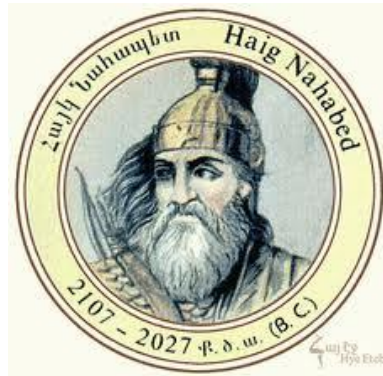


ARMENIAN HISTORY TIMELINE



Key Milestones over 7,000 years

1. Formative Era and the Kingdom of Ararat

5000 BC Armenian language becomes a separate Indo-European language

2700 BC First mention of Haya in Akkadian inscriptions found in Babylon.

2260 BC First mention of Armenia in Sumerian inscriptions

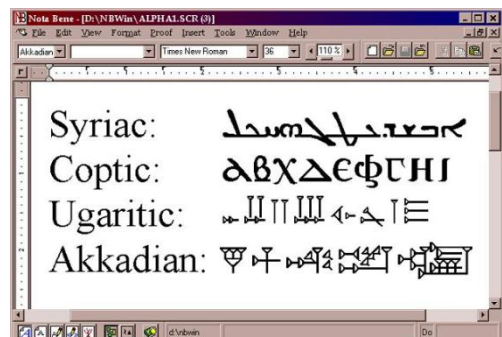
1300 BC Founding of Kingdom of Ararat (Urartu)

782 BC Founding of Erebuni/Erevan

585 BC Yervandian Dynasty (570-200) established when Kingdom of Ararat falls to Persians(Medes)

520 BC Armenia translated as Urartu on Behistun Inscription commemorating Darius' Persian Empire

336 BC Alexander the Great, Armenia incorporated into Seleucid Kingdom



2. Artashesian Kingdom

189 BC Artashes I – Consolidated Armenian State, founds Armenian dynasty that reaches its height under Tigran the Great and rules until 31 AD

95 BC Tigran the Great consolidates Armenian state with neighbors against Rome

0 Birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ

33 AD The Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ

3. Arshakuni Kingdom

66 Trdat I crowned King – founding Arshakuni dynasty that ruled Armenia through 428 during Armenia's conversion to Christianity

4. Adoption of Christianity. The Golden Age

301 St. Grigor (Gregory the Illuminator – photo to the right) converts King Trdat to Christianity and Armenia becomes the first Christian nation

303 Etchmiadzin (meaning the only-begotten descended) is established after St. Gregory has a vision

325 The First Ecumenical Council is held in Nicaea; the Nicene Creed is formulated, St. Aristakes (St. Gregory's son, later catholicos, attends from Armenia)

353 St. Nerses the Great (373), St. Gregory's great grandson, establishes schools, hospitals, orphanages, monasteries (St. Nerses photo to right)

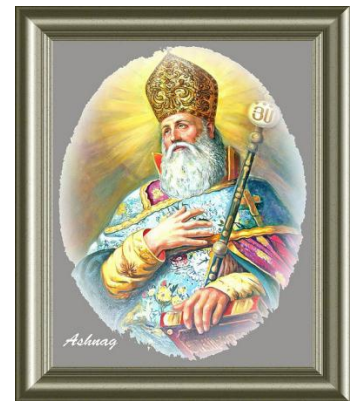
354 St. Augustine

381 The Second Ecumenical Council held in Constantinople

387 Partition of Armenia between Byzantium/Rome and Persia

404-6 The Armenian alphabet is created thanks to Catholicos Sahag and vardapet Mesrob, who lead a group of Holy

Translators in rendering the Bible and Armenian Church services into Armenian, ushering in the Golden Age of Armenian Culture.



431 The Third Ecumenical Council is held in Ephesus (the basic dogmas and teachings of the Armenian Church are based on the declarations of the three ecumenical councils (1st Nicaea 325, 2nd Constantinople 381))



451 The Battle of Avarayr is fought against the Persians in defense of Christianity; led by St. Vartan, who is martyred. Armenia proves its commitment to the Christian faith. The Fourth Ecumenical Council is held at Chalcedon, which the Armenian Church does not attend

476 Fall of Rome

484 The Treaty of Nvarsak is signed with the Persians, restoring Armenian local autonomy and guaranteeing Armenia's religious freedom.

