



History of Ancient Armenia

Before and After Alexander's Invasion

From old time until 1st c. AD

By: Edic B. Baghdasarian

(Ed. Germanic)

Էդիկ Բ. Բաղդասարյան

Անտիկ Հայաստանի հնագույն պատմության

Ալեքսանդր Մակեդոնացու արշավանքից առաջ և հետո

Սկզբին մինչև մ.թ. Ա դար (Անգլերեն)

ISBN: 978-1-990573-15-6

www.Edic-Baghdasarian.com

Armenian Research Center

- Artaxiad Armenia 95 B.C.
- Acquired by Tigran, 95-66 B.C.
- Vassal kingdoms of Tigran
- Briefly vassals of Tigran

A

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Toronto 2023 Canada

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Preface

Throughout his centuries-old history, the Armenian people has passed a difficult way for his survival, social and national liberation, for its good future, and has suffered great moments. They were subjected to a severe trial, the greatest tragedy in the dark years of the first world war.

This horrific case was the result of Armenia's regular and gradual military-political weakness, various foreign invasions and failure of the Armenian army in the battles, and even its absence, emmigration, internal and external socio-political and socio-economic competitions, internal disagreements and most importantly, the military-political conflict between the East and the West.

The history of the Armenian people is a history of struggle and war. It is even a tradition that Armenian originated its right to exist with a sharp arrow shot from the Armenian bow. And the battle of the Armenian canyon, where Hayk defeted Bel, is the oldest frontier described in the history of world military art¹.

A history lesson is that when the Armenian bow has weakened when the Armenian arm weakened, the sword of the enemy hung on the head of the nation.

The Armenians have demonstrated their innovations in military

¹ - Hayk is the "*nahapet*", the progenitor or original patriarch, of the Armenians. He led his household of 300 away from Babylon, being pursued by its lord, Bel. A great battle ensued, during which Hayk's arrow found its mark, killing Bel, and ushering in freedom and a new era. One version of an Armenian calendar begins with that date, equivalent to our 11th of August, as the new year. The year of that event, 2492 BC, was calculated in modern times.

art for millennia ago. For the first time the iron application, the first use of iron weapons and armor belong to Armenian ancestors, the honor of using the first cavalry and the use of horse as a tool of war is also the Armenian ancestors’.

Many great Powers were lost and drowned during the history, but the Armenian army was the pledge of the existence and viability of the Armenian nation. Where the Armenian soldier did not shed blood? Even in 612 BC, Babylon and Media sought support from the Armenian soldier to destroy their enemy Nineveh, and Baruyr Haykazen led his cavalymen to Mesopotamia to destroy Nineveh for the sake of the nation's survival.

The only serious resistance to invasion of the Alexander the Great who came to conquer Asia from the European continent in 331 BC, was shown by the Armenians on the battlefield of Gaugamela, when the Armenian armies of the Persian army managed to remain unshakable to the Macedonian forces and again became the guarantee of Armenia's independence. And when the Macedonian army wanted to conquer Armenia, the Armenian army defeated the Macedonians in the Battle of Sper and killed their commander Menon.

In the II century BC, Hannibal, a brave Carthaginian who occupied a part of southern Italy for 15 years and tried to march on Rome, trusted only the Armenian soldier and found refuge in Armenia. In 190 BC, Hannibal was placed in command of a Seleucid fleet but was defeated in the battle of the Eurymedon. According to Strabo and Plutarch, Hannibal also received hospitality at the Armenian royal court of Artaxias I

(Artashes I)².

King Tigran the Great threw the entire east under the feet of the Armenian cavalry. Parthia, Media, Osroene, Commagene, Cappadocia, Sophene, Cilicia and Syria, etc. Dozens of large and small countries were subjugated. He repeatedly demolished Roman legions and was worshiped by his own people.

In 62 AD, the Armenian troops managed to break the Roman army. Rome had long remembered this humiliation. Neither before, nor after, no army, nor any other commander failed to humiliate Rome. With this victory, Trdat I Arshakuni won the right to reign in Armenia.

In the 3rd century, Khosrov III, the Great King of Armenia, made the Sassanid Persia invaded by the Armenian cavalry and sword, and the Persian king was able to stop the Armenian triumph only by Anant Partev's betraying.

