

ARMENIA: CIVILIZATIONAL VECTOR IN THE HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SILK ROAD¹

Danielyan E. L.

Doctor of Sciences (History)

The Armenian cultural heritage, historically representing the holistic - material and spiritual culture of Armenia from the Neolithic (the 10th - the first half of the 6th millennium BC), Eneolithic (the middle of the 6th - the 4th millennium BC), Bronze (the second half of the 4th - the middle of the 2nd millennium BC) periods to the Iron Age (the second half of the 2nd millennium BC and further), Antiquity and the Middle Ages is attested in the Armenian Highland by archaeological monuments, rock art and petroglyphs, spiritual sources, epic sagas, architectural monuments, khachkars (cross-stones), cuneiform inscriptions, ancient and medieval written sources, manuscript book painting - miniatures, spiritual music, folk art, carpet weaving, ceramics and jewelry, etc.

The more than five thousand year old statehood of ancient and medieval Armenia² (Հայք-Հայաստան) [area of about 440 thousand km² - Great Armenia, Armenia Minor, Armenian (Northern) Mesopotamia, Cilician Armenia], genetically, by its Armenian ethno-cultural structure [led by Հայկազունք (the Haykians)]³ is rooted in the Armenian Highland.

¹ Даниелян Э. Л., Армения: цивилизационный вектор в истории развития Шелкового пути, «21-й ВЕК», №3, 2013. The full Russian version of this article (Цивилизационный вклад Армении в историю Шелкового пути и современные вызовы) see in: Civilizational Contribution of Armenia in the History of the Silk Road (International Scientific Conference, 21-23 November, 2011), Erevan, 2012, pp. 292-311; "Fundamental Armenology", electronic journal, N 2, 2015, <http://www.fundamentalarmenology.am/datas/pdfs/168.pdf>

² About more than eight thousand year old roots of the Armenian ethno-cultural heritage testify glottochronological studies conducted by the newest methods. According to the primary results, "Hittite lineage diverging 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, with all other major groups" [Gray R.D., Atkinson Q.D., Language-tree Divergence Times Support the Anatolian Theory of Indo-European Origin, *Nature*, vol. 426, 2003, pp. 435-438]. Later, the authors considered the earliest period of the spread of agriculture from the Armenian Highland via Asia Minor into Europe and, in this regard, the divergence of the Indo-European language family – 8000 to 9500 years ago [Remco Bouckaert, Philippe Lemey, Michael Dunn, Simon J. Greenhill, Alexander V. Alekseyenko, Alexei J. Drummond, Russell D. Gray, Marc A. Suchard, Quentin D. Atkinson, Mapping the Origins and Expansion of the Indo-European Language Family, *SCIENCE*, vol. 337, 2012, pp. 957-960]. On the outline maps presented by the authors, the area of "inferred geographic origin of the Indo-European language family" also includes the territory of the Armenian Highland (a cradle of agriculture), which is not mentioned in the text, where, instead of it, again incorrectly, is used the term "Anatolia" or "modern Turkey" (Ibid., pp. 958-959). In scientific terminology the term "Anatolia", in accordance with the historical reality, means only Asia Minor, located to the west of the Armenian Highland [The Encyclopedia of World History. 6th edition, Boston, New York, 2001, pp. 37, 39].

³ Մովսես Խորենացի, Պատմութիւն Հայոց, Երևան, 1991, էջ 37-42:

ARMENIA IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL TIMES



For millennia Armenia has been connected with the nearby and remote countries by trade routes, which with time formed the system of the highways of the Silk Road, from China to India - Bactria - Tokharistan - Sogdiana - Iran - Armenia - Mesopotamia - Asia Minor, the countries and cities of the Mediterranean Sea's eastern basin (Egypt, Phoenicia, Syria, Cilicia, etc.) and Europe (Greece, Rome, etc.)

Civilizational contribution of Armenia to the history of the Silk Road in ancient and medieval times (in different geopolitical conditions) was determined by economic, state legal and cultural factors, the conclusion of international trade agreements, the high level of architecture, urban planning and craft production, developed network of trade routes, the export of raw materials and products, import of goods in the domestic market, as well as their transit to other countries, keeping and preservation of trade routes, active participation in international maritime trade and the development of commercial and financial capital, etc.

Exported from the Neolithic epoch, obsidian (mined in the mountains of Armenia)⁴, the development of metallurgy and handicraft production, as well as internal and external trade in the Eneolithic, Bronze and Early Iron Ages⁵, the ancient sources' data

⁴ Dixon J., Cann J. and Renfrew C., Obsidian and the Origins of Trade. "Scientific America", 1968, № 218, p. 46.

