by Gulielmus & Georgius, Gul. Whistoni brothers [77].

⁵It is a later edition of The Dictionary by Calmet (1672-1757).

Lord Byron wrote about the Armenians and Armenia: “Whatever may have been their destiny - and it has been bitter - whatever it may be in future, their country must ever be one of the most interesting on the globe; and perhaps their language only requires to be more studied... It is a rich language... If the Scriptures are rightly understood, it was in Armenia that Paradise was placed... It was in Armenia that the flood first abated, and the dove alighted” [83, pp. 8, 10-12].

British Assyriologist and linguist A.H. Sayce wrote with great accuracy in the usage of the names Armenia, Ararat, Van, Vannic Kingdom and kings. He wrote: “It is now more than half a century ago that the existence of inscriptions written in the Cuneiform character, and found in different parts of Armenia, first became known. The French Professor, Saint-Martin, in 1823, gave an account in the *Journal Asiatique* of the antiquities of Van, and drew attention to the fact that the Armenian historian, Moses [Movses] of Khorene, had described them in such detail as to make it probable he had seen them with his own eyes” [84, p. 377]¹.

Unlike A. Sayce, who defined the period of the Kingdom of Van as “the forgotten early history of Armenia”, S. Lloyd entitled his book’s

¹ Despite Western Armenia being occupied by the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century, Sayce mentioned Armenia in relation to western and eastern parts of the country. He noted in particular: “Sir A.H. Layard had already visited Armenia in 1850, at the time when he was excavating in Assyria, and had there made copies of the inscriptions in Van and its immediate neighbourhood... Inscriptions in the Vannic character now began to be noticed to the north and east of Armenia”. Later Sayce again mentioned Armenia and Ararat in connection with Van and the cuneiforms discovered there: “Inscription of Menuas, King of Ararat, in the Vannic language...”. In another his work published in 1888 (*Records of the Past, Being English Translations of the Ancient Monuments of Egypt and Western Asia*) he mentioned “...kings who ruled on the shores of Lake Van in Armenia, from the ninth to the seventh centuries before our era”. Sayce used correct toponyms, adequate to Armenia’s historic heritage. Sayce mentioned the sites in Western and Eastern Armenia where inscriptions had been found, noting: “It is to the period of Shalmaneser II... that we must refer the date of the introduction of the cuneiform syllabary into Armenia” [84, p. 385, 388, 389, 394, 402, 405].

Chapter 10: “Urartu: a Long-Forgotten Nation” and wrote: “In addition to all the Anatolian provinces north or east of the Upper Tigris and Euphrates¹, it occupied large parts of what are now Soviet Armenia² and Iranian Azerbaijan”³. He baselessly considered the name “Urartu”, as if “wrongly spelt as Ararat”⁴, and used many Armenian geographic names of Western Armenia - Mt. Sipan, Mt. Nemrut, Eriza, Eraskh/Arax, Aratsani, Archesh, Manazkert in distorted Turkish forms: Süpan, Nemrut Dag, Erzincan, the Aras, the Murat Su, Ercis, Malazgirt, etc. S. Lloyd also applied wrongly the term “Anatolia” to western part of the territory of Armenia⁵, writing: “... this highland of eastern Turkey” or “eastern Anatolia” [72, pp. 94, 98, 109]⁶. Another example of the influence of the Turkish expansionist falsified “geographical nomenclature” is A. Khurt’s book, where the western part of the Armenian Highland is wrongfully

¹ In reality this territory corresponds to Western Armenia. S. Lloyd had to know about history and geography of Armenia reading A. Toynbee’s works: “The Armenians are perhaps the oldest established of the civilized races in Western Asia... Their home is the tangle of high mountains between the Caspian, the Mediterranean, and the Black Seas. Here the Armenian peasant has lived from time immemorial the hard working life he was leading till the eve of this ultimate catastrophe. Here a strong, civilized Armenian kingdom was the first state in the world to adopt Christianity as its national religion.... The Armenian is not only an industrious peasant; he has a talent for handicraft and intellectual pursuits... The Armenian has lost the undivided possession of his proper country... the original Armenia, east of the upper Euphrates and north of the Tigris... the intermittent sufferings of the Armenian race have culminated in an organized, cold-blooded attempt on the part of its Turkish rulers to exterminate it once and for all by methods of inconceivable barbarity and wickedness”[85, pp. 17-19.].

