

ՀԵՆՐԻԿ ԽԱՉԱՏՐԵԱՆ

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ՅԱՅՈՅ ԻՇԽԱՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՎԱՐՉԱԿԱՆ ԿԱՌՈՒՅՈՒՄՔՆ ՈՒ ԻՐԱԽԱԿԱՆ ԿԱՐԳԱՎԻՃԱԿԸ 640–700 ԹԹ.¹

Արաբների առաջին արշավանքը դեպի Հայաստան սկիզբ առավ 640-ին, իսկ Է. դարի կեսերին նուաճելով տարածաշրջանը՝ (բայց վերջնականապես չհաստատուելով), արաբները վարում էին պարսկա-բիզանդական նոյն քաղաքականությունը, այն է՝ Հայաստանի ինքնավարության միջուկի՝ նախարարական դասի քայքայում ու վերացում: Եւ այս համապատկերում ամենն ին պատահական չէր Ը. դարավերջերին հին նախարարական տների մեծ մասի թուլացումն ու անհետացումը քաղաքական ասպարեզից:

Յօդուածում ցոյց է տրւում, որ մարգպանական շրջանի նախարարութիւնների մեծ մասը շարունակում էր իր գոյութիւնը, աւելին՝ նրանցից յատկապէս հօգօրները, օրինակ՝ Մամիկոնեանները, Կամսարականները, Արծրունիներն ու Գնունիները, ընդարձակել էին իրենց տիրոյթները: Սա նշանակում էր, որ հայ նախարարական տները պահպանում էին իրենց տնտեսական ու ռազմական կարողութիւնները եւ իրական ուժ էին ներկայացնում: Այս նախարարական համակարգի հիմքի վրայ հենց բարձրացավ Հայոց իշխանութիւնը, որն ընդգրկում էր բաւական մեծ տարածք. արեւմուտքում՝ Եփրատ գետից մինչև Սիւնիք, հիւսիսում՝ Տաշիրից մինչև Կորդուաց լեռներ:

Սկսած Թէոդորոս Ռշտունուց Հայոց իշխանութեան կառավարիչը՝ Հայոց իշխանը հանդիսանում էր արդեն հայկական հողերի վերամիաւորուած երկու հատուածների ղեկավարը: Հայոց իշխանին սկզբում ընտրում էր տեղական ազնուականութիւնը: Այնուհետեւ ընտրութիւնը հաստատում էր բիզանդական կայսրը՝ նրան տալով պատրիկի կամ կուրապաղատի կոչում: Արաբական խալիֆան ևս հաստատում էր Հայոց ընտրուած իշխանին իր պաշտօնում: Իրաւական առումով դա նշանակում էր Հայոց իշխանութեան ճանաչում, որի

¹* Ստացուել է՝ 1.9.2024, գրախօսուել է՝ 1.10.2024:

Էլ. հասցէ՝ henry.khachatryan89@gmail.com: Խմբագիր՝ Գեորգ Սարեան:

տիրակալը (կախուած քաղաքական իրավիճակից) ճանաչում էր (երբեմն ձևական) բիզանդական կայսեր կամ արաբական խալիֆայի գերիշխանութիւնը: Հայոց իշխաններից երկուսը՝ Թէոդորոս Ռշտունին ու Գրիգոր Մամիկոնեանը Խալիֆայութիւնից ստացան գերագոյն իշխանութիւն՝ Հայաստանի, Վիրքի ու Աղուանքի վրայ (ապագայ Արմինիա ոստիկանութիւն): Կարճ ժամանակով, սկսած 680–687 թթ., Հայաստանը նոյնիսկ ձեռք բերեց անկախութիւն: Հայոց իշխանութիւնը (640–700) կարելի է բնորոշել ընդհանուր առմամբ որպէս կիսանկախ պետական կազմաւորում:

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THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARMENIAN PRINCIPALITY FROM 640 TO 700