5 Մարտիրոսյան Հ.Ա., Թորոսյան Ռ.Մ., Հայաստանի էնեոլիթյան մշակույթի հարցի շուրջ, «Լրաբեր» հաս. գիտ., 1967, №3, էջ 52-62: Խանզադյան Է., Հայկական լեռնաշխարհի մշակույթը մ.թ.ա. III հազ., Երևան, 1967: Խանզադյան Է., Մկրտչյան Կ.Հ., Պարսամյան Է.Ս., Մեծամոր, Երևան, 1973: Փիլիպոսյան Ա., Հայկական լեռնաշխարհի մ.թ.ա. III-I հազ. հուշարձաններից հայտնաբերված ծովախխունջները որպես հնագիտական և

on external relations of the Armenian kingdoms of Aratta (according to the Sumerian epic about commodities exchange between Aratta and Sumer in the 3rd millennium BC)⁶, Armanum (the second half of the 3rd millennium BC)⁷, Hayasa (the second half of the 2nd millennium BC)⁸ and Nairi testify to the early trade relations of Armenia with the countries of Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean basin.

In the first millennium BC the most active periods of Armenia's participation in international trade were the epochs of the kingdoms of Ararat-Van (Urartu), Great Armenia and Armenia Minor, in particular, the period of the reigns of Artashes I (189-160 BC) and his grandson Tigran II the Great (95-55 BC) - the King of Kings of the Armenian Empire, stretching from the eastern borders of the Parthian Iran⁹ to the Mediterranean Sea in the West, from the Black Sea and the major mountain range of the Caucasus mountains in the North, to Syria, Egypt and the Persian Gulf in the South¹⁰. The most part of the Western Asian system of the Silk Road, including the highways passing through Iran, Mesopotamia and Armenia to Asia Minor and the Mediterranean Sea, was under the control of Armenian King of Kings Tigran II the Great. The developed urban planning and security of the highways of the Great Silk Road on the most part of the territory of Western Asia included in the Armenian Empire were the expression of the civilizing activities of Tigran II the Great¹¹. He founded a new capital, Tigranakert (in Aghdznik) and some other walled cities (also named after him) in

ազգագրական հետազոտությունների սկզբնաղբյուր, Հին Հայաստանի մշակույթը, XI, Երևան, 1998, էջ 64-65: Սիմոնյան Հ.Ե., Շենգավթի 2000 թ. պեղումները, Հայաստանի հնագույն մշակույթը, Հարություն Մարտիրոսյանի հիշատակին նվիրված գիտաժողովի զեկուցումների հիմնադրույթներ, Երևան, 2001, էջ 33-34: Areni-1 Chalcolithic Cave Settlement, <http://arenicave.livejournal.com/>

⁶ Kramer S.N., Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta: a Sumerian Epic Tale of Iraq and Iran, Philadelphia, 1952. L. N. Petrosyan expressed an opinion on the localization of Aratta (cf. Ararat) in the Armenian Highland (Պետրոսյան Լ.Ն., Հայ ժողովրդի փոխադրամիջոցներ, Հայ ազգաբանություն և բնահյուսություն, Ժողովածու, 6, Երևան, 1974, էջ 123, cf. Kavoukjan M., Armenia, Subartu and Sumer. The Indo-European Homeland and Ancient Mesopotamia, Montreal, 1987, pp. 68-70; 15, Մովսիսյան Ա., Հնագույն պետությունը Հայաստանում. Արատտա, Երևան, 1992, էջ 29-32).

⁷ Кифишин А., Географические воззрения древних шумеров при патеси Гудеа (2162-2137 гг. до н. э.), Палестинский сб., вып. 13 (76), 1965, стр. 64, Иванов Вяч. Вс., Выделение разных хронологических слоев в древнеармянском и проблема первоначальной структуры гимна Вахагну, ՊԲՀ, 1983, N 4, с. 32-33.

⁸ Մարտիրոսեան Ն., Հայերէնի յարաբերութիւնը հեթանոսեան հետ, Հանդէս Ամսօրեայ, 1924, թիվ 9-10, էջ 453: Forrer E., Haiasa-Azzi, Caucasiaca, 1931, N 9, S. 1-24; Капанцян Г., Хайаса-колыбель армян, Ереван, 1948. Ղազարյան Ռ., Հայաստանի քաղաքական և մշակութային պատմությունը, Երևան, 2009:

⁹ I s i d o r i c h a r a c e n i. Mansiones Parthicae, VI.- K. M ü l l e r. Geographi Graeci Minores, Hildesheim, vol. I, 1965, p. 244-254; Դ ա ի լ լ ա ն Է. Լ., Իսկոոր Քարակաղու «Պարթևական կայանները», ՊԲՀ, 1971, 4, էջ 173:

