



Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region

Education Committee

Recommended Book List for Middle School & High School Level Students

The following books may be found on Amazon and primarily focus on the cultural heritage of Armenia from antiquity to contemporary times. Descriptions were taken from Amazon and other similar sources. The list is comprised of two sections: publications regarding the American-Armenian Diaspora and that of elsewhere, and another for publications regarding the history and culture of Armenia.

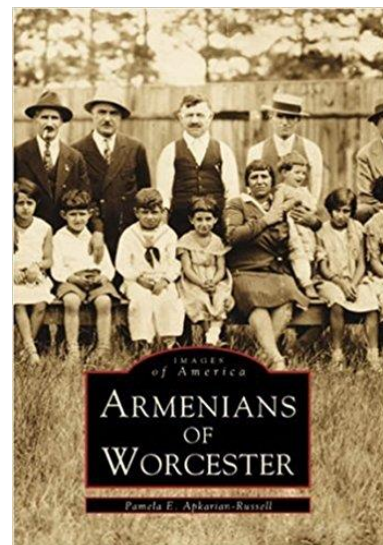
Publications of Armenian Diaspora in the U.S. and Elsewhere:

Armenians of Worcester by Pamela E. Apkarian-Russell

Description: At the beginning of the twentieth century, millions

of immigrants came to the United States in search of a better life and greater opportunities for their families. However, the Armenians who came to Worcester between 1894 and 1930 were escaping a devastating genocide that tore their country apart. What they found and how they became an integral part of Worcester culture and history is the story found in *Armenians of Worcester*. Worcester was a mecca for many Armenians, who had escaped with little more than their lives. There were mills that provided work, and there was a growing number of Armenians who were struggling to make sense of what had happened in their homeland. The first Armenian Apostolic church and the first Armenian Protestant church in America were both in this city, and both helped to build new foundations for a community that was to enrich the city and slowly resurrect the art, theater, music, and food that celebrates the Armenian culture. The Armenian picnics that were an integrating influence in the early years continue even today as a gathering of clans and all who join in on these days of celebration.

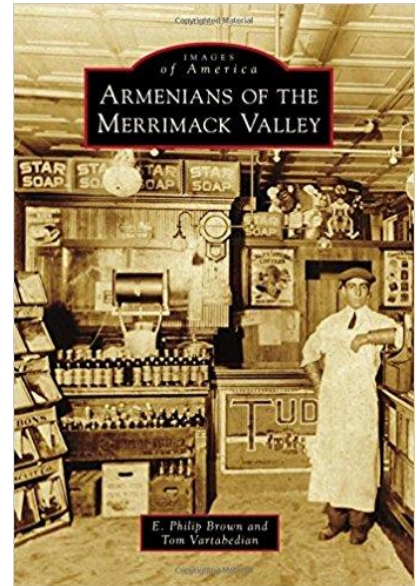
Publication Year: 2000



***Armenians of Merrimack Valley* by E. Philip Brown and Tom Vartabedian**

Description: When one thinks of the Merrimack Valley, shoe shops and mills come to mind. For that reason, it was a hotbed for Armenian immigrants following World War I and the genocide that robbed Armenia of half its population, with some 1.5 million victims lost at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish Empire and another million people uprooted from their homes and scattered to a Diaspora. Many of these refugees came to the Merrimack Valley settling in the cities of Haverhill, Lawrence, and Lowell to eke out a better life for themselves and their families. Aside from sweatshop labor, they sought work as barbers and mercenaries, business owners and handymen, going to night school for better English standards and keeping their rich heritage and culture intact with their churches and community centers. Despite the discrimination they faced with their strange names and lifestyles, the Armenians remained tenacious and resilient, contributing to the overall welfare of their new promised land.

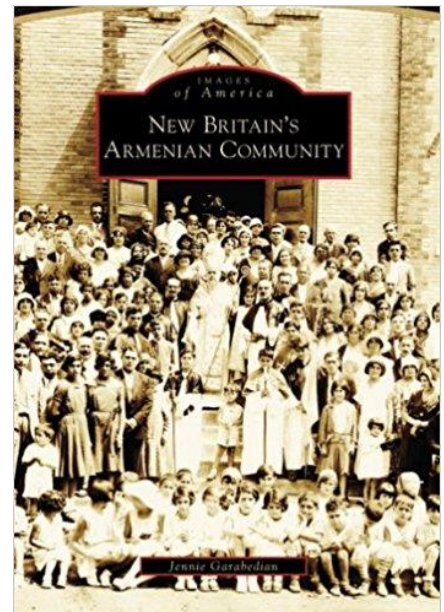
Publication Year: 2016



***New Britain's Armenian Community* by Jennie Garabedian**

Description: In 1926 New Britain, Armenian immigrants gathered to consecrate the first Armenian church in Connecticut, coming together to celebrate their future in the New World and put their tragic past behind them. Victims of the first genocide of the 20th century, Armenians came to the Hardware City in great numbers during the 1920s. It was there they found work, freedom, and safety. Most were orphaned children or members of families separated by geography. Their first order of business was to establish a church, historically the center of Armenian society. As their numbers grew, they thrived. At its peak, the Armenian community boasted drama, choral, dance, and sports groups. They became Americans, serving their new country in war and in peace, but never forgot their roots. New Britain's Armenian Community documents their journey from terror and dislocation to security and freedom.