ABSTRACT

One of the main periods of the Armenian Middle Ages, which has been studied somewhat superficially, is the VII century, or more precisely from 640 to 700. This is the period when Sassanian Iran (Persia) fell, the Byzantine Empire was deprived of its former military power, and Armenia, entering into new and confusing legal relations, became a Principality—proceeding from the quantitative composition of the Armenian princes (nakharars), who not only possessed vast territories but also were the core of self-government, a table was compiled, which also allows us to see the military potential and approximate borders of the Armenian Principality. Since this topic is specific, the following methods were used to study it, a joint study of sources as well as the historical-geographical and historical-comparative methods. It is shown that the big princely houses maintained their status and even expanded their possessions. Based on the princely possessions, the territory of the Armenian Principality is shown, which stretched in the West from the Euphrates River to Syunik in the East, from Tashir to the Korduq Mountains in the North. That is, in general, the

administrative system that had existed since the time of the Armenian Arshakunis and was partially changed by the Sassanians, was relevant for the Armenian Principality. As a result, the military-political power of Armenia on the one hand and the difficult international situation on the other allowed two Armenian rulers (Teodoros Rshtuni and Grigor Mamikonean) to receive supreme power from the Caliphate, over the Transcaucasian countries (Armenia, Kartli, Aran, Shirvan and Derbend). In general, the Armenian Principality (640–700) can be characterized as a semi-independent state entity.

INTRODUCTION

As a result of the completed Persian-Byzantine war (in 628), the borders of the year 591 in the region were restored. In the Byzantine part of Armenia, Emperor Heracles (610–641) appointed Mzhezh Gnuni (628–635) as the Armenian Prince², and the Persian king Kavad II Sheroe (628) appointed Varaztirots Bagratuni (628–633) as the Armenian marzpan in the Persian part of Armenia.

At this time, the head of the army, the sparapet (in fact, the commander) of Marzpan Armenia was Teodoros Rshtuni, who, after Varaztirots Bagratuni left for Taron (about 633), then in Constantinople was the *de facto* ruler of the country, i.e. the marzpan³. Taking advantage of the favorable political situation, Teodoros Rshtuni also took under control the Byzantine lands of Armenia around 639, in fact, Armenia was united⁴.

² The Greek equivalent of the Armenian Prince was “archont” or “patrikios Armenias”, and the Arabic equivalent was “batrik al-Arman” or “sahib al-Arman”. According to A. Ter-Ghevondean, the title of Armenian Prince had three stages of development: a) V–VI centuries, when the ruler of the Byzantine part of Armenia was called an Armenian archont (prince); b) VII c. The Armenian Prince was the independent ruler of Armenia (that is, within the borders of Armenian Principality – H. K.); c) VIII century – the first half of IX century, the Armenian Prince was the ruler of the Arab Arminia administrative unit, which was subordinate to the representative of the caliph, the *vostikan* (A. Ter-Ghevondean, 1977, 55, ref. 41). It should be noted here that the first stage of the existence of the title of Armenian Prince should be extended to the end of the 30s of VII century, because at that time Mzhezh Gnuni (628–635) and David Saharuni (635–638/39) were appointed as Armenian princes in the Byzantine part of Armenia. Starting from 641, when Teodoros Rshtuni was officially recognized as an Armenian Prince by Emperor Constantine III (641), we can already talk about him as a semi-independent ruler of the Armenian Principality.

³ V. Iskanean, 1991, p. 471.

⁴ A. Ter-Ghevondean, 1996, pp. 19–20.

The first Arab invasion of Armenia occurred in early 640⁵, and in the middle of the VII century, the Arabs, having conquered the region (but not completely established themselves), pursued the same Persian-Byzantine policy, i.e. the destruction and liquidation of the core of Armenian autonomy – the princely system. In this context, it is no coincidence that in the VIII century, most of the old princely houses weakened and disappeared from the political arena.

This article will examine the administrative and legal status of the Armenian Principality, which existed from the first half of the VII century to the beginning of the VIII century. Based on the table we have compiled, we present the quantitative composition of the princely (nakharar) houses⁶, which is important when determining the boundaries of the principality. The works of Armenian chroniclers (Sebeos, Ghevond, Hovhannes Draskhanakertsi, Tovma Artsruni, and Asoghik) and two church council reports of the VII and VIII centuries were used as sources.

The administrative structure of the Armenian Principality

Sebeos: (VII c.)	GHevond: (VIII c.)	Hovhannes Draskhanakerts (IX–X cc.)	Tovma Artsruni (IX–X cc.)	Asoghik: (X c.)	645s council of Dvin	768s council of Partav
Amatuni	Amatuni	Andzevatsi	Abeghean	Amatuni	Bishop of Mardpetakan ⁷	Artsruni
ARanean= ARavenean	Andzevatsi	Artsruni	Akeatsi	Artsruni	Bishop of Harq	Owner of ASHotsq
ARaveghean	Artsruni	Bagratuni	Amatuni	Bagratuni	Bishop of Basen	Bagratuni
Bagratuni	Bagratuni	Gntuni	Andzevatsi	Gnuni	Bishop of Tayq	Goght- natsi
Basenatsi	Gnuni	Gnuni	Apahuni	Goghtnatsi	Bishop of Mardaghy	KhoRk- hoRuni

⁵ History of Armenia, Vol. II, 2018, p. 279.