² This mention is from the previous publication (1989) of the book by Seton Lloyd; this part was not edited in the publication of 1999.

³ Iranian Azerbaijan, i.e. ancient Atropatene, to the south-east of Lake Urmia.

⁴ It is an incorrect opinion, because “Urartu” is an Assyrian form of the original Armenian name *Ararat*.

⁵ Seton Lloyd mentioned only *Soviet Armenia*, which included a part of Eastern Armenia.

⁶ An example of geographically incorrect presentation of archaeological data is the following interpretation. The territory characterized by the term “Golden Triangle” (the 11th-7th millennia BC) was denoted lying in Northern Syria, “southeast of Anatolia” and western Zagros [86, pp. 80-82]. But the expression “southeast of Anatolia” is wrongly used instead of *the South-West* of the Armenian Highland and the adjacent northern Mesopotamian territory, where archaeological monuments of the earliest civilizational significance were discovered [87].

called “eastern Anatolia” [88, pp. 547–562]. Falsifications are obvious, because “Anatolia” never covered territory larger than Asia Minor.

The most overwhelming contradictions in abortive attempts of the Turkish falsifiers and their accomplices to “revise history” in accordance with their maniacal “visions” are determined by the fact that their ancestors Seljuk and Oguz Turkic nomadic tribes¹ (from the trans-Altai and trans-Aral regions) had violently invaded Armenia, the Byzantine Empire and the adjacent lands from the second half of the 60s of the 11th c., and the Ottomans - in the 13th c.², thus they had no association with the ancient and medieval history or original toponymy of Armenia, Asia Minor, the territories on the left bank of the Kura³ and so on. Since the beginning of their invasions till the present time, devastations, plunder and annihilation of Armenian historical relics have been carried out on the lands occupied by those nomads and their savage descendants⁴.

¹ Alan Palmer noted: “Originally the Turks were nomadic horsemen from Central Asia...” [89, p. 2].

² Their “eponym, ‘Osmān, was the son of a certain Ertoghrl who had led into Anatolia (Asia Minor - E.D.) a nameless band of Turkish refugees: an insignificant fragment of the human wreckage...” [90, p. 151]. Some expressions from this extract were wrongly changed by D.C. Somervell, so the meaning of this passage unjustifiably underwent a change in the abridged version of the book (“...of *one* Ertoghrl *the leader of a nameless band of refugees*...” [91, p. 113].

³ The boundary between Great Armenia and Aluank proper (in Armenian sources) (“Albania”, in antique sources) was along the Kura (I, XII, 3. 29). Paytakaran (the eleventh of the 15 provinces of Great Armenia [56, էջ 109]) was to the south of the Kura and the Eraskh (Arax) rivers, bordered on the south-east by the Caspian Sea and on the south by Atropatene.

⁴ The American journalist R. D. Kaplan witnessed the destruction of the Armenian civilization in Western Armenia, where he traveled, reaching Trapezunt. He wrote that except for an occasional ruin “every trace of Armenian civilization has been erased...” [92, p. 318]. At the dawn of the 21st century, after innumerable assaults of the previous decades, the surviving clusters of many thousand Armenian cross-stones (khachkars) in the Armenian Cemetery of Old Jugha (modern Julfa) (in the ancient Armenian *gavar* Goghtan to the south-east of the Nakhijevan *gavar*) were destroyed, by the sanctions of the criminal Azerbaijani authorities [93]. New evidences of the programmed annihilation of the Armenian cultural heritage are the turning of Saint Arakelots (Apostles) Armenian Church into a mosque, the destruction of the old Armenian houses in Mush (in Taron gavar, Western Armenia) in 2013 [94] et al.