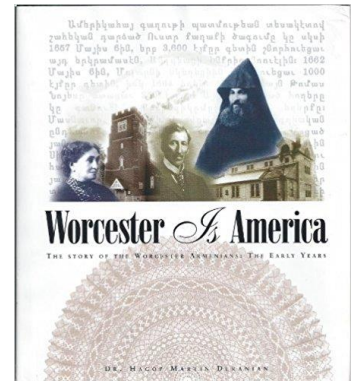
Publication Year: 2008



***Worcester is America; The Story of Worcester's Armenians: The Early Years* by Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian**

Martin Deranian's richly detailed and richly illustrated study of the early Armenian community in Worcester is at once an account of the first major Armenian American settlement, a case study in immigrant adjustment, and a testament to the bravery and dedication of the Armenian newcomers in a strange land.

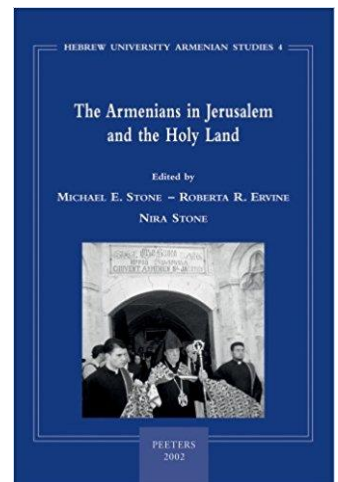
Publication Year: 1998



***The Armenians in Jerusalem and The Holy Land* by Michael Edward Stone**

Description: The Armenian presence in the Holy Land can be traced back to Christianity's first centuries. The first monastery there was established by an Armenian, St Euthymius. It has been prominent and sustained through all the vicissitudes of this stormy country and the Armenian Quarter is an integral and distinctive part of Jerusalem's Old City today. The Armenians in Jerusalem and the Holy Land assembles essays by the world's leading authorities on numerous aspects of this ancient, richly traditional community. The essays were prepared on occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the program in Armenian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

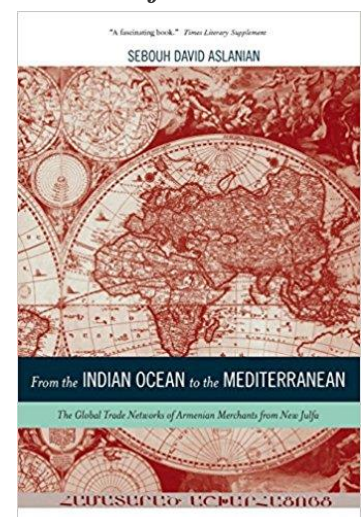
Publication Year: 2002



***From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa* by Sebouh David Aslanian**

Description: This study explores the emergence and growth of a remarkable global trade network operated by Armenian silk merchants from a small outpost in the Persian Empire. Based in New Julfa, Isfahan, in what is now Iran, these merchants operated a network of commercial settlements that stretched from London and Amsterdam to Manila and Acapulco. The New Julfa Armenians were the only Eurasian community that was able to operate simultaneously and successfully in all the major empires of the early modern world—both land-based Asian empires and the emerging sea-borne empires—astonishingly without the benefits of an imperial network and state that accompanied and facilitated European mercantile expansion during the same period. Among other topics, it explores the effects of long distance trade on the organization of community life, the ethos of trust and cooperation that existed among merchants, and the importance of information networks and communication in the operation of early modern mercantile communities.

Publication Year: 2014

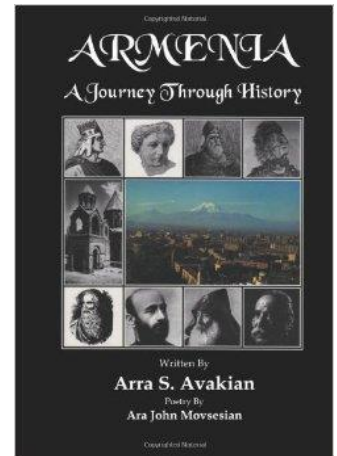


Publications of History and Culture of Historic Armenia and Republic of Armenia:

***Armenia: A Journey through History*, by Arra S. Avakian,
contributed by Ara John Movsesian**

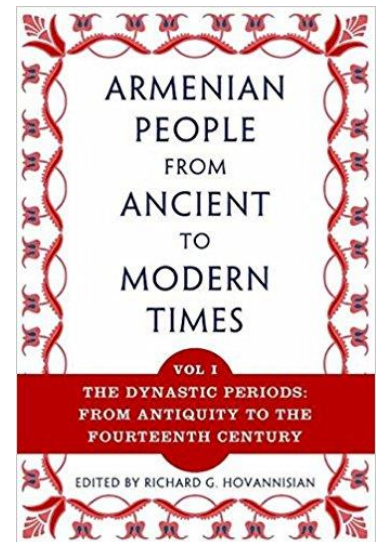
Armenia: A Journey through History contains a wealth of information about the Armenian people, history, significant events, important places, and individuals who did much to make the Armenian nation what it is.