⁶ A similar attempt was made by A. Shahinean (A. Shahinean, 2008, pp. 148–155).

⁷ It should be noted that in the VII century, as an administrative unit, the Mardpetakan (Sephakan, Vaspurakan Gund) was present (Movses Kagankatuatsi, 2011, pp. 344, 346, Tovma Artsruni and the anonymous, 2010, pp. 158, 246), but compared to the former, it covered a different area (see attached the map).

Sebeos: (VII c.)	GHevond: (VIII c.)	Hovhannes Draskhanakerts (IX–X cc.)	Tovma Artsruni (IX–X cc.)	Asoghik: (X c.)	645s council of Dvin	768s council of Partav
Gntuni	Kamsarakan	Goghtnatsi	Artsruni	Gugaratsi (TaSHrats)	Bishop of Bznunyats	Vanan- datsi
Gnuni	Ma- mikonean	Gugaratsi (TaSHratsi)	Bagratuni	Kamsarakan	bishop of ArSHarunyats	Syuni
DaSHtkar- in=DaSHta- karantsi	RShtuni	Kamsarakan	Boghkatsi	Ma- mikonean	Bishop of Bagratuni	
Prince of DaranaGHi	Vanandatsi	Havnuni	Gabeghean	Mokatsi	Bishop of KhoRkhoRuni	
Dimaqsean	Truni	Mamikonean	Gazrikan	RShtuni	Bishop of RShtuni	
Prince of Ekeghyats	Urtsa	Mokatsi	Gnuni	SahaRuni	Bishop of Vanand	
KhoRkhoRuni		RShtuni	Goghtnatsi	Syuni	Bishop of ArSHamuni	
Prince of Karin		SahaRuni	Havnuni		Bishop of Amatuni	
Mamikonean		Syuni	Harmatsi		Bishop of Andzevatsi	
Prince of Mananaghi		Vanandatsi	Ma- mikonean		Bishop of Gnuni	
Mokatsi			Maratsean		Bishop of Paluni	
SHirakat- si=Kamsara- kan			Mokatsi		Bishop of Mehnuni	
Prince of Fourth Armenia			RShtuni			
RShtuni			SahaRuni			
SahaRuni			Syuni			
Syuni			Vahevuni			
Spanduni			Varazhnuni			

Sebeos: (VII c.)	GHevond: (VIII c.)	Hovhannes Draskhanakerts (IX–X cc.)	Tovma Artsruni (IX–X cc.)	Asoghik: (X c.)	645s council of Dvin	768s council of Partav
Speratsi			Truni (Entruni)			
Vahevuni			Qajberuni			
Vanandatsi						
Varazhnuni						
Tayetsi						

From the reports of the sources, we get the following picture:

AbeGHean	Artsruni	GoGHtnatsi	Havnuni	Paluni	TaSHratsi
Akeats	Bagratuni	DaSHtkarin	Harmats	RSHTuni	Truni
Amatuni	Basenatsi	DaranaGHi	Mamikonean	SahaRuni	Urtsa
Andzevatsi	BoGHkatsi	Dimaqsean	MananaGHi	Syuni	Qajberuni
Owner of ASHotsQ	GabeGHean	EkeGHEats	Maratsean	Spanduni	
Apahuni	Gazrikean	KhoRkhoRuni	Mehnuni	Vahevuni	
ARaveghean	Gntuni	Kamsarakan	Mokatsi	Vanandatsi	
ARavenean	Gnuni	Karnetsi	IV Armenian ruler	Varazhnuni	

In these nakharar-princely houses⁸ the Armenian power was summed up within the borders.

Abeghean – They owned the Abegheanq district of Ayrarat province. But apparently starting from the VII century, the nakharar house of the Abegheans lost its possessions in Ayrarat province. Sources no longer mention this nakharar house except Tovma Artsruni, who mentions these princes in connection with the invasion of Bugha in the mid-IX century already in Vaspurakan.⁹ It means that the Abeghean nakharars moved to Vaspurakan and received possessions there¹⁰, which are unknown.

⁸ For details on the domains of these clans, see H. **Khachatrean**, 2022, pp. 47–62.

⁹ **Tovma Artsruni and the anonymous**, 2010, p. 243.

¹⁰ See **Adonts**, 1987, 357 ref. 1.

Akeatsi – in Ake district of Vaspurakan province.