607 The Armenian Church formally objects to the Council of Chalcedon's formulation about Christ's human and divine nature

614 The Persians destroy many of the over 70 Armenian churches and monasteries in Jerusalem. Many of these are never rebuilt

625 Catholicos Komitas Aghtsetsi rebuilds upper parts of Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin and replaces old chapel of St. Hripsimé with a sanctuary that is still extant, writes hymns, including him to the Martyred Virgins

5. First Encounter with Islam

640 The first Arab invasion of Armenia, Armenians retain local autonomy as vassals of the Arabs

717 St. Hovhan Odznetsi (St. John of Odzun) (-728) – Canon book, Theology, Hymns

850 Vikings invade England

850 Cyril and Methodius create Cyrillic Alphabet, convert Russia

6. Kingdom of Ani

885 Kingdom of Ani – Armenian self-rule established by Ashot I Bagratuni, consolidated by Ashot II Yerkat ('Iron') Bagratuni ca. 900. David of Sassoon epic.

915 Aghtamar is built in Lake Van by architect Manuel

947 The Catholicos Anania moves the See from Varag to Argina (near Ani). During Anania's pontificate, monasteries such as Sanahin and Narek are built

951 St. Grigor Narekatsi (St. Gregory of Narek) (-1003), Book of Prayer (also known as Book of Lamentations), wrote many hymns, odes used in the Armenian Church

990 Gagik I becomes King. Under Gagik I, the Bagratuni capital of Ani reaches its zenith and is renowned as "the city of 1,001 churches," with the mother cathedral designed by the architect Trdat. Armenian architecture enters its golden age and its influence is felt as far as western Europe

1054 Great Schism between Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches

1071 Battle of Manzikert (Manazgerd) – Turks invade Armenia, Fall of Ani (1064)

1097 First Crusade, assisted by the Armenians of Caesarea, Cilicia, and Syria , in their efforts to capture the Holy Land from Islam. For the next three centuries, the Armenians take part in the Crusade

7. Cilician Kingdom

1080 Kingdom of Cilicia founded by Prince Roupen, by the Rubinian Dynasty

1100 St. Nerses Shnorhali (1173), poet, writer, theologian, ecumenical leader, liturgical reformer, revised Book of Hours, wrote many new hymns

1130 Mkhitar Gosh (1130-1213) compiled an Armenian Law Code, founded the university at Goshavank, wrote fables (photo below)

1149 The Holy See was moved to Hromkla, meaning 'Roman castle', just outside Cilicia



1198 Prince Levon II (1187-), becomes King Levon I, was consecrated King by the Catholicos Grigor VI Apirat on Christmas Day 1199 in Tarsus and received his crown from the King of Germany through the Pope's emissary

1200 Zakarians liberate parts of Armenia . They or their vassals (Orbelians, Proshians) built or expanded many monasteries throughout Armenia including Geghard, Kecharis, Haghartsin, Sanahin, Goshavank

1226 King Hetum I of Cilicia – Founds dynasty that rules until 1375

1236 Mongols capture Ani

1292 The Holy See moved to Sis, the capital of the Armenian kingdom in Cilicia

1346 St. Grigor Tatevatsi (St. Gregory of Tatev) (-1409), vardapet, philosopher, educator and theologian, is born in Vayots Dzor. Along with Hovhannes Vorotnetsi, his teacher and founder of the university at Tatev, he formulated the theology of the Armenian Church according medieval Western scholastic methods as a defense against proselytizing by Roman Catholic missionaries 1375 Egyptian Mamelukes conquer Cilician Kingdom during King Levon V's rule (1374-1375).



King Levon V 1342-1393

Last Armenian King of Lusignan Dynasty
Buried in Saint Denis Basilica, Paris, France

8.Search for Statehood: Armenia between Turks and Persians

1400 Turkomans invade Armenia ; Tamerlane devastates Armenia

1441 The Holy See moved back to the monastery of Etchmiadzin in Vagharshapat by by decision of a church council, with as many as 700 clergy and laity participating