Publication Year: 2008



***The Armenian People from Ancient to Modern Times: The Dynastic Periods: From Antiquity to the Fourteenth Century (Volume I)* by Richard G. Hovannisian**

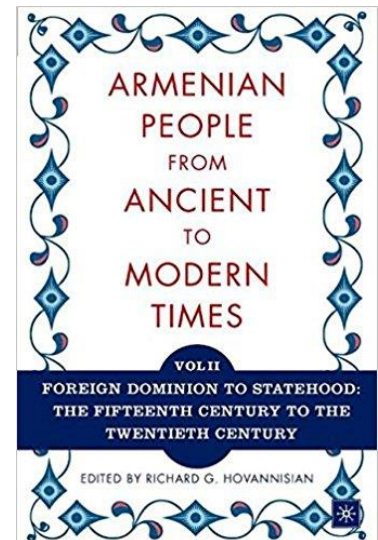
Description: Edited by the leading historian of the Republic of Armenia, this is the definitive history of an extraordinary country - from its earliest foundations, through the Crusades, the resistance to Ottoman and Tsarist rule, the collapse of the independent state, its brief re-emergence after World War I, its subjugation by the Bolsheviks, and the establishment of the new Republic in 1991. Written by the foremost experts on each period in Armenia's history, this book is a major contribution to understanding the complexities of Transcaucasia. Armenia is a cradle of civilization situated on one of the world's most turbulent crossroads. This volume examines the question of Armenian origins and traces domestic and international relations, society and culture through the five dynastic periods, spanning nearly two thousand years. The challenge facing the Armenian people was to maintain as much freedom as possible under the shadow of powerful neighboring empires. The adoption of Christianity had a permanent impact on the course of Armenian history and culture. These were the heroic, colorful and harsh feudal centuries of Armenia.



Publication Year: 2004

***The Armenian People from Ancient to Modern Times: Foreign Dominion to Statehood: The Fifteenth Century to The Twentieth Century (Volume II)* by Richard G. Hovannisian**

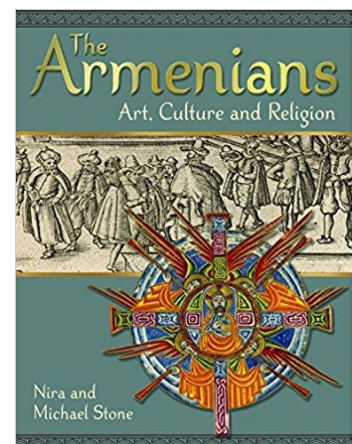
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Publication Year: 2004

***The Armenians: Art, Culture, and Religion* by Nira Stone and Michael Stone**

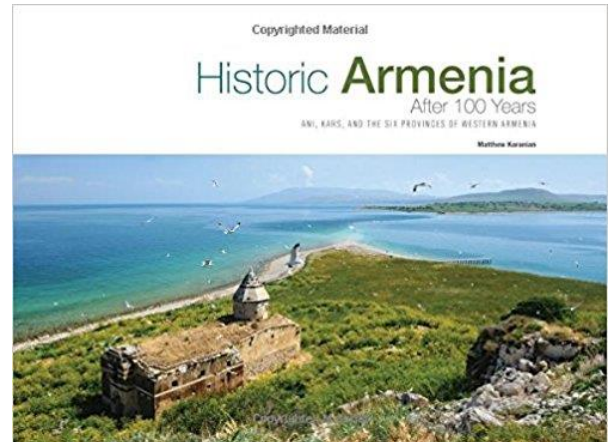
Description: This volume takes as its starting point the internationally important collection of Armenian illuminated manuscripts in the collection of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin. The authors have selected over 20 of the rarest and most beautiful manuscripts to tell the history of the Armenian people, their art and literature.



Publication Year: 2007

Historic Armenia After 100 Years: Ani, Kars and the Six Provinces of Western Armenia
by Matthew Karanian

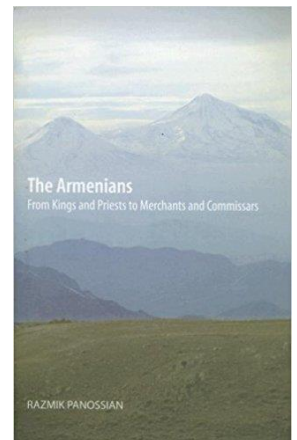
Description: In the groundbreaking new book *Historic Armenia After 100 Years*, author Matthew Karanian celebrates the Armenia that has avoided destruction: its monuments, churches, and people-- the hidden Armenians who have persevered in the face of persecution. *Historic Armenia After 100 Years* shines a light on the Western Armenia that defies eradication, and leads us on a journey of rediscovery. For the first time since the Armenian Genocide, the cultural wealth of the Armenian nation in Western Armenia is presented in one readable and beautifully illustrated volume.



Publication Year: 2015

The Armenians: From Kings and Priests to Merchants and Commissars
by Razmik Panossian

Description: Panossian explores a series of landmark events, among them Armenians' first attempts at liberation, the Armenian renaissance of the nineteenth century, the 1915 genocide of the Ottoman Armenians, and Soviet occupation. He shows how these influences led to a "multilocal" evolution of Armenian identity in various places in and outside of Armenia, notably in diasporan communities from India to Venice. Today, these numerous identities contribute to deep divisions and tensions within the Armenian nation, the most profound of which is the cultural divide between Armenians residing in their homeland and those who live in the United States, Canada, the Middle East, and elsewhere. Considering the diversity of this single nation, Panossian questions the theoretical assumption that nationalism must be homogenizing. Based on extensive research conducted in Armenia and the diaspora, including interviews and translation of Armenian-language sources, *The Armenians* is an engaging history and an invaluable comparative study.