Amatuni – in Artaz district of Vaspurakan. In Aragatsotn district: Oshakan and its surroundings. They also had domains in the village of Ptghni in Kotayq district.

Andzevatsi – in Andzevatsiq district of Vaspurakan.

Ashotsean – in Ashotsq district of Ayarat and Javakhq district of Gugark.

Apahuni – in a part of Apahuniq district of Turuberan.

ARaveghean – their domains were probably in the Aragatsotn district of Ayarat province, in the areas from Ashnak to Talin¹¹.

ARavenean – in Aragatsotn district of Ayarat province.

Artsruni – in this period, the Artsrunis expanded their domains at the expense of Sephakan/Vaspurakan/Mardpetakan Gund. Their rule included most of the former Vaspurakan and Persarmenian provinces, as well as some parts of Korchayq.

Bagratuni – in this period, the domains of these nakharars were still summarized in Sper, Kogovit, Tsaghkotn districts, as well as in the regions adjacent to Bagavan in Bagrevand district¹².

Basenatsi – in Basen district of Ayarat province. However, the domains of the dynasty gradually passed to the Armenian Church.

Boghkatsi – the territories are unknown.

Gabeghean – in Gabegheanq district of Ayarat. Later like the princes of the Abegheans the Gabegheans are also mentioned in the province of Vaspurakan¹³, which means that the Gabegheans too passed to Vaspurakan.

Gazrikean – in Gazrikan district of Vaspurakan.

Gntuni – They occupied Nig district of Ayarat province.

Gnuni – They owned the districts of Aghiovit and Arberani, a part of Archishakovit district, as well as the settlement of Mastara in Aragatsotn¹⁴.

Goghtnatsi – Goghtn district of Vaspurakan.

Dashtkarin – The territories are unknown.

Daranaghi – The princes of Daranaghyats, Ekeghyats, Karnetsi, Mananaghyats, Speratsi and Tayetsi apparently did not represent separate nakharar dynasties, but as a result of the policies of Emperors Justinian I (527–565) and Maurice (582–

¹¹ A. Manucharean, 1977, p. 56.

¹² See H. Khachatryan, 2022, pp. 51–53.

¹³ Tovma Artsruni and the anonymous, 2010, p. 168.

¹⁴ A. Manucharean, 2017, p. 39.

602), they were branches of the powerful local principalities, that were called by the names of the respective districts and survived for a short time. Some of these domains passed to Byzantium, and others to the Caliphate.

Dimaksean – The domains of this principality were already summarized in Shirak district. The dynasty ceased to exist in the second half of the VII century.

Ekeghyats – in Ekegheats district of the High Armenian province.

KhoRkhoRuni – in KhoRkhoRuniq and a part of Apahuniq districts of Turuberan province. Her and Zaravand districts, which were the domains of the Khorkhorunis, and were already included in the domains of the Artsrunis. The dynasty ceased to exist at the end of the VIII century.

Kamsarakan – In this period Historians consider that the Kamsarakans ruled huge domains, following the districts of Ayrarat province: Ashotsq, Shirak, Arsharuniq, Havnuniq, Abegheanq, Gabegheanq, Basen districts, most of Vanand, and Talin in Aragatsotn¹⁵. But in fact, they owned only the Shirak, and Arsharuniq districts completely, and in the Aragatsotn district the towns of Talin and Marmet. This dynasty ceased to exist at the beginning of the IX century¹⁶.

Karnetsi – in Karin district of High Armenia.

Havnuni – in Havnuniq district of Ayrarat.

Harmatsi (Harqatsi)¹⁷ – Apparently, the territories should have been in the Harq district.

Mamikonean – They occupied Tayq province completely; the districts of Taron, Khut, Aspakunyats dzor, Sasun, Bznuniq-Khlat districts of Turuberan province; in the province of Ayrarat Bagrevand, the largest part of Aragatsotn district¹⁸.

Mananaghi – in the Mananaghi district of Upper Armenia.

Maratsean – The territories were probably located in “Marats amur ashkharh” (Median Strong World) or in former Mardpetakan. Probably in the area of Marand city.

Mehnuni – in Metsnuniq district of Vaspurakan.

Mokatsi – in Mokq province.

¹⁵ A. Ter-Ghevondean, 1977, pp. 58-59, A. Shahinean, 2011, p. 152. Earlier we also considered that the Kamsarakans owned huge domains (H. Khachatryan, 2022, p. 55).

¹⁶ A. Vardanean, 2016, p. 49.

¹⁷ G. Grigorean, 1983, p. 87.