After the Artsakh Liberation War the defeated Azerbaijani aggressors and their henchmen cling to falsifications using them for the resumption of war propaganda¹. Anti-Armenian hostility and aggressive practice is characteristic to Azerbaijani “history” inventors fabricating a forged “history” in complete disregard of historical sources and the existing international research². V. Zakharov has criticized a number of Azerbaijani publications that falsify history of Armenia, Russia and other countries³.

Completely falsified Azerbaijani school “history” textbooks are full of aggressiveness and hatred against Armenia, as evidenced in one of such

¹ Anti-Armenian harangues by I. Aliev, the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan, are a manifestation of the state-sanctioned official policies intended to counterfeit history. At the annual general meeting of the NAS of Azerbaijan (26/04/2011) he ordered his “academician-historians” to increase the number of “solid scientific works that Nagorno Karabakh is an ancient and indigenous Azerbaijani land” [95]. Criticizing falsification mania that Azerbaijan’s president is possessed with, V. Zakharov wrote: “In the heat of the moment, Ilham Aliev resorts to anti-historical statements... for him, a graduate of Moscow State Institute of International Relations, it is a shame not to know history... The Azerbaijani leader on 20/11/ 2009 cynically declared: “... Irevan khanate, Zangezur makhal are Azerbaijani lands... The Armenian state was created on Azerbaijani soil. Now they want to create the second one. It defies all logic, the Azerbaijani people, the Azerbaijani state will never agree with it”. Condemning anti-historic fever of I. Aliev, V. Zakharov notes: “It is a shame to read this historical nonsense... The underlying meaning is evident in this speech: Aliev tries to substantiate the Azerbaijani side’s claims not only to Karabakh, but also to the territory of the Republic of Armenia” [96, c. 4, 53-58].

² Azerbaijani aggressive leadership and pseudo-historians, following their Turkish “brethren”, also distort the history and geography of Armenia, fabricating the term “Western Azerbaijan”, as is seen, for example, from the antiscientific book “Monuments of Western Azerbaijan” published in Baku [97]. This bellicose ignorance is a complete falsification of the Armenian history. As notes R. Galichyan, “the editors of this megalomaniac fantasy are Azerbaijani academicians... who, contrary to their academic calling have carried deceit and fabrication to the extreme” [98, p. 12].

³ Their authors try to ascribe the history of neighbouring countries to artificial Azerbaijan, particularly, stealing the history of Armenia. In this sphere very active is the head of the president I. Aliev’s administration R. Mekhtiev. Paying attention to the absurdity of his notorious article “Goris-2010 the season of the theatre of the absurd” (it was republished from the newspaper «Бакинский рабочий» in a collection of articles [99, c. 7-51]. [The criticism of this absurd concoction see: 100; 101, c. 90-110]), V. Zakharov concluded: “Such literature is not read in any respectable western academic center. The Baku publication samples handed to participants of any forum, remain in hotel rooms or end up in dustbins” [96, c 130-150].

obscurantist “productions”: “Modern Armenia emerged on the territory of ancient Western Azerbaijan” [102, c. 4.]¹. But the fact is that only since the middle of 1918 the name “Azerbaijan”² has been illegally and falsely applied to a territory (eastward from the Kura to the Caspian Sea shore) out of Iranian Azerbaijan. Thus, all the delirious stuff that the present-day Azerbaijani pseudo-historians fabricate about the so-called “Western” or “Northern Azerbaijan” is a complete gibberish³.

¹ Azerbaijani text-books’ fabrications are criticized sharply by Russian historians [103, c. 5-6, 24-26, 58, 69-70, 242]. Criticizing the attempts to eradicate historical memory, as a component of information warfare, it has been noted: “Current trends of manipulation and erasing the national memory prove that technologies of information-ontological warfare and “nation building” are most likely applied in this area” [104, էջ 28].