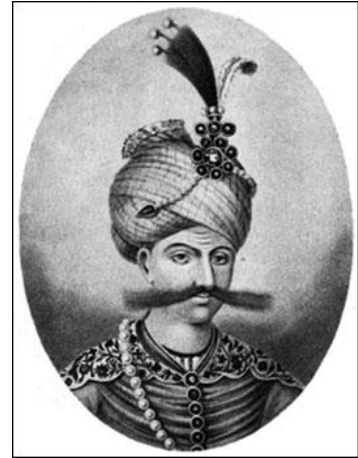
1492 Columbus discovers America

1512 First Armenian printed book in Venice by Hakob Meghapart (cf. Gutenberg Bible (1455))

1517 Martin Luther begins Protestant Movement, Machiavelli writes The Prince

1555 Armenia divided between Ottoman Empire and Persia

1605 Shah Abbas (1587-1629) Persian King resettles 25.000+ Armenians to Isfahan from Nakhichevan, Eastern Armenia (photo to the right).



1618 First Armenian in America – John Martin the Armenian, silk worm grower (Armenian name is assumed

to have been Harootune Mardirosian). According to records, he did well and had his brother “George the Armenian” brought over soon thereafter. Later, John transitioned to growing tobacco leaves.

1629 St. Movses of Tatev (-1632) reformed and revived the Church, protecting it from Muslim repression

1651 At the Council of Jerusalem , Pilipos I Aghbaketsi Catholicos of All Armenians and Nerses Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, meet and set canons defining the limits of the jurisdiction of the two Sees

1665 First Armenian settlement in India

1666 First printed Armenian Bible (Amsterdam) by Voskan vardapet

1701 Israel Ori meets with Russian Tsar Peter the Great to seek Russian assistance in liberating Armenia from the Persians

1701 A Benedictine order founded by Mkhitar Sebastatsi, who is invited by Roman Catholic Church to settle on the island of San Lazzaro in Venice ; the order's scholarship and education helps fuel the Armenian 19th century renaissance

1715 Hovhannes Kolot Baghishetsi becomes Patriarch of Constantinople, founds schools, publishes Armenian classics

1717 Grigor Shirvantsi accepts the position of Patriarch of Jerusalem called "shghtayakir" ("chain bearer") because he wears a chain around his neck until the debts of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem are fully paid

1722 Davit Bek leads successful rebellion against Persians and Ottomans in Siunik

1760 Hovsep Emin, merchant of Calcutta , who solicited the support of England and Russia for the liberation of Armenia

1790 Catholicos Simeon Yerevantsi founds first printing press at Etchmiadzin, introduces Der Voghormya into the Badarak, reorganizes the Church Calendar

9.Regaining Autonomy: Russian and Ottoman Empires

1813 Treaty of Gulistan – Russia annexes large parts of Georgia and Karabagh/Artsakh from Persia , including Elizavetpol (Gandzak, Karabagh)

1822 First Armenian settlement in Singapore

1828 Treaty of Turkmenchai – Russia annexes Yerevan , Nakhichevan from Persia . Archbishop Nerses Ashtaraketsi (future catholicos) led the Armenian contingents fighting under the Russian flag. Catholicos Nerses established Nersisian Jemaran in Tiflis, where many Armenian cultural figures studied, e.g., Hovhannes Toumanian, Nikol Aghbalian, Derenik Demirchian

1829 Treaty of Adrianopolis, whereby Mt. Ararat became part of the Armenian provinces of the Russian Empire and Bayazit, Kars and Erzerum became part of the Ottoman Empire

1836 Polozhenie ("statute") adopted by Tsarist Regime to regulate Armenian Church

1863 Constitution adopted by the Ottoman Court to govern Armenian Community (Millet) in the Ottoman Empire

1869 Bishop Mkrtich Khrimian elected Patriarch of Constantinople, later Catholicos (1892-1907); Khrimian Hayrig captured the imagination of the nation through his writings, patriotism, humility and spiritual leadership

1878 Treaties of San Stefano and Berlin . Kars and Ardahan ceded by Ottoman Empire to Russian Empire.

1882 Egypt separated from Ottoman Empire , becomes British Protectorate

1894-6 Hamidian Massacres of Armenians (by order of Sultan Hamid), 300,000 Armenians are systematically killed, from Constantinople to Sasun to Trebizond to Van and Urfa ; some resistance in Zeitun, but largely attacks on defenseless civilian population (Sultan Hamid photo to right)



1898 The Diocese of the Armenian Church in America is established by Catholicos Mkrtych Khrimian (its jurisdiction covers No. and So. America) – Sultan's photo on right

1903 Catholicos Mkrtych resists Russian attempts to confiscate Armenian Church property

1908 Adana Massacres – 30,000 Armenian civilians killed by Ottoman Empire

1914 WWI (-1918). Armenian-American volunteers participate in combat as legionnaires 1915 The first genocide of the 20th century; the Ottoman Empire exterminates the Armenian population in Turkey ; nearly 2000 churches destroyed, over 3,000 clergy perish and 1.5 million Armenians killed. The Church commemorates the victims of the Genocide annually on April 24.