¹⁸ See A. Vardanean, 2019, pp. 18–33, H. Khachatryan, 2022, p. 56.

IV Armenian ruler – Fourth Armenia had the status of border fortifications, “Sughur” and included geographical Tsopk province and Muzur district of High Armenia.

Paluni – in Paluniq district of Vaspurakan.

Rshtuni – in Rshtuniq and Tosp districts of Vaspurakan province. Like the KhoRkhoRunis, the Rshtunis also left the political scene at the end of the VIII century.

Saharuni – They owned Mren with its adjacent lands in the Shirak district. After the death of David SahaRuni (635–638/39), this dynasty is no longer mentioned. This suggests that the Saharunis were gradually pushed out of political life.

Syuni – in Syuniq province. Syuniq was reunited with Armenian principality only during the reign of the Armenian Prince Hamazasp Mamikonian (655–661) in 655.

Spanduni – The domains were probably located in Ayrarat province.

Vahevuni – Deprived of their domains in Taron, the Vahevunis fortified themselves in the Boguniq district of Vaspurakan and the coastal area of Arberani adjacent to it.

Vanandatsi – After most of the district passed to the Kamsarakans, the domains of the Vanandats were enclosed in the area from Kars fortress to Tayq.

Varazhnuni – in Varazhnuniq districts of Ayrarat and Turuberan.

Tashratsi – in the Tashir district of Gugark¹⁹. Their domains passed to the Arabs in the VIII century²⁰, then at the beginning of the IX century, to the Bagratunis²¹.

Truni – The territories were located in Goghtn district, more specifically, in the Drnis (Trunis) village of the Ordubad region.²²

Urtsa – in Urtsadzor district of Ayrarat.

Qajberuni – in Garni (Darni) district of Vaspurakan.

Still, in the late 630s from Marzpan Armenia, the territory of “Marats Strong World” or the former Mardpetakan was separated, whose prince, in cooperation with the Byzantine general Tuma, clashed with the Armenian Prince Teodoros Rshtuni in the 640s. As a result, the latter was arrested and sent to Constantinople. “Marats

¹⁹ According to A. Ter-Ghevondean’s point of view, the princes of Tashir also ruled in Dzoraget district (A. Ter-Ghevondean, 1977, p. 59).

²⁰ R. Matevosean, 1982, p. 50, R. Matevosean, 1997, pp. 70, 74.

²¹ See A. Yeghiazarean, 2011, p. 81.

²² See A. Ayvazean, 1981, pp. 53–54.

Strong World” was conquered by the Caliphate in the middle of the VII century²³. In the south, the borders of the Armenian principality passed by the forts of Alki, Ilmar, and Sring, which was also the southern border of the Bagratuni kingdom.

One can get an idea about the western borders of the Armenian principality from Sebeos’ report. In particular, in 652²⁴ with the invasion of Armenia by Emperor Costand II (641–668), and then his stay in the city of Karin, he mentions:

“The princes and troops of the so-called Fourth Armenia presented themselves, and also all the other troops and princes who had left the Rshtunis territory. There the men of Sper met him, the princes of the Bagratuniq, the men of Mananaghi, of Daranaghi, those from the province of Ekegheats, and all the troops of those places, and the men of Karin, and Tayq, and Basean. There also came to meet him the princes of Vanand with their army, the men of Shirak, the KhoRkhoRuniq, and the men of the house of the Dimaqseanq. Also presenting themselves were Mushegh Mamikonean with his clansmen and some other princes, and the army from the region of Ayrarat: the ARawegheanq, the ARaneanq, the Varazhnuniq, the Gntuniqu, the Spanduniqu, and others with them”²⁵.

From the list of the nakharars who were in agreement with Teodoros Rshtuni, it is clear that at that time the western border of the Armenian principality mainly corresponded with the characteristics existing during the Arshakuni kingdom (298–387). However, then the lack of mention of the princes of High Armenia as well as the departure of Varaztirots Bagratuni from Byzantium in 646, and his stopping in Tayq – in Armenia, shows that Sper district, the dynastic domain of the Bagratunis, which was in the west of Tayq, and the domains lying west of it were no longer part of the Armenian principality, otherwise the prince of Bagratuni would have stayed in the castles of Sper. The rest of the borders of the Armenian principality stretched along the contours of the domains of the nakharars mentioned above.

THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARMENIAN PRINCIPALITY

The Armenian principality was governed by an official with the title of Armenian Prince. Already in 639 Teodoros Rshtuni (639–654) was elected the

²³ For details, see E. Danielean, 1983, pp. 94–97.