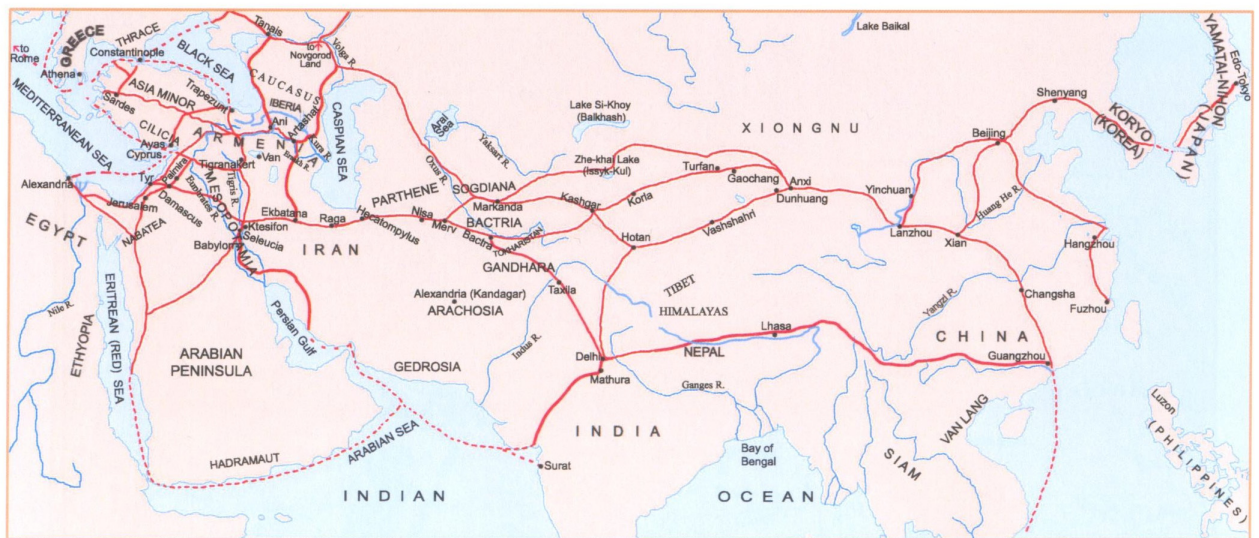
¹⁰ Plutarch's Lives, with an English translation by B. Perrin, London, in eleven volumes, vol. 4, 1950, Luculus, XIV, Appian's Roman History, Book XI, The Syrian Wars, VIII. 48, pp. 196-197, M. Juniani Justini Epitoma Historiarum Philippicarum Pompeii Trogi. Ex recen. Fr. Ruehl, Lipsiae, 1915, XXXVIII, 3, 1-5.

¹¹ Դանիելյան Է., Տիգրան II Մեծի քաղաքակրթական գործունեության ռազմավարությունը, ՊԲՀ, 2006, №2, էջ 3-12:

Great Armenia (Artsakh, Utik, Gogtn/Goghtan), and other parts of the Armenian Empire¹².

In the Late Antiquity and, particularly, in the Middle Ages, with the change of the geopolitical situation, in the epochs of the Armenian Arshakuni (65-428) and Bagratuni kingdoms of Great Armenia (885-1045), the reunited state of Armenia (the second half of the 7th century), later the Armenian Rubenian Principality (1080-1197) and the Kingdom of Cilician Armenia (1198-1375), as well as in the periods of the rise of the Armenian Principality of Artsakh-Khachen (from the 10th to 16th century)¹³ and the Zakaryans' state (centers: Ani, Dvin, Gag) (the end of the 12th - the first decades of the 13th century), Armenia maintained its important military and strategic position in Western Asia and economic significance in international trade. According to the medieval Armenian historian Aristakes Lastivertsi (1002-1080), Armenian "worthy merchants... working on land and at sea, strived to deliver their property to Artsn (near Karin-E.D.), and the inhabitants of Kars accumulated great wealth by sea and land". The historian called the Armenian Bagratuni Kingdom's capital Ani "the world famous city"¹⁴.

THE SILK ROAD IN ANCIENT AND EARLY MEDIEVAL TIMES



The map's author E. L. Danielyan
Computer design K. A. Musheghyan

The significance of Armenia in the development of international trade has also been manifested in the field of conclusion of trade agreements and elaboration of legal acts. Among them are the Armenian-Byzantine trade agreement of 891¹⁵ and later - the agreements of the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia with the commercial centers of Venice,

¹² The Geography of Strabo, with an English translation by H. L. Jones, Cambr., Mass., London, in eight volumes, vol. V, 1954, XI. 14, Claudii Ptolemaei Geographia, vol. I, pars secunda, Parisiis, 1901, V. 12. 10, VI. 2. Պատմութիւն Սերէնի, աշխատասիրութեամբ Գ. Վ. Արգարյանի, Երևան, 1979, էջ 125:

¹³ Ուլուբարյան Բ.Ա., Խաչենի իշխանությունը X-XVI դարերում, Երևան, 1975:

¹⁴ Պատմութիւն Արիստակիսի Լաստիվերտցոյ, Երևան, 1963, էջ 74, 83, 133:

¹⁵ Иованнес Драсханакертци, История Армении (перев. с древнеарм., вступ. статья и комментарий М.О. Дарбинян-Меликян), Ереван, 1986, стр. 128, 316, прим. 2.

Genoa, and others. The contribution of the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia to abolishing of the so-called "coastal law" (*Jus litoris*)¹⁶ is of great importance. The medieval Armenian writer and lawgiver Mkhitar Gosh (1120-1213) condemned "coastal law" in his famous work "The Code of Laws." The Armenian kings of Cilicia, especially Levon I¹⁷ (1198-1219) and Hethum I (1225–1270) made every effort to abolish it¹⁸.