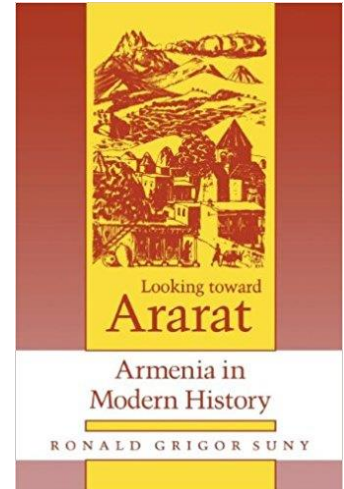


Publication Year: 2006

***Looking toward Ararat: Armenia in Modern History* by Ronald Grigor Suny**

Description: Ronald Grigor Suny traces the cultural and social transformations and interventions that created a new sense of Armenian nationality in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Perceptions of antiquity and uniqueness combined in the popular imagination with the experiences of dispersion, genocide, and regeneration to forge an Armenian nation in Transcaucasia. Suny shows that while the limits of Armenia at times excluded the diaspora, now, at a time of state renewal, the boundaries have been expanded to include Armenians who live beyond the borders of the republic.

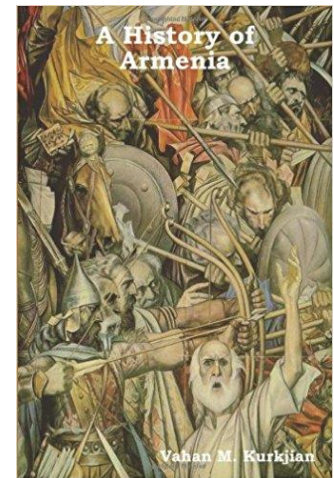
Publication Year: 1993



***A History of Armenia* by Vahan M. Kurkjian**

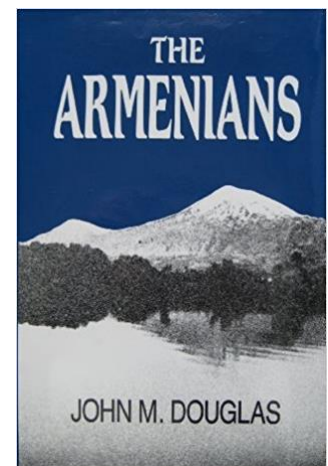
Description: The volume is an easy reading and a must for the beginner student and interested party of the history of Armenia as well as for those more familiar with Armenian and its history. The author, an expert on Armenian history, has masterfully covered all aspects of the Armenian history such as Armenian literature, Armenian Church, the history of Armenian old and modern language, architecture, sculpture, music etc. along with all the historical events, starting from the beginning of the human civilization and that of Armenian one to the modern era of Armenia.

Publication Year: 2014



***The Armenians* by John M. Douglas**

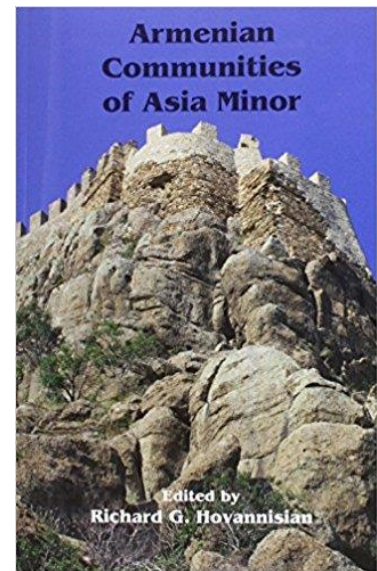
Publication Year: 1992



***Armenian Communities of Asia Minor* by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The Armenian communities of western Asia Minor were far removed from the historic Armenian territories on the great highland plateau far to the east and the fertile Cilician plain bordering the Mediterranean Sea to the south. These communities were relatively new, dating to the later centuries of the Byzantine Empire and the early centuries of the Ottoman Empire. Armenian movement into this area near the Sea of Marmara and Constantinople was prompted primarily by the turbulence in the traditional Armenian homelands by the Turkic and Mongol invasions in the eleventh through thirteenth centuries, the fall of the Armenian Cilician kingdom to the Mamluks in the fourteenth century, and the ruin and devastation caused by the Ottoman-Persian wars in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In time, scores of Armenian villages and small towns sprang up in a broad arc of about 100 miles around Constantinople.

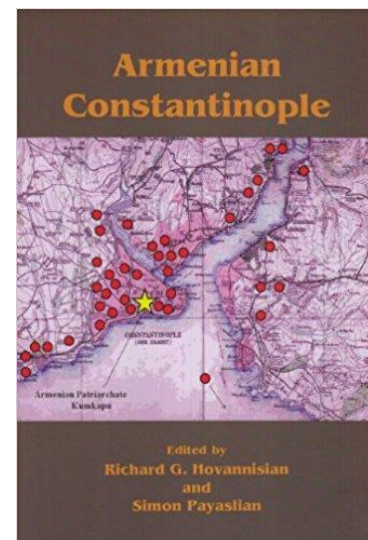
Publication Year: 2014



***Armenian Constantinople* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian and Simon Payaslian**

Description: From early antiquity, the Armenian people developed a rich and distinctive culture on the great highland plateau extending from eastern Asia Minor to the Caucasus. On that crossroad, they interacted on many levels with civilizations of the Orient and Occident. The Armenian community in Constantinople, dating back to the fourth century, contributed to the cultural and material development of the imperial city, the City of Constantine –Kostandnupolies or Bolis, today's Istanbul. This is the ninth of the series to be published. Scholars from various disciplines offer the story of the Armenian presence in Constantinople across the centuries until the early decades of the twentieth century.