²⁴ A. Ter-Ghevondean, 1996, pp. 68–69.

²⁵ R. W. Thompson, 1999, pp. 137–138. See also History of Sebeos, 1979, p. 165.

Prince of Armenia by the nakharars and the Armenian Catholicos²⁶. That was officially approved in 641 by Emperor Constantine III (641)²⁷. The recognition of Prince Rshtuni by the Emperor in that position shows that the Armenian Prince was a subordinate of the Byzantine Emperor, even though it was formal. Subsequent events show that Byzantium's inaction or insufficient actions against the Arab invasions against Armenia, that resulted from its obligations, led to the change of course of the Armenian Prince and his orientation towards the Chaliphate.

The signing of the Armenian-Arab treaty (in 652) meant the *de jure* dependence of the Armenian principality on the Caliphate, because although Armenia was exempted from paying taxes for three years, it still had to pay, however small²⁸. The number of cavalry was determined as 15000, which, compared to the previous period, was halved. Its participation wherever the caliph wanted, except in Syria, shows the still semi-independent status of Armenia, which ended with the temporary conquest of Armenia, a few years later, in 655 AD²⁹.

Sebeos reports that in 653 the Arab governor of Syria Muavia gave Teodoros Rshtuni “*robes embroidered with gold and a banner of his pattern. He gave him the rank of Prince of Armenia, Iberia, Aghuanq, and Siwniq, as far as the Caucasus mountain and the Pass of Chor were. Then he dismissed him with honor*”³⁰. Specialists rightly believe that Teodoros Rshtuni gained power within the borders of the fu-

²⁶ “*The Prince of Armenia, the lord of Rshtuniq...*” (R. W. Thompson, 1999, 101, History of Sebeos, 1979, p. 138). Until then, the title of Armenian Prince was held by the rulers of the Byzantine part of Armenia. The recognition of Teodoros Rshtuni as an Armenian Prince by the Armenian nakharars and the Armenian Catholicos shows that the Byzantine part of Armenia also came under his rule, together with the title, but with a new content.

²⁷ V. Iskanean, 1991, p. 464, A. Yeghiazarean, 2010, p. 20. Sebeos reports that “*a command came from the Emperor [bestowing] the command of the army on Teodoros Lord of Rshtuniq, with the rank of Patrik*” (R. W. Thompson, 1999, p. 101, History of Sebeos, 1979, p. 139). A. Ter-Ghevondean believes that this Emperor was Constantine II (641–668) (see A. Ter-Ghevondean, 1996, p. 49). However, Sebeos mentions that after Herakles, his son, Constantine, reigned, but was killed after ruling a little. He was replaced by the other son of Heracles, Heraclous, who was killed by the general Valentinus. This general Valentinus put on the throne the son of the murdered Constantine, Costas, whose name was changed to Constantine in honor of his father (History of Sebeos 1979, pp. 140–141). This shows that the patrician and commander T’edoros Rshtuni was appointed by the eldest son of Herakles, Constantine, who ruled in 641.

²⁸ On taxation in Armenia see A. Vacca, 2017, pp. 186–193.

²⁹ A. Yeghiazarean, 2010, pp. 24–25.

³⁰ R. W. Thompson, 1999, p. 143, History of Sebeos, 1979, p. 169.

ture Viceroyalty of Arminia (Armenia/Hayq, Qartli/Virq, Aran/Aghvanq)³¹: Further on, the next thought of Sebeos is “*He made a pact with him to bring that land into subjection*”³², he also suggests that the Armenian Prince was under a condition to subjugate or make those countries taxpayers, after which those territories would be completely under his control. In any case, it is obvious that the Arabs recognized the supremacy of the Armenian Prince over Hayq, Virq, and Aghvanq³³, for which those territories later received the general name of Arminia.

Hamazasp Mamikonean (655–662), who was Teodoros Rshtuni’s son-in-law and a supporter of his political direction, replaced him as the Armenian Prince³⁴. Sebeos mentions on this occasion: “*Hamazasp, Lord of the Mamikoneanq, son of Dawit and a virtuous man in all respects, held the position of Prince of Armenia*”³⁵. At that time, the Caliphate was in a deep internal political crisis. Taking advantage of it, “*in the same year, the Armenians abandoned their submission to the Ismaelites and turned their allegiance to the king of the Greeks*”³⁶. That was in the year of the return of Catholicos Nerses III Tayetsi, in 659³⁷. Thus, Hamazasp Mamikonean was initially appointed by the Arabs, and then, in 659 “*King Constans made Hamazasp, Lord of Mamikoneanq, Curopalate, and gave him silver cushions and the rank of Prince of Armenia*”³⁸. Actually, during the reign of Hamazasp Mamikonean, the

³¹ A. Yeghiazarean, 2010, pp. 23–24, A. Shahinean, 2011, p. 211.