In Antiquity and the Middle Ages the capitals and major cities of Great Armenia flourished - Van, Erebuni-Erevan, Armavir, Yervandashat, Artashat, Tigranakert, Vagharshapat, Dvin, Jugha, Nakhijevan, Kars, Ani, Bagaran, Shirakavan, Karin, Artsn, Kars, Manazkert, Mush, Artanuj, Artvin, Gandzak,¹⁹ as well as of Cilician Armenia - Sis, Ayas²⁰ and others on the highways of the Silk Road.

Armenia and neighboring countries had suffered great calamities as a result of the invasions of eastern hordes of nomads - Seljuk-Oghuz-Turks (in the second half of the 11th century AD), the Mongol-Tatars (1236 - the 14th c.), Kara Koyunlu and Aq Koyunlu (the 15th c.), as well as the Ottoman-Safavid wars of conquest and territorial partitions (1555, 1639), which destroyed, established since ancient times the system of the Great Silk Road²¹.

The Armenian Genocide, planned, organized and committed by the Ottoman and the Young Turk regimes, and continued by the Kemalists in the agonizing Ottoman Empire and Western Armenia, Cilician Armenia, and in some regions of Eastern Armenia, along with the annihilation and deportation of the Armenian population also resulted in the destruction of the Armenian cultural values and the trade and economic spheres of the country.

The holistic historical heritage of the Armenian people territorially includes the Republic of Armenia, the Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) Republic, Northern Artsakh, Utik (Gardman, Gandzak...), Northern Gugark (Javakhk, Treghk...), Nakhijevan, Paytakaran in Eastern Armenia and subjected to the crime of genocide Western Armenia, Cilician Armenia and Armenian Mesopotamia. However, the UNESCO designers of the international program of the Silk Road did not taken into consideration the actual history, but took as a basis the modern "political world map", where the Republic of Armenia is presented within the limits resulting from huge human and territorial losses

¹⁶ A plundering practice existing from ancient times in Europe and Asia.

¹⁷ Levon II, Prince of Cilicia, after crowning - King Levon I (Wayne G. Sayles, *Ancient Coin Collecting VI*, Iola, WI, 1999, p. 36).

¹⁸ Барсегов Ю.Г., Отказ армян от «берегового права», *ПР*, 1971, №1, стр. 95-110. Барсегов Ю.Г., Борьба Киликийской Армении против пиратства в Средиземном море, *ПР*, 1973, №3, стр. 71-84.

¹⁹ Манандян Я.А., О торговле и городах Армении в связи с мировой торговлей древних времен, Ереван, 1954. Мартиросян А., На Великом Шелковом пути, Ереван, 1998.

²⁰ Микаелян Г. Г., «История Киликийского армянского государства», Ереван, 1952.

²¹ A monastic scribe in Crete wrote with horror about the capture of Constantinople (1453) by the Turks: "There never has been and never will be a more dreadful happening" (Palmer A., *The Decline and Fall of the Ottoman Empire*, New York, 1992, p. 1). Victor Hugo noted: "Les Turcs ont passé là: tout est ruine et deuil" (V. Hugo., *Oeuvres complètes. Poésie I*. Paris, 1985, L'enfant, p. 476).

of the Armenian people as the result of the Armenian Genocide, as well as the conclusion of the Moscow and Kars illegal treaties, due to the Bolshevik-Kemalist criminal conspiracy²² and enforced decisions of the Caucasian Bureau (1921)²³.

In 1988 UNESCO launched a ten-year project entitled: "Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue." The goal of the project is defined in the following statement: "The Silk Roads have highlighted the fruitful dialectic and give-and-take in the unending dialogue between civilizations and cultures. They show how the movement of people, and the flow of ideas and values, have served to transform cultures, and even civilizations... Through this project, UNESCO has sought to shed light on the common heritage, both material and spiritual, that links the peoples of Eurasia"²⁴. In the course of the project's realization were carried out dozens of conferences and seminars, created movies, etc. however, on many sites containing information about the UNESCO project, incorrectly using the names "Anatolia" and "Turkey" in relation to the territories of Western Armenia and Cilician Armenia, and not mentioning the Armenian Highland and the whole of Armenia, is presented disinformation, completely falsifying the whole history of Armenia and, accordingly, the history of the Silk Road, as can be seen, for example, from the following passage: "Caravanserais were built mainly for travellers pilgrims and wandering dervishes in regions like Anatolia where East and West met"²⁵. "Linking Turkey, the Caucasus, Western China, Iran, Afghanistan and India, the caravan routes transformed them into one huge cultural and economic zone... "The United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture" is committed to integrated, comprehensive study of the heritage of ancient civilizations, the flourishing of many of them is directly linked with the development of contacts along the Great Silk Road"²⁶.

But what is the relation of Turkey with the heritage of ancient civilizations? Gross injustice is the mention of Turkey in connection with the Silk Road project along with a number of countries - the creators and keepers of ancient and medieval cultural traditions of the native peoples. Contrary to them Turkey is responsible for the crime committed against humanity and civilization, the first genocide of the 20th century - the Armenian Genocide. After committing the genocide against Armenians (1.5 million were killed) Turkey continues the genocide of culture - the destruction of the Armenian historic heritage in Western Armenia, including Cilician Armenia.