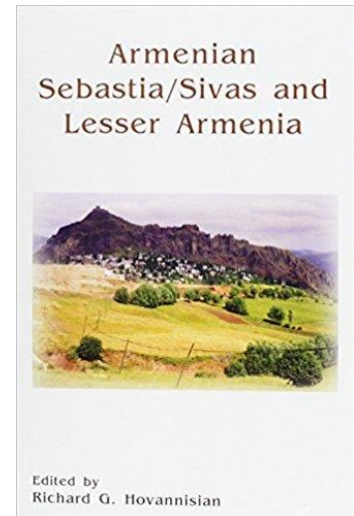
Publication Year: 2010



***Armenian Sebastia/Sivas and Lesser Armenia* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: From early antiquity, the Armenian people developed a rich and distinctive culture on the great highland plateau extending from eastern Asia Minor to the Caucasus. On that crossroad, they interacted on many levels with civilizations of the Orient and Occident. The continuity of Armenian life in most of this historic homeland was brought to an abrupt end as the result of war and genocide in the early decades of the twentieth century. The series is organized with the purpose of exploring and illuminating the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted for millennia on the Armenian Plateau. Lesser Armenia (Pokr Hayk), with its center at Sebastia (now Sivas), constituted the westernmost region of historic Armenia. Traversed by the Halys River, it was inhabited by Armenians since antiquity but was geographically and historically distinct from Greater Armenia (Mets Hayk). Because of its particular location, Lesser Armenia served as a major cultural, religious, and ethnic contact zone and was rarely, if ever, incorporated into the Armenian kingdoms to the east. Its cities, including Marsovan, Amasia, Evdokia (Tokat), Sebastia, Gurun, Divrig, and Shabin-Karahisar, were noted for their progressive roles in the educational, cultural, and commercial endeavors of the Armenian people, while its numerous villages preserved the cycles and traditions of ages-old agrarian life. *Armenian Sebastia/Sivas and Lesser Armenia* is the fifth of the conference proceedings to be published.

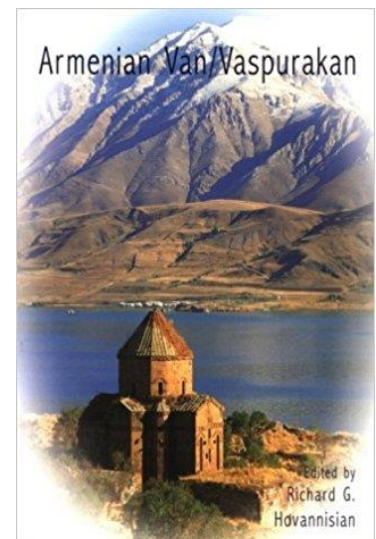
Publication Year: 2004



***Armenian Van/Vaspurakan* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The series has been recognized to explore the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted on the Armenian Plateau for three millennia. *Armenian Van/Vaspurakan* is the first of the conference proceedings to be published, in view of the fact that the area around Lake Van is the cradle of Armenian civilization. Scholars from various disciplines present the story of Armenian Van from beginning to end.

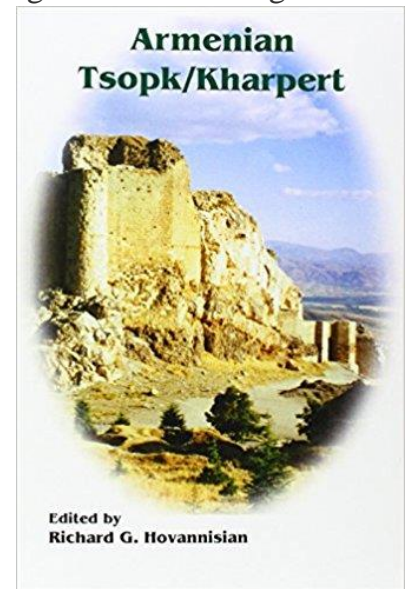
Publication Year: 2000



***Armenian Tsopk/Kharpert* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The series is organized with the purpose of exploring and illuminating the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted for millennia on the Armenian Plateau. Located in the southwestern sector of the plateau, Tsopk or Sophene (later Kharpert or Harput) had close ties with Mesopotamia and Syria, stood for centuries as a buffer zone between rival empires, and served as a conduit for cultural-political currents flowing in and out of Armenia. It both shares a history with and has a history distinct from that of Greater Armenia lying to the east. Below the great citadel of Kharpert is a fertile plain, traversed by tributaries and branches of the Aratsani or Euphrates River. For the Armenians, the shimmering waters and the waves of grain made this their Voski Dasht-Golden Plain. *Armenian Tsopk/Kharpert* is the third of the conference proceedings to be published. Scholars from various disciplines present the story of Armenian Tsopk/Kharpert from beginning to end.

