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## **Encyclopedia of Armenian Historical Geography**

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## **Table of Contents**

FOREWORD7	GEOGRAPHIC ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARMENIA
A BRIEF HISTORY OF ARMENIA8	A97
A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ARMENIAN GEOGRAPHY16	B149 C167
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ARMENIAN CARTOGRAPHY25	D179
ARMENIA IN THE ANCIENT GEOGRAPHICAL SOURCES35	E192 F203
AN OVERVIEW OF THE GEOGRAPHY OF ARMENIA	G205 H221
	I223
	J248 K253
	L266 M274
	N287 O292
	P294
	R302 S312
	T341 U356
	V364
	W372 Y373
	Z384
	Bibliography385

## Foreword

The idea of writing a book on the Geography of Armenia came to my mind many years ago, followed by several articles and books that I have authored. However, I need to mention that studying historical and concurrent maps was my great desire and passion since my childhood. At that time I especially used to stare at the Historical maps of Armenia published in the Soviet Armenia and I though hours and hours about the past days of our people and the Armenian homeland and how it was shrinked during the centures and today Armenia is occupying only less than one tenth of its historical area.

Unfortunalely Armenian sources in English language are not too many, so I am trying to prepare some books about different subjects on the Armenian culture in this language. Fortunately valuable endeavors have been accomplished in the field of Armenian geography since the 5<sup>th</sup> century until now, especially during Soviet era (1920-1990), which I can call *New Golden Age* of the Armenian history, when resurrection of the Armenian Social-cultural, Social-economical and Social-political life of the our people took place. So I decided to prepare this book as a brief encyclopedia of Armenian historical Geography. Due to limitation of the contents of this book, I have tried to present the articles as brief as possible.

Before presenting the main body of the book I thought it would be appropriate to introduce the brief History and Geography of Armenia as follows:

- A brief history of Armenia.
- History of Armenian Geography
- History of the Armenian cartograpghy.
- Armenia in the historical sources of geography
- The Historical Geography of Armenia.

- Falsification of Armenian geographical names.

The main sources for writing this book were several editions of the History of Armenia, Armenian Soviet Encyclopedia (13 volumes), Armenian Concise Encyclopedia (4 volumes), "History of natural sciences and technology Armenians", "Armenian cultural history of ideas", Works of Anania Shirakatsi (7th century), multivolume historical books of the classic Armenian historians (5-21 centuries), valuable works of S. Yeremian, T. Hakobian, Encyclopedia of Armenian question, Encyclopedia of Armenian Diaspora, Dictionary of Geography of Armenia and neighboring countries (5 volumes), Armenian atlases (Several editions), Some Greek and Roman classic sources, Persian and Arabic classic works, contemporary literature, Armenian websites about cities and towns of Western Armenia, National Statistical data of Republic of Armenia, Encyclopedia of Britanica and Americana, multivolume dictionary (encyclopedia) of Persian language by Dehkhoda, Persian dictionary of Dr. Moien (volumes 5 & 6) Online Encyclopedias such as Wikipedia, Iranica, many other websites, etc.

I would like to dedicate this book to the memory of my parents Bartegh Baghdasarian and Margarit Avetian Baghdasarian.

I have used some abreviations and acronyms such as RA for Republic of Armenia, cc for Centuries, etc.

I'd like to appreciate any comments and suggestions to my potential errors for them I need to apologize, I will do my best to improve the quality of this research for the next printings.

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