France, England and Russia in their Joint Declaration of May 24 1915 condemned Turkey of committing "new crimes against humanity and civilization"²⁷ (it meant a new

²² Барсегов Ю.Г., Политическая оценка Московского и Карсского договоров, see in the book: Геноцид армян. Ответственность Турции и обязательства мирового сообщества, т. 2, часть 2, Москва, 2005, стр. 442-443.

²³ Манасян А., Карабахский конфликт. Ключевые понятия и хроника, Ереван, «Нораванк», 2005, стр. 13-14.

²⁴ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001592/159291eo.pdf>

²⁵ Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue. Newsletter, Issue N° 4, 1995, p. 3 <https://goo.gl/VINr69>

²⁶ ЮНЕСКО и Великий Шелковый путь, http://www.sairamtourism.com/ru/gsr_unesco

²⁷ "...En présence de ces nouveaux crimes de la Turquie contre l'humanité et la civilisation, les gouvernements alliés font savoir publiquement à la Sublime Porte qu'ils tiendront personnellement responsables des dits crimes tous les

stage of crimes in 1909-1915 after the massacre in the 90^s of the 19th century). The Entente Reply to President Wilson's Peace Note stated, that one of their aims was "the turning out from Europe of the Ottoman Empire, as decidedly foreign to Western civilization"²⁸.

The Treaty of Sèvres (10.08.1920) retains its value as a document of international law. The President of the United States Woodrow Wilson's Arbitral Award (ratified with the signatures of the arbitrator Woodrow Wilson and Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby and The Great Seal of the United States) is final and binding²⁹.

The consultants of UNESCO and other organizations dealing with political and cultural problems of the region must know the truth, on the one hand, about the history of Armenia, the crime of the Armenian Genocide committed by Turkey and the capture of Western Armenia, including Cilician Armenia, etc., and, on the other hand, about the Azerbaijani crimes - deportation, pogroms and massacres of the native Armenian population of the districts, towns and villages of some regions of Eastern Armenia (Nakhjhevan, Artsakh and Utik: Getashen, Shahumyan, Maragha, Gandzak...), as well as the Armenian population of the left bank of the Kura River (Shaki, Vardashen, Shamakhi, etc.) and the Cis-Caspian (Baku, Sumgait) and other cities.

The representatives of UNESCO declare about the integral study of the Silk Road, restoration of its history, however, they ignore the truth of history itself, particularly in relation to the holistic civilizational heritage of Armenia. In studying the history of the Silk Road and designing the international project it was necessary to have Armenia presented in its full historical content. On the contrary, the UNESCO project on "studying the Silk Road", in connection with the Armenian lands out of the Republic of Armenia goes, hand in hand with the falsifications perpetrated in the fields of archaeology, history and cartography of Armenia by Turkey and Azerbaijan, which have absolutely no relation to ancient and medieval Armenian civilizational heritage of the western and some eastern territories of Armenia annexed by them, moreover, they are continuously busy destroying it.

Guided by Pan-Turkism, Turkish authorities, having as their basis the genocidal experience of the Ottomans, the Young Turks and Kemalists, in the 30^s of the 20th century under the guidance of Kemal Atatürk and his henchmen fabricated

membres du gouvernement ottoman ainsi que ceux de ses agents qui se trouveraient impliqués dans de pareils massacres" (Beylerian Arthur, Les grandes puissances, l'empire ottoman et les Arméniens dans les archives françaises (1914-1918): recueil de documents, Paris 1983, p. XLIII, History of the United Nations War Crimes Commission and the Development of the Laws of War, London, 1948. Shabas W.A., Genocide in International Law, Cambridge, 2000, p. 16).

²⁸ Entente Reply to President Wilson's Peace Note, January 10, 1917 <https://goo.gl/hrzUal>

Hacopian A.P., Armenia and the War. An Armenian's Point of View with an appeal to Britain and the Coming Peace Conference with a Preface by the Rt, Hon. Viscount Bryce, O. M. New York, <https://goo.gl/ZEtKAN>

²⁹ Papian A.A., The Arbitral Award on Turkish-Armenian Boundary by Woodrow Wilson, the President of the United States of America (Historical Background, Legal Aspects and International Dimensions), Fundamental Armenology, Issue 1, 2015, p. 221, 233.

pseudoscientific "Turkish historical thesis".³⁰ Azerbaijani falsificators, on the other hand, adhered to the fraud of the type of "Buniativshchina" (the 60-80s of the 20th century) nurtured on the Turkish Armenophobic policy's yeast³¹. At present, Turkish and Azerbaijani falsifications with the "rebirth" of Neo-Osmanizm are experiencing a "boom" of the new phase of falsifications, with the support of their external patrons.