² This name has been stolen from Iranian Adarbaigan/Azerbaijan (ancient Atropatene, which historically has nothing to do with the present-day Republic of Azerbaijan). Ancient Atropatene was to the south-east of the Kingdom of Great Armenia (Strabo, XI, 13, 1). Centuries later, at the end of May 1918 appeared “Eastern-Caucasian Muslim Republic” [105, էջ. 285] or “the Tartar Republic of Azerbaijan” [106; 107] etc., as a result of pan-Turkic projects. The Musavatist bandit “state” with support of Turkish troops carried out hostile actions against the First Republic of Armenia and her native and integral part Artsakh. Artificial “Azerbaijan” had a heterogeneous population a part of which consisted of alien Turkic speaking Muslims. They were mentioned as “Caucasian” or “Transcaucasian Tatars” in the statistical materials (the late 19th c. – early 20th c.) of the former Russian Empire [108, p.14]. In the Soviet period (from 28 April 1920) artificially used name “Azerbaijan” again was sharply politicized with the aim of annexing Iranian Azerbaijan [109, c. 703, 775-776]. In the 1920s the Turkic-speaking part of the Azerbaijan SSR’s population was called “Turks” in official materials of the population census of the USSR [110, c. 641]. Only since the end of the 1930s appeared the term “Azerbaijanis” in the Azerbaijan SSR, according to the population census of the USSR [111, c.440] and a fabrication of history was intensified. “Azerbaijani” fakers distort the history of Armenia, proper Aluank (on the left bank of the Kura) and Iranian Atropatene. Permanent distortion of history by the Baku falsifiers poses a threat in the region. In the course of decades, the Iranian official circles, politicians and literary figures claiming “that this small region in the Caucasus... has another name and has never been called Azerbaijan”, protested against stealing the name of Iranian Azerbaijan [112, pp. 66-67; 98, p. 7]. As it is noted, “...Tehran has shown... extreme concern with prospects of the rise of sentiments calling for union between the “two Azerbaijans” ” [113, p. 61].

³ Azerbaijani pseudo-historians falsify the history and geography of Armenia with unbridled ignorance, distorting the Armenian name of Erebuni-Erevan and many other geographic names, and fabricate “history” for artificially shaped “Azerbaijan” that had been non-existent in ancient, medieval and modern times. For example, in her pseudo-scientific book F. Mamedova distorts history and geography, artificially narrowing the territory of Armenia and the Armenian Highland, thus wrongfully applying the term “Albania” to the territory of Eastern Armenia, etc. Such manipulations with geographic names demonstrate her complete ignorance in history and historical geography. She falsifies geographic position of Armenia, writing: “Armenia is on the territory of Asia Minor”, “... Armenian principalities on the territory of Eastern Anatolia” [114, c. 15, 118, 195, 196, 646]. F.Mamedova’s book is a total mess, where history and geography are completely falsified.

Turkish falsification of the Armenian history, demolition and appropriation of the historical relics have gone in parallel with erasing Armenian place names, as an indication of the genocidal policy. The uprooting millennia-old original toponyms of Western Armenia and Kilikia has been carried out with the purpose to redraw their political-demographic mapping and to cover up the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish occupants are horrified of the Armenian place names of Western Armenia and Kilikia, which are the reminders of genocide and living evidence for reparations¹.

The governments of Turkey and Azerbaijan spend enormous financial resources for falsifications of the history and historic geography of Armenia. It shows the supreme power of authentic reality of the Armenian history, toponymy and the historic memory as overwhelming resources of national security.

Thus, the historical and geographical terminology of the Armenian Highland, constituting ontological integrity of the place names, belongs to the pivotal layer of the Armenian ethnolinguistic mentality. Toponyms represent the Armenian natural historic environment and cultural heritage's significance, possessing fundamental importance. The guarantors of the Armenian toponyms' protection are the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh).

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¹The Armenian demand for the restoration of historical justice and the return of native lands - Western Armenia and Kilikia (occupied by Turkey) is in the basis of the Armenian Genocide reparations and restitutions [115; cf.116, pp. 27-30]. A.de Zayas noted: “The Turkish State remains liable for the crimes committed by the Ottoman Empire... the obligation of the genocidal State to make reparation, does not lapse with time” [20, pp. 12, 41; cf. 117, էջ 76-86; 118, էջ 10-34].

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