

to see  
the world  
this small tribe  
whose history is ended,  
and lost, whose literature  
ard, and whose prayers are  
destroy this race! Destroy  
Send them from their homes  
neither bread nor water. Burn  
hen see if they will not laugh  
and pray again. For when  
the world, see if they will not

**Armenia.**



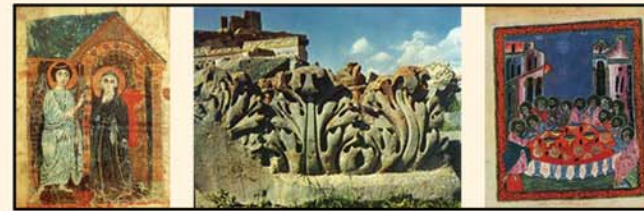
Armenian Library and Museum of America, Inc.  
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## LEARN ABOUT THEIR PAST ENLIGHTEN YOUR HEIRS



### DISCOVER WHO ARE THE ARMENIANS



### ARMENIAN LIBRARY - AND - MUSEUM OF AMERICA

I  
should like  
any power in  
destroy this race,  
of unimportant people  
whose wars have been fought  
is unread, whose music is unhe  
no more answered. Go ahead  
Armenia; see if you can do it.  
into the desert. Let them have  
their homes and churches. T  
again; see if they will not sing  
two of them meet anywhere in  
**create a new**



*William Saroyan*

Welcome To  
**WHO ARE THE ARMENIANS**  
 Presented By  
**ARMENIAN LIBRARY  
 AND MUSEUM OF AMERICA**



**Urartian Warrior's belt with buckle**  
 In ALMA's collection  
 700 BC

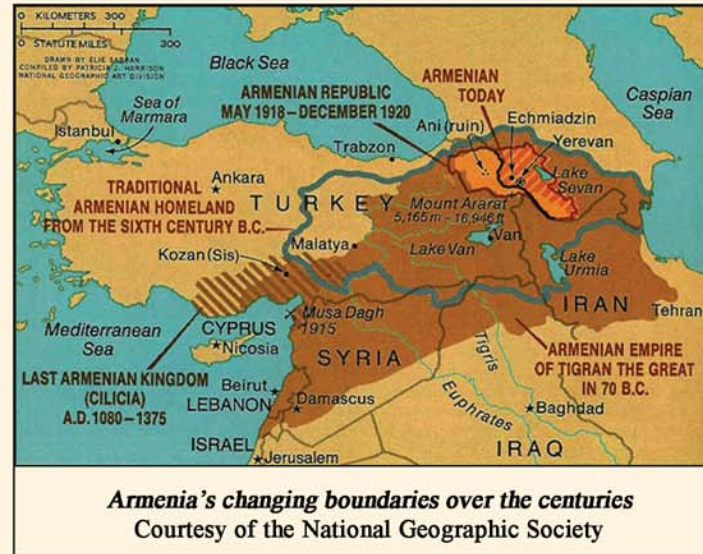
All nations have a story to tell. The epic story of the Armenian people is a saga of cultural triumphs and survival as a people despite periods of oppression, destruction and even genocide. Armenians have always had an effusive spirit that carried them through disasters while reaching cultural heights. This nation was the first to adopt Christianity.

Discover this wonderful cultural heritage: the dawn of the Golden Age of Literature in the 5th century and the Silver Age of the 11th century, the important role of the Armenians in the Byzantine Empire and during the Crusades and the literary reawakening of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Find your own answer to the question *Who Are The Armenians?*



**Wooden carts**  
 State History Museum of Armenia,  
 14th - 13th century BC  
 from Lake Sevan



**Armenia's changing boundaries over the centuries**  
 Courtesy of the National Geographic Society

Both triumph and despair pervade Armenia's rich, multifaceted history. Yet, as perennial survivors, despite seemingly continual shrinkage of its homeland, it's no wonder why present-day Armenians, wherever they reside, continue to survive and perpetuate their culture. They now breathe new life into a country torn apart by unwarranted destruction and are building on the glorious roots of Armenia's past.



**Marble Statue of Woman**  
 State History Museum of Armenia,  
 2nd c. BC.



**Flag-raising ceremony of Armenia's admission to the UN**  
 Photo by Harry Koundakjian



**Silver coin by Tigran II**  
 95 - 55 BC



**Holy Etchmiadzin Cathedral**  
 4th - 17th centuries



**Statue of Mesrop**  
 Matenadaran, Yerevan, Armenia

**DISCOVER...**

- WHEN WAS ARMENIA'S GREATEST EXPANSE?
- ❖
- WHEN ARMENIA BECAME THE FIRST NATION TO ADOPT CHRISTIANITY?
- ❖
- WHO INVENTED THE ARMENIAN ALPHABET?
- ❖
- WHEN ARMENIANS FOUGHT TO PRESERVE THEIR CHRISTIANITY AND MONOGRAMMY?
- ❖
- WHETHER THERE WERE ARMENIAN EMPERORS AND EMPRESSES RULING THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE?
- ❖
- WHAT WAS THE ARMENIAN ROLE IN THE CRUSADES?
- ❖
- WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF THEIR CULTURAL CREATIVITY?

**WHO ARE THE ARMENIANS?**

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**CREATED BY**  
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 ELISABETH KENOSIAN  
 ARAKEL ALMASIAN



**ABOUT ALMA**

Founded in 1971, Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) is a national repository of Armenian artifacts, artwork, manuscripts and publications that illustrate the history and culture of the Armenian people. The Museum houses more than 20,000 artifacts, 5,000 coins, 3,000 textile items, and 170 Armenian rugs. The Library collection includes more than 28,000 titles on the Armenian heritage, history and culture, 930 rare books and old manuscripts, and 800 oral histories.

ALMA's pursuit of ensuring that the rich heritage of the Armenian people is preserved in America depends on your invaluable financial support. Please help continue this important undertaking by sending your generous tax-deductible donations to ALMA.