In the information war against Armenia, Turkish-Azerbaijani propaganda, falsifying the historical realities, uses the international podiums. It seemed that the UNESCO project would serve historical truth, but, on the contrary, there is observed the "Turkish-Azerbaijani trace". Moreover, it can be stated that in relation to the falsification of the history of Armenia in favor of the Turkish-Azerbaijani alliance, the project "Integral Study of the Silk Road" is the quintessence of falsifications carried out by the Turkish "research institutes" in close cooperation with some external research centers³². Thus, when the question in the project concerns the historical heritage of the whole territory of Armenia, the real facts of historical science are ignored by such organizations.

In September of 1998, the international conference entitled "TRACECA - Restoration of the Historic Silk Road" under the auspices of the European Union was held in Baku³³, in the framework of "TRACECA Programme (transport corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia) for the first time initiated at the Conference in Brussels, in May 1993, involving Ministries of Trade and Transport from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan"³⁴. In 2008, at the next conference of TRACECA again held in Baku, the transport Minister of Turkey talked about the "revival of the historical Silk Road" and, as if "thanks to it a new infrastructure project entered into the life of the member states"³⁵. In reality, Turkish authorities are busy with denying the Armenian Genocide and the realization of the ideologically Pan-Turkic "Caucasus platform"³⁶. Thus, Turkey and Azerbaijan historically

³⁰ Clive Foss criticized the so-called "Turkish historical thesis" (Clive Foss, When Turks Civilized the World. History Today, Vol. 55, 2005, pp. 10-16, cf. Wendy M.K., Shaw, Whose Hittites, and Why? Language, Archaeology and the Quest for the Original Turks. - Archaeology Under Dictatorship, Edited by M. L. Galaty, Ch. Watkinson, Springer, 2006, Chapter 7, pp. 131-153].

³¹ Мнацаканян А.Ш., Севак П., По поводу книги З. Буниятова "Азербайджан в VII -IX вв.", ПРС, 1967, №1, стр. 177-190; Саркисян Г.Х., Мурадян П. М., «Буниятовщине» не видно конца, "Լրաբեր" հիւ. գիւ., 1988, №5, стр. 41-49; Шнирельман В.А., Войны памяти. Мифы, идентичность и политика в Закавказье, Москва, 2003.

³² The University of Melbourne (ABN: 84 002 705 224) 1994-2001, "The North-Eastern Anatolia Archeological Project", Ataturk University and Eurasian Silk Road Universities Consortium (ESRUC). International Symposium on East Anatolia-South Caucasus Cultures, October, 2012, http://easc.atauni.edu.tr/en/?page_id=17

³³ <http://www.traceca-org.org/ru/traseka/istorija-traseka/>

³⁴ <http://www.traceca-org.org/en/traceca/history-of-traceca/>

³⁵ <http://www.traceca-org.org/ru/traseka/istorija-traseka/>

³⁶ In connection with the activities of Prime Minister of Turkey Erdogan in creation of the "Caucasus platform of peace and stability" (20 August, 2008) (<http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/details/42830/> http://www.armtoday.info/default.asp?Lang=_Ru&NewsID=5469), it is necessary to remember that regardless of its format, any idea of creation of such a regional structure initiated by Turkey, which denies the Armenian Genocide, in its basis, inevitably will have a "rebirth" of the program of creation of the ideologically Pan-Islamic and Pan-Turkic

having no relation to the history of the Silk Road and its heritage, in their annexationist goals are turning it into the target for their falsifications. At the same time, the next victim of savage annihilation of the Armenian historical and cultural heritage became the last group of ten thousand destroyed khachkars (cross-stones) in the cemetery of the ancient Armenian city of Jugha³⁷, located on the highway of the historic Silk Road.

A very peculiar form acquires the patronage of some responsible persons of the UN in relation to the falsifications of Turkey. In 2005 the so-called "Alliance of civilizations" was created with the active participation of Prime Ministers of Spain and Turkey³⁸. During the opening of the 2nd forum of the "Alliance" (April 6, 2009) in Istanbul, Prime Minister Erdogan, in the presence of heads of a number of states made a "statement" absolutely not corresponding to historical reality. He in particular said: "On behalf of my country and nation, I would like to express my great pleasure in hosting the Second Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in Istanbul... this land has been rather the home of peace, tolerance, a culture of coexistence, mutual compassion and respect"³⁹. Contrary to such an obvious lie, the Decree issued on January 5, 1916 by the Minister of War Enver Pasha⁴⁰ shows the antihuman face of the Turkish occupants: "It is important to change into Turkish all names of provinces, regions, villages, mountains and rivers belonging to Armenian, Greek, Bulgarian and other non-Muslim peoples. Making use swiftly of this favorable moment, we beseech your help in carrying out this order"⁴¹.

Further, Erdogan deepening into the labyrinth of falsification of history, stated: "Not only Istanbul alone, but almost every city in Turkey today sustains the traditional symbols of peace, harmony and tolerance that have been in existence here throughout history... There have also been provocative acts in Turkey, as in many countries around the world, aiming to harm this climate of brotherhood and friendship. But our society, moulded in a culture of tolerance and dialogue for thousands of years, has never allowed such divisive acts to prevail and has always chosen to stand together against

"independent Caucasus," elaborated by the Turkish criminal government and a group of Caucasian Muslims in 1915, in Constantinople (Istanbul) (Georgia and the War, Zurich, 1916, pp. 33-34; Аветисян Г.А., К вопросу о «Кавказском доме» и пантюркистских устремлениях, <http://poli.vub.ac.be/publi/etni-1/avetisyan.htm>).