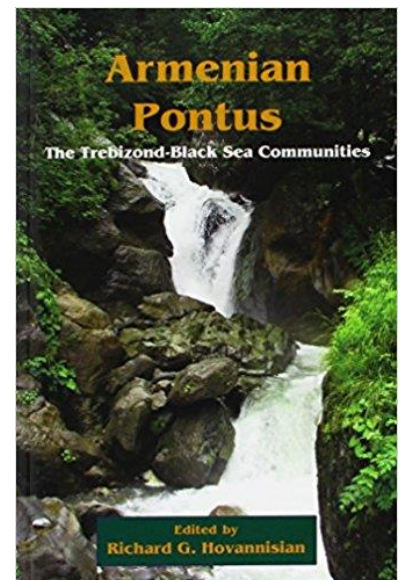
Publication Year: 2002



***Armenian Pontus: The Trebizond-Black Sea Communities* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The series is organized with the purpose of exploring and illuminating the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted for millennia on the Armenian Plateau. The Greek general Xenophon traversed the Armenian Plateau as an escape route from the Persian heartlands to Trapezus (Trebizond) on the Black Sea, his account of that adventurous journey affording one of the earliest written descriptions of ancient Armenia. *Armenian Pontus* is the eighth of the series to be published. Scholars from various disciplines offer the story of the Armenian communities in the Pontus-Black Sea region across the centuries until their violent elimination in the first decades of the twentieth century.

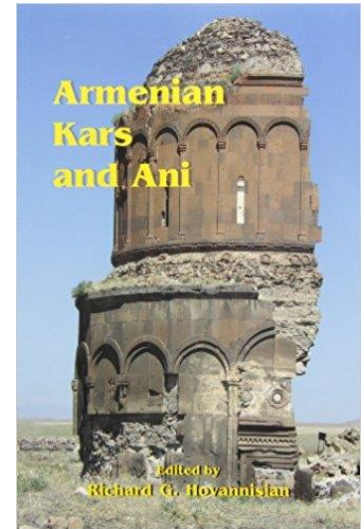
Publication Year: 2009



***Armenian Kars and Ani* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The series is organized with the purpose of exploring and illuminating the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted for millennia on the Armenian Plateau. The book represents a departure from the preceding volumes in this series, which have focused on the historic Western Armenian provinces, cities, and communities that were encompassed in the Ottoman Empire. In modern history, Kars and Ani were very much a part of Eastern or Russian Armenia. *Armenian Kars and Ani* is the tenth of the series to be published. Scholars from various disciplines present the history and culture of the region across centuries until its de-Armenianization between 1918 and 1921.

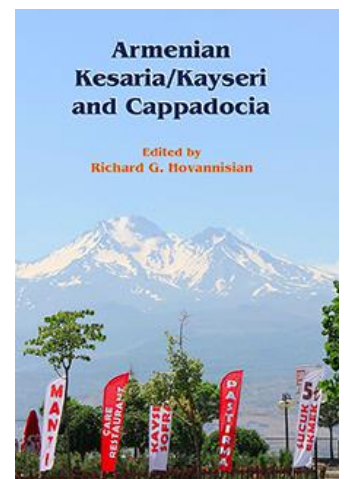
Publication Year: 2011



***Armenian Kesaria/Kayseri and Cappadocia* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The series is organized with the purpose of exploring and illuminating the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted for millennia on the Armenian Plateau. Interactions between Armenia and Cappadocia date to early antiquity, when Cappadocia became a contested marchland between empires of East and West. Caesarea also played an important role in Armenian Christian history, as it was there that Gregory the Illuminator, the evangelizer of Armenia, spent his formative years.

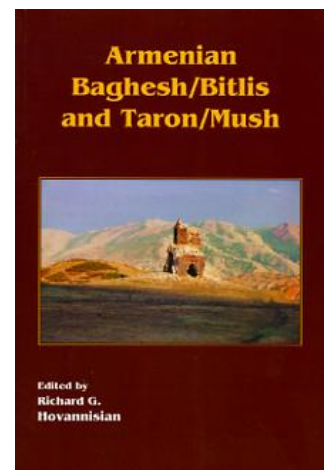
Publication Year: 2013



***Armenian Baghesh/Bitlis and Taron/Mush* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The series is organized with the purpose of exploring and illuminating the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted for millennia on the Armenian Plateau. It is the second of the series to be published. This beautiful, rugged land in the southwestern sector of historic Greater Armenia is known to have been one of the earliest centers of Armenian settlement. Scholars from several disciplines present the story of Armenian Baghesh/Bitlis and Taron/Mush from ancient to modern times.

