



## History of Armenia in brief

**Armenia** is the name of the highland which stretches from the present-day Armenia in Transcaucasus westward to Sivas in present-day eastern Turkey. Armenia, as a country, is mentioned for the first time in the history by the Persian King Darius I, year 512 B.C. The unique geographical location of Armenia, as the meeting place between East and West, has deeply affected the culture and the mentality which are a fusion of these two worlds. But this geopolitical situation has also resulted in the fact that the country has been a war scene during longer periods and has been invaded by among others Persian, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Mongols, Turks and Russians.

**Four royal dynasties**, however, have been emerged in Armenia despite the countless threats: Artashisian (190-12 B.C.), Arshakouni (53-423), Bagratouni (862-1045), and Roubinian (1187-1375). During the Bagratouni era Armenia reached its cultural peak and Armenian merchants were one of the major figures in the trade between East and West, Armenian architecture influenced the Western transition to the Gothic period and reached all the way up to Scandinavia with buildings in Bohuslän and Blekinge, while Armenian officials achieved high positions within the Byzantine Empire and even contributed with their own emperors and dynasties. The subsequent Armenian Roubinian Kingdom of Cilicia, at the shores of Mediterranean Sea, came to be one of the important allies to the Crusaders. It was from this kingdom that Marco Polo, year 1271, disembarked at the port city of Lajazzo in order to begin his epic journey on the infamous Silk Road.

**The proclamation of Christianity** as official state religion in year 301 makes Armenia to world's first Christian state. Year 405 the Armenian alphabet was invented, today existing of 30 consonants and 8 vowels, and resulted in a flourishing literary era, the Golden period of the Armenian cultural history.



Armenia through out the history

**Turkish conquest** of Armenia in the 11th century and the incorporation of the highland into the Ottoman Empire by the end of the 16th century set the country into a deep cultural and social lethargy which lasted until mid-19th century. The demands of the Armenian nation for reforms and a more decent life within the disintegrating Ottoman Empire was in parallel with the liberation struggle of other Christian nations under Turkish yoke. The loss of the Christian territories in Balkan and the persistence Armenian demands for reforms made the Ottoman leaders to realise of the existence of an "Armenian Question". The fear of losing also Armenia and the mirage of uniting all Turkish people under one united gigantic Ottoman Empire, the dream of Pan-Turanism, necessitated the annihilation of the only nation which posed an obstacle for this vision: the Armenians. The Armenian Genocide of 1915 was realised in the midst of the ongoing World War and left an Armenia without Armenians.

**The Republic of Armenian** of 1918-1920 gave place to the Soviet Republic of Armenia which in her turn, year 1991, became independent in the wake of an disintegrating Soviet Union. Despite problems such as the conflict of Karabakh, an Armenian enclave inside neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan, the 1988 earthquake, the Turkish blockade, Armenia has continued to develop and grow economically and socially.

**Armenica.org** attempts to inform about the above mentioned events and concepts in more detail and introduce the small Armenia and its ancient history to the world. Our goal is to present Armenia, its history and culture with accurate facts and reference sources, thereby promoting the general knowledge about Armenia and the Armenian nation.



The Babylonian clay tablet, the oldest world map known to us  
Sixth century BC  
British Museum - London, Near Eastern

