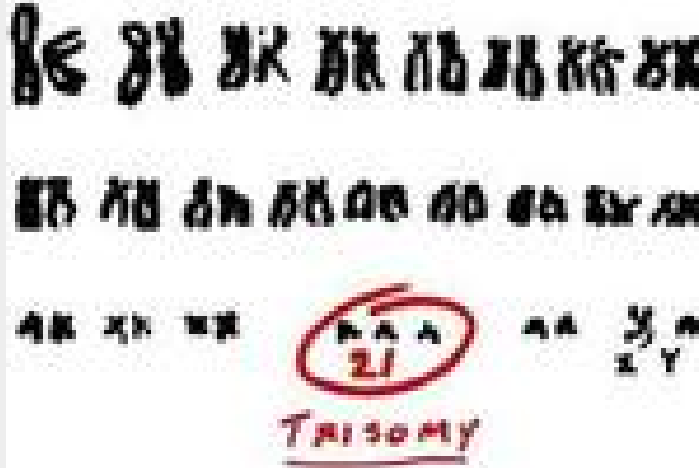


A GEOPOLITICAL TRISOME 21

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By Henry D. Astarjian M.D., USA, 17 October 2010

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Armenia is infested with oligarchs and a corrupt government. Thugs and thieves run the country sucking the blood of hapless people. So far, twenty years since Independence, the successive governments have not been able to create a middle class which construes the backbone of a viable society, therefore country. The poor have been so paralyzed by lack of opportunities that they have relinquished hope of destroying the chains that bind them and free themselves from the tyrants of their color. Some 100,000 of them have migrated to their beloved Turkey to wipe Turkish babies' asses in exchange for a piece of bread. Busloads of girls go to Kars to brighten the nightlife of the cabarets in order to support their families. I saw the migrant workers praise Erdogan in a U-tube entry: "Arach Asdvadz verche Erdogan" (First God then Erdogan). Erdogan used them for propaganda.

Unlike Israel where the emigration is a trickle despite their war, some 40% of Armenians have expressed the wish to emigrate; more than a million already have. This is dangerous and damaging.

The Armenian villager, the foundation of the nation, which constitutes close to 40% of the population, is subjected to benign neglect. Land and means of modern agriculture have been denied them through indifference. They lack irrigation systems, machinery and scientific horticultural guidance. They are denied health care and opportunities for higher education. Their crop is allowed to come to the market only after paying extortion money. They are weak, they are angry, they are helpless, and their patience is running thin.

On the other hand, Yerevan and the other big cities flaunt wealth. There are the filthy rich who have

reached there through deception, extortion, manipulation, corruption, camaraderie, and working with the international regional Mafia. They have exploited the average citizen who does not have equal opportunity to participate in the newly presumed Capitalism.

The government is impotent against the vagaries of the international power centers. They are incapable of telling those who dictate their will on Armenia, "Go to Hell!".

They still function with serf mentality, not being able to exploit its extensive powerful Diaspora, millions of Kurdish allies, and close to a million Armenians who live in Turkey. They have not been able to exploit the international opposition to Turkish occupation of Cyprus. They have not been able to nullify the illegally coined 1921 treaty of Kars, they have not been able to revive the very viable Treaty of Sevres, and they have not been able to isolate Karabagh issue from the issues of Armeno-Turkish rapprochement. Additionally they have true psychological conflict regarding alliance with Russia, and cooperation with the United States.

For Armenia Diaspora has limited importance. There yet has to be a single Diasporan minister in Armenia's cabinet. Native Armenians have welcomed only our NGOs and charity organization which bring money into the country.

The second chromosome occupying Trisome 21 position is Turkey. This country, with all its successive governments, has been, and still is obsessed with Hegemony. Turanism is not dead Kemalism is; his veering the ship of the nation towards secularism has failed. Underneath European clothing mandated by his "Shapqa Qanunu" (The Hat Law) lay a fiercely fanatic political Muslim; a leopard never changes spots. And now there is rise of Islam reminiscent of the Caliphate era of the Ottoman Empire.

The ruling AK party through its representatives, headed by Abdullah Gul, the President of the country, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Prime Minister, and Ahmet Davoutoglu the Foreign Minister have unequivocally claimed inheritance of their Ottoman ancestry, except for a huge criminal baggage that they carry in relation to the Armenian Genocide of 1915, the major pogroms of Armenians in Adana, the massacres of Assyrians, Nestorians, and the Greeks, burning the Christian population of Smyrna in the hands of Ataturk forces, the pogroms of Greeks of Istanbul in 1956, the hanging of Arab Nationalists of Aleppo in the hands of Jemal Pasha, nicknamed Al-Saffahh (The Executioner- Arabic), the atrocities against the Arabs of Iraq, Hijaz the Levant, Egypt, and Algeria, to name a few. They deny all that or at best rationalize their criminal conduct.

Erdogan and his government are frank in their convictions. Now they are the champions of the Arab world because they oppose Israel. Neither Israel, nor its powerful Washington surrogates can tolerate the new situation. Veering Turkey away from the Islamic world is a delusion.