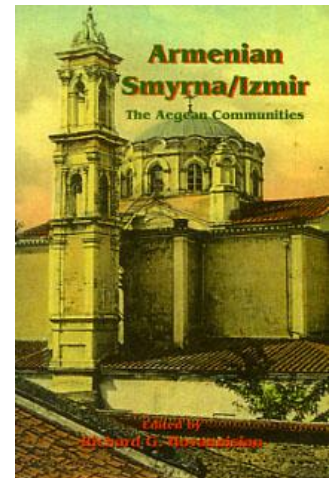
Publication Year: 2002



***Armenian Smyrna/Izmir: The Aegean Communities* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The series is organized with the purpose of exploring and illuminating the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted for millennia on the Armenian Plateau. From early times, Armenian colonies and communities were established beyond the highland, along the seacoasts of the Black, Mediterranean, and Aegean seas and onward to other continents. One such community was that of Smyrna along the Ionian coastline, which figures so heavily in Hellenic civilization and biblical history. From the Middle Ages onward, Armenian settlers arrived from throughout Asia Minor, and the community stood out in its prosperity and adoption of Western modes and style. *Armenian Smyrna/Izmir* is the eleventh of the series to be published.

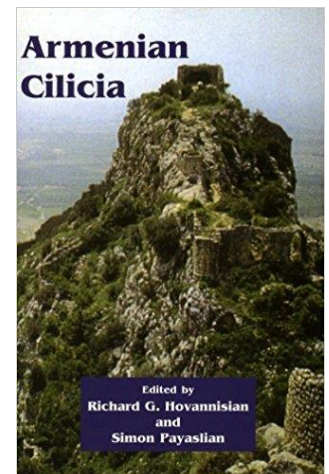
Publication Year: 2012



***Armenian Cilicia* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The series is organized with the purpose of exploring and illuminating the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted for millennia on the Armenian Plateau. Armenian Cilicia experienced a brilliant cultural era known as the Silver Age, with major advances in science and medicine, theology and philosophy, astronomy and musicology, art and architecture. Despite its successes, however, the Armenian kingdom, caught in the geopolitical contests among the major powers of the time, finally fell to the invading Mamluk armies in 1375. In the sixteenth century, Cilicia and most of the historic homelands to the east were incorporated into the Ottoman Empire, where Armenian life continued for four centuries until the calamitous events of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century violently eliminated the Armenian presence there.

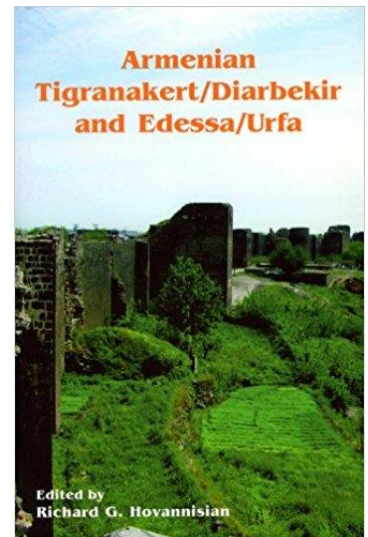
Publication Year: 2008



***Armenian Tigranakert/Diarbekir and Edessa/Urfa* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The series is organized with the purpose of exploring and illuminating the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted for millennia on the Armenian Plateau. Located along the Taurus Mountains between the Armenian Plateau and Northern Mesopotamia, Tigranakert and Edessa hold special significance in Armenian History. It was by way of Edessa that early Christianity made its way to Armenia through the Apostles of Christ. For centuries, the regions were on the front lines in the unceasing contest for domination between Sasanian, Arab, Turkmen, Mongol, Roman, Byzantine, Crusader Europe, empires. This is the sixth of the series to be published. The contributors offer a multi-disciplinary approach to the Armenian presence in these regions from antiquity to the calamitous twentieth century.

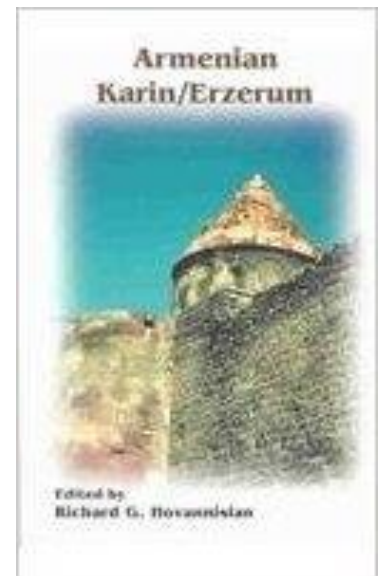
Publication Year: 2006



***Armenian Karin/Erzerum* (UCLA Armenian History and Culture Series) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: The series is organized with the purpose of exploring and illuminating the historical, political, cultural, religious, social, and economic legacy of a people rooted for millennia on the Armenian Plateau. The fortress city of Karin or Theodosiopolis, lay at the strategic center of the region known as Bardzr Hayk (Upper Armenia) and of the broader area of Greater Armenia itself. It has been the site of countless battles down through the centuries, as control of this highland is key to dominion over the entire Armenian Plateau. From the four gates of the once-walled city, roads radiated in all directions, taking merchants, travelers, and soldiers to and from Iran, the Caucasus, the Black Sea ports, and the interior neighboring cities and provinces. The plain of Karin/Erzerum, spreading to the north of the city, was dotted by numerous Armenian villages and several renowned monasteries lying near the headwaters of the Euphrates River. This to the Armenians was the "Bosom of the World." It is the fourth of the series to be published. Scholars from various disciplines present the story of Armenian Karin from beginning to end.