10. Restored Statehood

1918 Catholicos Gevorg V and Bishop Karekin Hovsepian rally the troops at the Battle of Sardarapat (May 24), Bash-Aparan, Karakilisa, ringing the bells of Armenia's churches and the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin

1918 Armenia becomes independent Republic after 600 years of statelessness

1920 British Mandate over Palestine (based on Balfour Declaration 1917)

1920 Armenia is taken over by the Soviets (November 29)

1921 Caucasus Bureau of Communist Party transfer Karabagh to Azerbaijan (June 21)

1939 WWII (-1945) Armenians around the world participate in the war effort to defeat Nazism.

1943 Archbishop Karekin Hovsepian, primate of American Diocese (Eastern) (1940-44) is elected Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia (1943-1952)

1945 Catholicos Gevorg VI Chorekchian elected to see vacant from 1938 to 1944 Karekin I of the Great House of Cilicia present. Seminary at Etchmiadzin is reopened.

1948 State of Israel founded; Old City Jerusalem remains under Jordanian rule

1955 Catholicos Vazken I elected, greatly strengthens Etchmiadzin under the very difficult conditions of Soviet rule, builds ties with diaspora and in 1962 joins World Council of Churches

1967 Old City Jerusalem under Israeli rule

1983 Catholicos Khoren I dies at Antelias. Karekin II Sarkisian becomes Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia

1985 Soviet Reform movement "Glasnost" (openness) and "Perestroika" (reform) begin under Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev

1988 Karabagh movement begins February 19; anti-Armenian riots in Sumgait with massacres followed; Spitak – Leninakan (Gyumri) – Kirovakan (Vanadzor). Nakorno Karabagh Republic created with entire Armenian population of 150,000+ in Azerbaijan deported .

1988 December 7th – 11:41 AM, Spitak/Gyumri Earthquake 6.9 Richer Scale with 25,000+ dead. 111 Countries came to help in the aftermath (photo on right)

1990 Abp. Torkom I Manoogian elected Patriarch of Jerusalem

1991 Boris Yeltsin comes to power after August putsch deposes Gorbachev

1991 September 21, Armenia votes for independence, freedom to practice Christianity reinstated, church properties restored

1991 Levon Ter Petrosyan elected President of Armenia

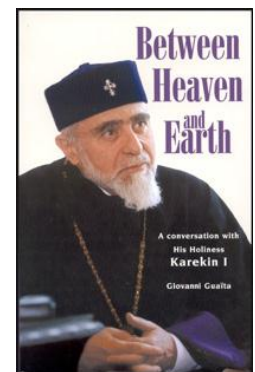
1992 Battle of Shushi (May 9), Armenians go on to liberate Karabagh

1994 Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, passes away

1995 Karekin II of the Great House of Cilicia is elected Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians at Etchmiadzin (photo on right)

1995 Armenia adopts constitution

1996 Aram I is elected Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias , Lebanon (photo on right)



1996 Levon Ter-Petrosyan re-elected President of Armenia
1998 Abp. Mesrob II Mutafian elected Patriarch of Constantinople , Turkey
1998 Robert Kocharian elected President of Armenia
1999 Catholicos Karekin-I passes away.. Abp. Karekin Nersisian, Primate of the Araratian Diocese, is elected Karekin II Catholicos of All Armenians
2001 1700th Anniversary of Armenia 's conversion to Christianity; Pope John-Paul II, first Roman Catholic Pope to visit Armenia (photo on right with Catholicos Karekin-II); His Holiness Bartholomew I, first Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople to visit Armenia
2003 Robert Kocharian re-elected President of Armenia
2005 Armenia adopts constitutional reforms, permitting dual citizenship, affirming the mission of the Armenian Church as Armenia's national church
2008 Serzh Sargsian elected President of Armenia



2015 April 24th - CENTENIAL of The Armenian Genocide - 1,500,000 Armenians massacred in their ancestral homes.