³² R. W. Thompson, 1999, p. 143, History of Sebeos, 1979, p. 169.

³³ Giving such authority to the Armenian Prince was due to the fact that Qartli (Virq) and ARan (Aghvanq) were always united with Armenia, and the latter almost always led the united army of the three Transcaucasian countries (during the rebellion or the invasion of a foreign conqueror). In addition, one of the goals was to receive the taxes to be collected from the three countries through the Armenian Prince, which further outlined the summing up of the territories to be conquered in one administrative unit in the future. According to A. Yeghiazarean’s correct definition, although some regions were separated from Armenia, it represented an influential political force, and the Armenian people were the most homogeneous and numerous segment of the region’s population. That’s why, during the period of Arab rule, the Armenian Prince had a dominant position in Transcaucasia, and the administrative unit covering most of Armenia and the Transcaucasian countries was called Arminia (A. Yeghiazarean, 2011, p. 27).

³⁴ History of Armenia, Vol. II, 2018, pp. 286–287.

³⁵ R. W. Thompson, 1999, pp. 150–151, History of Sebeos, 1979, p. 174, Hovhannes Draskhanakertsi, 2010, p. 411.

³⁶ R. W. Thompson, 1999, p. 153, History of Sebeos, 1979, p. 175.

³⁷ History of Armenia, Vol. II, 2018, p. 287.

³⁸ R. W. Thompson, 1999, p. 153, History of Sebeos, 1979, p. 175, Hovhannes Draskhanakertsi, 2010, p. 412.

Armenian principality came under the influence of Byzantium, although the years of rule passed in relatively peaceful conditions and during that time, Syuniq was reunited with the Armenian principality.

The next Armenian Prince was Grigor Mamikonean (662–685), who was appointed by Muavia caliph (661–680)³⁹. In contrast to his predecessors, Grigor Mamikonian was ordained “the Prince of Armenia and Georgia”⁴⁰. According to A. Yeghiazarians’ right observation, the Arabs recognized the rule of Teodoros Rshtuni and Grigor Mamikonean over the same territory, the Transcaucasian countries⁴¹. During the reign of Grigor Mamikonean, the Armenian-Arab alliance (in 652) was restored. The Armenian principality became subject to the Caliphate and was obliged to pay a tax of 500 dahekan (Arabian money) a year, which he refused (Qartli and ARan too) at the end of the reign of the Armenian Prince⁴². In other words, after Muavias’ death (in 680), the Armenian principality became independent (680–685)⁴³. This independent status was also preserved at the beginning of the reign of the next Armenian Prince Ashot Bagratuni (685–689), who in 685–687 was not subject to either Byzantium or the Caliphate⁴⁴. The Byzantine title Patrick⁴⁵ he should receive only in 687, when Emperor Justinian II (685–695, 705–711) organized an invasion of Armenia and neighboring regions⁴⁶.

Then, in the fourth year of his reign, Emperor Justinian II, in 689, invaded the Caucasus and installed Nerseh Kamsarakan as Prince of Armenia, who ruled for four years (689–693)⁴⁷. As can be seen, although Armenia accepted the hegemony of Byzantium (because it was conquered and there was a Byz-

³⁹ Ghvond Chronicler, 2007, p. 743, **Stepannos Asoghik of Taron**, 2011, p. 701.

⁴⁰ **Stepannos Asoghik of Taron**, 2011, p. 719. “Armenian and Georgian Prince” should be understood as the Prince of Armenians and Georgians of Armenia and the Caucasus (**A. Yeghiazarean**, 2011, 28 ref. 3). And the absence of ARan (Aghvanq) is explained by the fact that its population was Armenian, so it isn’t mentioned (**A. A. Yeghiazarean**, 2011, pp. 30–31).

⁴¹ **A. Yeghiazarean**, 2010, p. 26, **A. Shahinean**, 2011, p. 211, **A. Vardanean**, 2018, p. 18.

⁴² **Ghvond Chronicler**, 2007, pp. 743–744: For details, see **A. Ter-Ghevondean**, 1996, pp. 91–105.

⁴³ Experts do not rule out that Grigor Mamikonean also accepted the title of King during his reign (**A. Ter-Ghevondean**, 2003, p. 194, **A. Shahinean**, 2011, pp. 213–214).