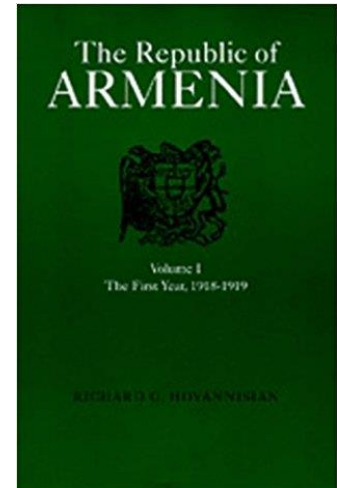
Publication Year: 2003



***The Republic of Armenia, Volume I: The First Year, 1918-1919* (UCLA Near Eastern Center) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: Richard Hovannisian completes his definitive history of the first independent Armenian state in modern times and provides the basis for comparison with the new Armenian republic established in 1991 after seven decades of Soviet rule. Based on Armenian, Russian, Turkish, German, Italian, French, and English-language archival materials, these volumes provide the first comprehensive, multidimensional analysis of this critical turning point in Armenian history—a period clouded in misinformation and controversy.

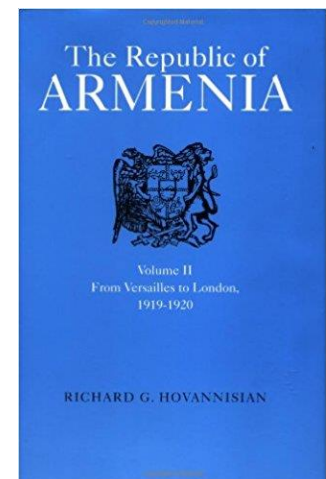
Publication Year: 1971



***The Republic of Armenia, Volume II: From Versailles to London, 1919-1920* (UCLA Near Eastern Center) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: Richard Hovannisian completes his definitive history of the first independent Armenian state in modern times and provides the basis for comparison with the new Armenian republic established in 1991 after seven decades of Soviet rule. Based on Armenian, Russian, Turkish, German, Italian, French, and English-language archival materials, these volumes provide the first comprehensive, multidimensional analysis of this critical turning point in Armenian history—a period clouded in misinformation and controversy.

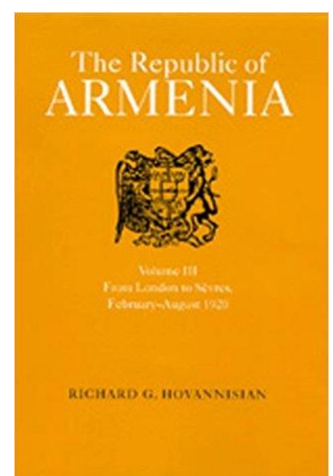
Publication Year: 1982



***The Republic of Armenia, Volume III: From London to Sèvres, February-August 1920* (UCLA Near Eastern Center) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: Richard Hovannisian completes his definitive history of the first independent Armenian state in modern times and provides the basis for comparison with the new Armenian republic established in 1991 after seven decades of Soviet rule. Volume Three focuses on the regional and international developments in 1920 that determined the future of the Armenian people. The Treaty of Sèvres, concluded between the Allied Powers and Turkey in August of that year, created a united, independent Armenian state—at least on paper—and authorized the President of the United States to draw the final boundaries within given limits. Yet the same powers were unwilling to use armed force to implement their award to Armenia. Meanwhile, the Russian civil war turned to favor the Bolsheviks; and as the Red Army poured into neighboring Azerbaijan, the Armenian government was faced with internal subversion and the need to reassess its political orientation.

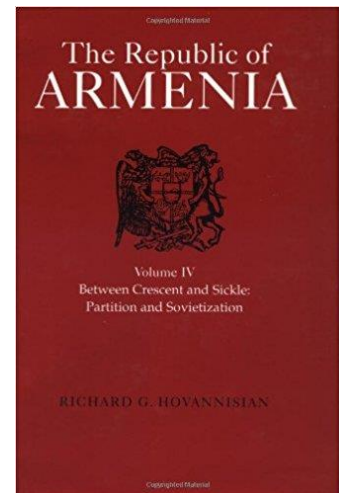
Publication Year: 1996



***The Republic of Armenia, Volume IV: Between Crescent and Sickle – Partition and Sovietization* (UCLA Near Eastern Center) by Richard G. Hovannisian**

Description: Richard Hovannisian completes his definitive history of the first independent Armenian state in modern times and provides the basis for comparison with the new Armenian republic established in 1991 after seven decades of Soviet rule. Volume Four examines the final months of the Armenia republic and the destructive impact of a Soviet-Turkish entente on the goal of a united, independent Armenia. The Turkish-Armenian war from September to December 1920 culminated in the loss of half of the Armenian republic and the Sovietization of what was left. The experiment in Armenian independence had failed; and the Armenian people, unable to gather together in a common homeland, remained scattered among communities in the diaspora and in the Soviet Union. At the time, no one could predict that a new opportunity for independence would unfold before the end of the century.

Publication Year: 1996



***The History of Armenia: From the Origins to the Present* by Simon Payaslian**

Description: There is a great deal of interest in the history of Armenia since its renewed independence in the 1990s and the ongoing debate about the genocide - an interest that informs the strong desire of a new generation of Armenian Americans to learn more about their heritage and has led to greater solidarity in the community. By integrating themes such as war, geopolitics, and great leaders, with the less familiar cultural themes and personal stories, this book will appeal to general readers and travellers interested in the region.

Publication Year: 2007-2008