From the 4th century, Mamikonian's knights led the Armenian armed forces and consecrated the Armenian victories with their blood. General Vasak Mamikonian commander –in –chief of the Armenian army shattered Persian and Byzantine Forces, General Mushegh Mamikonian through his bravery in Dzirav battlefield, was admired by his own opponent Persian king Shapur, commander –in –chief Manvel Mamikonian cursed his fortune that he was not martyred in the battlefield, but died in bed ... the image of an Armenian soldier, a dedicated commander.

From the 7th century, the Armenian stopped the green flag of Islam to Europe. And the Arab hordes, unable to capture the

2 - Strabo, XI.XIV.6, Plutarch, Lucullus 32.3.

Armenian land, pushed their way to Europe by conquering all of North Africa, through Gibraltar stepped down on the European continent.

And in the ninth century, the Knights of Bagratuni lifted the sword sharply against the caliphate and led the people towards freedom. Zakarians proudly raised the fallen flag of Bagratunian kingdom and began the triumph of liberty in Lori in a short time, knocked down the slavery chains and decorated their bright forehead with crowns. Even in the foreign land of Cilicia, the Armenian soldier created a statehood.

And where it is that the Armenian soldier did not bring glory to the Armenian history? In Byzantine, the longest survival warfare was at the Armenias Camp (an administrative unit in the Roman Empire,). For centuries, Armen and Brave words were synonymous. The Armenian emperors from the Armenian military caused Byzantium to regain its previous glory.

Even tens of thousands of Armenian soldiers were settled in Egypt, and the scattered fragments of the Armenian people gained the right to live under the scorching sun of Africa, taking Egypt's rule for a whole century. In Far Bulgaria, the sons of Samuel Komsadzag led the Bulgarian people to freedom and brought them glory. Armenians fought against robber crusaders in Grundwald, fought for Russia, Persia, etc.

In the undefeated Napoleon's army, Armenian army of the Mamluks was the most undefeated, which was under the command of brave Rostom. And in the Battle of Austerlice, the Napoleon's army was led by his faithful helper and groom, the king of Naples, Hovakim Murat, born in Artsakh of Armenia. Valery general

Madatov, another resident of Artsakh, stood against him. And the two men from Artsakh would decide the fate of the world ...

And in the Armenian land the spirit of the Armenians woke up and the arm of the Armenians began to function again in Artsakh. David Begs brave men were the first ones who sharpened the sword to break the foreign yoke. And everything started again, in Sasun, Vaspurakan, Taron ...

And the mighty arm of the Armenians showed up again in Sardarapat, Bash- Aparan, Gharakilisa. And the Armenians finally woke up, took arms, united and won.

But it was only the beginning. And everything went on. History gave a clear lesson. when the Armenian sword was rusted and blunt, immediately the enemy's sword started shining over their head.

In recent years, one of the hottest points in international politics is the Middle East, which Zbigniew Brzezinski called the "global Balkans." The "Greater Middle East" program was launched with the participation of James Baker's Public Policy Institute. It envisages the creation of a new geopolitical region on the basis of the Near and Middle East, including Central Asia, the South Caucasus, the Middle East Arab countries, Israel, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and North Africa. According to this project, the United States from China to the Balkans creates a "free highway" where no state or regime opposes US interests. It will be a region for the United States, which will have a great impact on the global economy. There are significant reserves of oil and gas being exploited here, and today the US economy also depends on it.

The Eastern Question has emerged as a result of the East-West conflict, an inseparable part of which is the "Armenian Question". In order to solve the Armenian Question, the developed economy for Armenia needs the strongest army, which not only will be able to honor and defend its native borders, but will return the occupied Armenian lands to the Armenian people, because our direct regional enemy is the Turkish state, and the only way the it is possible to negotiate with it can happen on the battlefield, what Alexander Miasnikian, the great leader of the Armenian people, said in time.

Clearly, it is clear that our far-off enemies and immediate neighbors can well understand their behavior.

This is the reality: the Armenian people needs to have one of the most powerful armies of the day, even though our present army is worthy of all appreciation, but all our people have to use all their potential to serve this great goal.

The purpose of this paper is to present a brief history of the operations of the Armenian military forces and the various stages of their organization from the earliest times of history to our days.

I hope that dear readers will support the author with their constructive suggestions and alerts about possible errors.

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