³⁷ This crime was committed at the beginning of the 21 century. The Armenian cemetery was desecrated and transformed into a shooting range (Julfa. The Annihilation of the Armenian Cemetery by Nakhijevan's Azerbaijani Authorities, Beirut, 2006). About historical monuments of Jugha see; Այվազյան Ա., Զոհիւ, Երևան, 1984:

³⁸ Lachmann Niels, In the Labyrinth of International Community: The Alliance of Civilisations Programme of the United Nations, Cooperation and Conflict, June 2011, vol. 46 (2), pp. 185-200. Some experts opposed the creation of an "Alliance of Civilizations" in the framework of the United Nations (Schaefer B., The U. S. Should Oppose the Proposed U. N. Alliance of Civilizations (2007, <http://www.heritage.org/report/the-us-should-oppose-the-proposed-un-alliance-civilizations>).

³⁹ The Alliance of Civilizations Second Forum Opening Statement. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey (April 6, 2009), p. 2 [http://www.unaoc.org/images/erdogan_forum_speech_\(4\).pdf](http://www.unaoc.org/images/erdogan_forum_speech_(4).pdf)

⁴⁰ Enver Pasha was one of the main perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide.

⁴¹ Sahakyan L., Turkification of the Toponyms in the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey, Montreal, 2010, p. 14.

those plots aiming to undermine our friendship. On the basis of these experiences in Turkey, I would like to express our distinct pleasure in being able to convey messages of peace to the world"⁴². The facts show quite the opposite. There can be no word about "thousands of years", because the Seljuk-Oghuz-Turkic nomads (from Trans-Altai deserts and Aral steppes) appeared in Western Asia only from the second half of the 11th century and later. Their devastating raids, along with the captivity and murder of peaceful population, the destruction of many thriving cities and cultural centers, destroyed also the system of the Silk Road. About the Ottoman Turks Arnold Toynbee noted that their "eponym, 'Osmān, was the son of a certain Ertoghrul who had led into Anatolia (Asia Minor - E.D.) a nameless band of Turkish refugees: an insignificant fragment of the human wreckage...."⁴³.

Erdogan speaks about "a culture of tolerance and dialogue," but in reality his speech serves as a disguise for the Turkish government's policy of the denial of the Armenian Genocide. On April 24, 1915 it was just in Constantinople (Istanbul) that thousands of Armenian intellectuals, political, national, religious leaders, teachers, doctors and other professionals were arrested and killed with the sanction of the Young Turks' government.

It should be noted that in contrast to the Russian Chronicles and Historiography (which retained the ancient Armenian names) and the policy of foundation of new cities in the Russian Emire - New Nakhijevan, Grigoriopol, Armavir named after the ancient and medieval Armenian names⁴⁴, in the Ottoman Empire, and later on, in the Republic of Turkey, as a result of genocidal policy, as in the past, as well as at present is prohibited the mention of the Armenian geographic names (Western Armenia, Ararat, Masis, Aratsani, and many others), which are either distorted or destroyed by the direct sanction of the Turkish authorities.

On the one hand, in the framework of the Silk Road project, Turkey presents its "program" allegedly in modern "political boundaries", including the occupied Western Armenian lands, on the other hand, as can be seen from international events and Internet sites, Armenia, is represented in the Silk Road project of UNESCO only within the limits of the Republic of Armenia.⁴⁵ Moreover, Western Armenia (including Cilician Armenia) - the largest part of the Motherland of the Armenian people, not only is not represented in the Silk Road project of UNESCO, but this project is used against the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic. For example, in June 2008 at a conference entitled "New Silk Road Business Opportunities" held in Chicago [partners and cosponsors: the Central Asian Productivity Research Center, the Turkish Trade

⁴² The Alliance of Civilizations Second Forum Opening Statement, p. 2.

⁴³ Toynbee A.J., A Study of History, vol. II, Oxford University Press, London, New York, Toronto, 1955, p. 151.

⁴⁴ Даниелян Э.Л., Философское осмысление истории Армении в историографическом контексте российско-армянского цивилизационного диалога. В кн: Армения в диалоге цивилизаций, Нижний Новгород, 2011, стр. 11-18.

⁴⁵ <http://www.silkroad.travel/ru/eritage>; <http://www.silkroad.travel/gsr-map>.

Office in Chicago, and the Commercial Section, Consulate of Pakistan (Chicago); participating countries Turkey, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and some others] were presented completely distorted facts and false attacks addressed⁴⁶ to the Republic of Armenia in connection with the victorious results of the liberation struggle of Artsakh.