Internally: Kurds of Turkish Kurdistan are up in arms, despite occasional maneuvering to the contrary.

Successive Turkish governments have not been able to solve The Kurdish Issue, which could be brought to conclusion by acknowledging their ethnicity, treating them as such. Instead, now they have adopted a new policy inherent in the rules of colonialism; divide and conquer. They are trying to coalesce with 3 million strong Zaza Kurds, to fight their kin, ignoring the fact that in early 1930s Ataturk waged genocide against them in Dersim. That memory is fresh in the minds of all Kurds.

Turkey is divided into more than two factions. The Grey Wolves, wearing Ataturk shirt, claim to be secular and propel Turanism which stretches to the Steps of Central Asia. They are on Erdogan's column. Then there is Milli Halk Partisi (MHP). These are Muslims except when it comes to drinking and participating in European style nightlife in the Hilton, and Swissotel of Istanbul, then, they are secularists and inheritors of Ataturk legacy.

They hate the AK party and its leaders. They have the Generals on their side. The Party's perennial leader Deniz Baykal was recently put to shame in public for engaging in inappropriate liaison with his secretary. He saved his neck by resigning.

Baykal-like conduct is not new in Turkish political stage; in 1961 the military coup sent the then prime Minister of Turkey Adnan Menderes to the gallows. For good measure the Generals defamed him by rumoring that they found a woman's panties in his office safe. Now Izmir airport is named after him.

Only some two weeks ago MHP organized a Muslim Namaz (Prayers) in the abandoned Armenian Sourp Asdvadzadzin (Virgin Mary) desecrated church in Ani, just to claim deed for the stolen 10th century Armenian property. Cynics say, now that they prayed to God in a Christian church, they are now considered to be de facto converts to Christianity. MHP people would rather die.

Relationships between the deposed, retired, and still active Generals continue.

Kangaroo courts and restrictive laws still prevail in the country, which in and by itself is a huge subject to write about.

Turkey, in its dishonesty, is selling snake oil to our State Department. They had led our people into believing that they would facilitate flow of Azeri oil to the Mediterranean, convince Iran to halt its nuclear program, influence the Islamic world to be friendly with the U.S. and would bring the ex-Soviet republics, the Central Asian Islamic nations into the fold of Pax Americana.

All this, and its inability to implement the ill fated Armeno-Turkish Protocol prevent Turkey to take the first step forward.

The third chromosome of the Trisome is the Armenian Diaspora. This is a real anomaly with amazing paradoxical features which initiates and contributes to its survival and endurance, also to its demise as a nation. It spans the globe like an empire without an army and without strategy. At best it functions within the political and legal restrictions allocated to it by different governments in different countries. Exceptions are the United States, France and Britain, which treat us like their

own, but put other obstacles in front of us, which block progress. To these countries oil is more valuable than blood.

There was no Diaspora before 1915. There were Armenians who had come to America pursuing a better life. They changed from Garabed to Garry, at Ellis Island, in order to be accepted by the WASP society. Almost a century later that identity conflict, and sometimes identity crisis, still persists all over the Arab countries, Africa, or America where they live. There is dual set of norms, and dual set of allegiances.

The Genocide of 1915 claiming the lives of 1.5 million Armenians, has done something else, it has transformed a nation of artisans, farmers, villagers into the most educated, sophisticated, and prosperous giant. It took Genocide to advance a nation from point A to point B. It is a shame, but it is true. One can only imagine what our people would have been like if we continued to live under the Ottoman Rule.

The Genocide recognition issue, and Turkey's adamant denial of its criminal past has done something else, it has united Diaspora. I dare say that it is the only issue that unites us as a nation, which is a sad commentary on our national affairs.

In a brain storm and under the prevailing circumstances one wishes that the Genocide recognition remains on the front burner as a lumper, until we put our political house in order. As it stands now the Armenian political parties are inept in doing the nation's work. Whatever they do would have to be within the framework drawn for us by the others. There is tremendous shortage of leadership.

Those who are on stage are busy doing municipal work, rather than political work in earnest. Those who point out the work we do in Congress as political, forget to realize that our work is delineated for us by the others.

As if a State, Diaspora is engaged in building schools, churches, clubs, old peoples' homes and the rest, affirming that we are here to stay forever, and rendering the goal of return to our homeland a delusion. In this arena they are doing a very good job and contribute largely to affirm the Armenian identity and culture; however they would not be able to stop the White Genocide, or the Grey Genocide to which we are subjected every moment.

Unlike Jews who created Israel to escape global persecution, we do not have to do that, we are comfortable where we are, except in Turkey. There is a negligible number of Diasporans who would rather live in Armenia, but this does not happen because Armenia does not facilitate implementation of the idea, and Diasporans are resistant to renewed uprooting for en-mass immigration.

With this Trisome in operation we have to start repairing the deficits. We have to move away from chromosome 21 position, and we have to repair our teeth, in the first instance in conjunction with other needed repairs.

One thing however is crystal clear and does not need repair, and that is the conviction that when the

chips are down, and Karabagh or Yerevan is in danger Diaspora with all its might, and with all its ARF Fedayees, and Monte Melkonians will be there to teach the enemy a lesson..