⁴⁴ **A. Ter-Ghevondean**, 1996, pp. 101–105, **A. Shahinean**, 2011, p. 214.

⁴⁵ **Ghvond Chronicler**, 2007, p. 744.

⁴⁶ **A. Shahinean**, 2011, p. 214.

⁴⁷ **Stepannos Asoghik of Taron**, 2011, p. 703.

[illegible]

antine army in the country), it maintained its independence in terms of foreign policy⁴⁸.

Nerseh Kamsarakan was succeeded in this position by Smbat Byuratean Bagratuni (693–702)⁴⁹, and in this period Arabs finally conquered the Armenian principality and formed the Viceroyalty of Arminia in 700⁵⁰.

CONCLUSION

As can be seen, the princely houses of the Marzpan period were basically preserved. The most powerful princely families such as the Mamikoneans, Artsrunis, Kamsarakans, and Gnuni expanded their possessions. Based on the Nakharar (Princely) system, the Armenian Principality rose. It meant that the Armenian princes had economic and military strength. The Armenian Principality extended in the West from the Euphrates River to Syuniq in the East, and in the North from Tashir to the Korduq Mountains. Thus, starting with Teodoros Rshtuni, the ruler of the Armenian principality, the Armenian Prince, was the head of the two parts of the already reunited Armenian lands. The Armenian Prince was first elected by the local nobility, he was then confirmed by the Byzantine Emperor, who gave him the title of Patrick or Curapalate. The Arab caliph also confirmed the elected Armenian Prince in his position. Legally, it meant the recognition of Armenian principality, whose ruler, depending on the political situation, recognized the (sometimes formal) supremacy of the Byzantine Emperor or the Arab Caliph. Two of the Armenian princes, Teodoros Rshtuni and Grigor Mamikonean, received supreme authority over Armenia, Qartli, and ARan (the future Arminia Viceroyalty) from the Caliphate. For a short time, starting from 680–687 Armenia even gained independence. The Armenian principality (640–700) can generally be characterized as a semi-independent state entity.

⁴⁸ History of Armenia, Vol. II, 2018, p. 292.

⁴⁹ **Stepannos Asoghik of Taron**, 2011, p. 703: From the sources, it is clear, that the Armenian prince Smbat Byuratean Bagratuni bore the titles of Patrik (according to Theophanes Khostovanogh) and Curopalate (Kurapaghat according to GHevond). Smbat Bagratuni also had a second period of administration, which is a question beyond our present research.

⁵⁰ **A. Yeghiazarean**, 2010, p. 29.

ՀԻՄՆԱԲԱՌԵՐ

Հայոց իշխանություն, Թեոդորոս Ռշտունի, Գրիգոր Մամիկոնեան, Հայոց իշխան, նախարար, Բիւզանդական կայսրություն, Արաբական խալիֆայություն:

РЕЗЮМЕ

Первое нашествие арабов на Армению было в 640 г. Завоевав регион (но окончательно там не утвердившись) в середине VII века, арабы придерживались той же политики, что и персы и византийцы, заключающейся в разложении нахарарского (княжеского) строя как оплота самоуправления. И в контексте сказанного вовсе не случайным было в конце VIII в. ослабление княжеских домов (родов) и их исчезновение с политической арены. При этом княжеские дома марзпанского периода сохраняли свой статус, а более могущественные из них, такие как Мамиконяны, Камсараканы, Арцруни и Гнуни расширили свои владения, что явствовало об их экономической и военной мощи. Нахарарская система заложила основу Армянского княжества, которое охватывало значительную территорию, простираясь на западе от реки Евфрат до Сюника на востоке, на севере – от Ташира до гор Кордука.

Начиная с Теодороса Рштуни управляющий Армянским княжеством, то есть князь Армении являлся уже руководителем объединенных армянских земель. Вначале князь Армении избирался местной знатью, после чего его утверждал византийский император, присваивая ему титул патрикия или курапалата. Арабский халиф также утверждал избранного князя Армении на эту должность. В правовом аспекте это означало признание Армянского княжества, владыка которого, в зависимости от политической ситуации, признавал (часто формально) верховенство византийского императора или арабского халифа. Теодорос Рштуни и Григор Мамиконян получили от Арабского халифата верховную власть над Арменией, Грузией и АлбаниейАран. За короткий период, начиная с 680–687 гг., Армения обрела независимость. В целом Армянское княжество (640–700) можно охарактеризовать как полунезависимое государственное образование.