Turkish authorities sanctioning the annihilation of the Armenian cultural and civilizational values and incorrect using of the term "Eastern Anatolia" instead of *Western Armenia*, exploit the Silk Road project, pursuing Pan-Turkic aims, as, for example, follows from tourism website "All about Turkey "desined" by Burak Sansal. This website falsificator of history presents himself, as "a licensed professional tour guide, introducing tourists of many nationalities to Turkey and its wonders since 1990". As he says: "I'm also trying to promote Turkey through this award-winning website which is fully created by myself. Whether you're visiting Turkey or just interested, you can have an idea about our country scrolling through the pages." Burak knows that the term "Anatolia" corresponds to Asia Minor, but falsifying historical geography, he wrongly uses the term "Eastern Anatolia" instead of *Western Armenia*. Along with many names of the cities and towns that are marked on the so-called "Anatolian Silk Road Itinerary", mentioning also the cities of Western Armenia (including Armenia Minor) - Erzurum (Karin), Erzincan (Eriza/Erznka), Mush, Kars, Ardahan, Van, Bitlis (Baghesh), Sivas (Sebastia), Tokat, Amasia, Diyarbakir (Amid) etc., Burak writes: "The Ministry of Tourism is planning to reactivate the Silk Road on which these unique examples of our cultural heritage still stand". The forger then writes: "The caravan routes transporting silk, china, paper, spices and precious stones from one continent to the other followed several itineraries in Asia before arriving in Anatolia, which served as a bridge linking it to Europe via the Thrace region.... After the Turkic Republics in Central Asia acquired their independence, the idea was raised to revive the Silk Road both as a trade route and as a cultural and historical heirloom with the aim of restoring the inns and caravanserais to meet present day requirements"⁴⁷. Thus, Burak presents the plans of Turkish officials, who are eager to privatize the Silk Road not only in the part of the highway within the system of trade routes [crossing Western Armenia (including Cilician Armenia and Armenia Minor)] of Great Armenia, but proclaiming all the republics of Central Asia (i.e. Middle Asia) "Turkic". But it is necessary to remember that, for example, the Tajik language - the official language of the Republic of Tajikistan belongs to the Iranian branch of the Indo-Iranian languages of the Indo-European family⁴⁸, etc.

⁴⁶ <http://lists.econ.utah.edu/pipermail/a-list/2008-June/035334.html>.

⁴⁷ All about Turkey with tour guide Burak Sansal. <https://goo.gl/dBfWj3> <http://www.allaboutturkey.com/anatolia.htm>
<http://www.allaboutturkey.com/erzurum.htm>
<http://www.allaboutturkey.com/eastern-anatolia.htm>

⁴⁸ Бартольд В.В., Таджики. Исторический очерк, Соч., т. II, ч. 1, Москва, 1963, стр. 469; Бартольд В.В., Работы по исторической географии и истории Ирана, Соч., т. VII, Москва, 1971, стр. 304, 505.

Thus, Turkey through the "Alliance of Civilizations", fabricated under the auspices of the UN and "The Silk Road project", initiated by UNESCO, as well as falsely using the term "Eastern Anatolia", appropriates the cultural heritage of Western Armenia, including Armenia Minor, Cilician Armenia and Armenian Mesopotamia, committing the genocide of Armenian culture. On the other hand, in the political-economic and cultural projects elaborated by certain international circles the cultural heritage of the Armenian people is presented only within the limits of territory of the Republic of Armenia, pressed into regional pseudo-concept "Southern Caucasus" (in reality, the Caucasus and all its parts are to the north and east of the Kura River). But, for a true scientific and historical approach to the study of the history of the Silk Road it is necessary at the international level to implement actually the idea of protection of cultural and historical heritage of each people (monuments of architecture, works of art, manuscripts, etc.), especially of the Armenian nation, subjected to genocide in the western part of its Homeland - Western Armenia (including western part of Great Armenia, Armenia Minor, Cilician Armenia and Armenian Mesopotamia).

In order for the project "Integral Study of the Silk Road" to be scientifically founded and serving the dialogue of civilizations, it is necessary to present the historical and cultural heritage of Armenia in its territorial entity: Eastern Armenia - the Republic of Armenia, the Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) Republic, Northern Artsakh, Utik (Gardman, Gandzak...), Javakhk, Nakhijevan and Paytakaran, as well as Western Armenia, including Armenia Minor, Armenian Mesopotamia and Cilician Armenia. A truly scientific approach to the history of the Silk Road in line with the dialogue of civilizations can become one of the guarantors of the security of the world civilization with its spiritual and cultural roots in Armenia⁴⁹.

⁴⁹ George Gordon Byron about Armenians, the Armenian Motherland - Armenia and the Armenian language wrote: "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" (Lord Byron's *Armenian Exercises and Poetry*. Venice: in the Island of St. Lazzaro, 1870, pp. 8, 10-12). D.M. Lang highly appreciating the contribution of Armenia to the world civilization, particularly, wrote: "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... Again, Armenia has a claim on our attention as one of the principal homes of ancient metallurgy, beginning at least five thousand years ago..." (Lang D. M., "Armenia: Cradle of Civilization", London, 1970).