ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER'S 'PASHINYAN PATRIOTISM'

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Category: Opinions

By David Davidian, Yerevan, 20 September 2024

It is significant when a prime minister, often considered the top state diplomat, playing a crucial role in representing the country's interests, disparaging his people and the concept of the modern nation-state. Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashiyan did this publicly on September 18, 2024, at the Global Armenian Summit held in Armenia's capital, Yerevan. Not only were his statement made in front of a pan-Armenian audience, but it was heard by diplomats worldwide and Armenia's enemies, the latter prefer Armenia and Armenians cease to exist. Watch the video clip in Armenian or read parts of the English translation. Pashinyan most likely further damaged his negotiating options, especially when deliberating with Azerbaijan and Turkey. In the modern nation-state, patriotism is often tied to civic duty, emphasizing shared values, laws, and institutions, and to some extent, is an extension of the extended family. It appears Pashinyan confused a patriot with a nationalist, the latter usually being more aggressive.

There is an ideological current in some parts of the current Armenian leadership, developed in the late Soviet period, having as its basis the concepts of brotherhood of peoples and a "defense based on no defense" – a direct quote from Armenia's first president, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, as if not having a strong army makes one appear non-threatening and will deter being attacked. Anybody who endured elementary schoolyard dynamics knows better!

Pashinyan deprecates Armenia and its people by equating national identity, cultural significance, and even individual achievement with crudely cherry-picked aspects of patriotism that might offend Armenia's existential enemies, such as Azerbaijan and Turkey. He did so in front of a pan-Armenian audience, the vast majority of which is comprised of diasporan Armenians – the one Armenian national resource that Armenia pays lip service, neglects, and Armenia's enemies have demanded Armenia distance itself from. Pashinyan paid homage to Armenia's enemies at the expense of those he claimed to embrace.

Patriotism is more than waving flags, and toasting a nation's glorious past, such as when Italians deign to recognize the Roman Empire. The more important aspects of patriotism are demanding social justice, government accountability, and transparency. Patriotism is often characterized by a deep sense of attachment and commitment to one's accumulated culture and identity, including civil engagement to the point of willingness to defend a country and all it represents. Pashinyan would have us believe that patriotism is nothing more than chauvinism and jingoism and forms the basis for all the tragedy that has befallen Armenians. Pashinyan makes such denigrating remarks as a necessary part of being allowed to stay in power by Armenia's existential enemies! One should question Pashiyan's patriotism since it was more important for him to accommodate the demands of Armenia's enemies than those, who in a sense of patriotism, attend a pan-Armenian summit. A Pashinyan patriot would start the Armenian historical clock at the dissolution of the Soviet Union; anything before then might as well be the Jurassic era. During a Q/A, in his own words, a Pashinyan patriot was brainwashed by provocative Russian (meaning Soviet) history books. Yet, most Armenian

history books were not written in Russian and published outside the Soviet Union.

In the Armenian experience that Pashinyan and his supporters wish to forget, there is an expression used by a long line of similar apologists: 'Long Live the Sultan.' This phrase acknowledged the authority of the Sultan in the hope that loyalty might lead to better treatment. Daring not to be a Pashinyan patriot and examining the historical record, one notices that things didn't turn out well.

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David Davidian – *Lecturer at the American University of Armenia. He has spent over a decade in technical intelligence analysis at major high technology firms. He resides in Yerevan, Armenia*

Comments

Kegham Papazian – 2024-10-07 09:34:49

This is briefly some of his views he said during the Diaspora conference last month. 1) Նա նկարագրեց հայոց հայրենասիրությունը կայսերական մոդել, որը ներմուծվել է մեր սոցիալական հոգեբանության մեջ գրքերի, ֆիլմերի, տեքստերի, ելույթների, հերոսների, կերպարների, անունների և պատկերների միջոցով: Տեսականորեն սիրում ես, տեսական Հայաստան ունես՝ պատից, կենացների մեջ, տորթերից կախած: 2) Նա նսեմացրել է Հայոց ցեղասպանությունը՝ խայտառակ կերպով այն բնութագրելով որպես խորհրդային քարոզչության գործիք: Նա սխալմամբ պնդեց, որ Խորհրդային Միությունը թույլատրել է Ցեղասպանության հուշարձանը կառուցել Երևանում՝ Թուրքիային և ՆԱՏՕ-ին հակազդելու համար: 3) Նա քննադատել և մերժել է սփյուռքահայերի ուղարկած մարդասիրական օգնությունը. Նա մեղադրեց Սփյուռքին օգտագործված հագուստ, օգտագործված մեքենաներ, կիսով չափ անվադողեր, կիսով չափ մաշված կոշիկներ պետական հիմնարկներին, դեղորայք, որի պիտանելիության ժամկետը մեկ շաբաթ է, իսկ հետո ամիսներ շարունակ այդ նվիրատվությունը հրապարակելու և պարծենալու համար:



Vrej M. – 2024-09-27 20:19:51
OK, now I understand his viewpoint a little better. He wants to make peace with Turkey, Azerbaijan and probably Pakistan who doesn't recognize Armenia as a country. He doesn't want to have an army and hopes that his enemies will interpret this as friendship. It is my understanding that the current president of Greece also understands that there is nothing they can do about Turkey, they can never get back their land and if a war takes place, they would certainly lose. His solution is to consider turks his brothers, and to no longer call Turkey a country of rapists and murderers. Erdogan's response was to fly war planes into Greece's airspace. Then, Erdogan sent a war ship escorting a petrol ship into Greece's waters. Erdogan claims that they can extract petrol and also share some profits with Greece. I think the rest of Europe didn't care except for France that sent their own warship and asked kindly for Turkey to get out and Turkey was not willing to start a war with a fellow NATO member. I think the first thing to consider is to increase your population. With that, you increase the state income. The rest will naturally come. This applies to Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Greece. I think Kurds are increasing their population. They should receive support and have their own country. What happened to Pashinyan? He was supposed to be an anti-communist, freedom loving, anti-corruption kind of guy. I didn't realize that he wants to forgive the turks.



Jirair Tutunjian – 2024-09-25 21:28:27
Read between the lines of what sly Pashinyan said. He is trying to create a split between the citizens of Armenia and the Diaspora. Accordingly, the price of the "good life" under the thumb of genocidal Turkbeijan is for citizens of Armenia to toss to the winds their identity and dismiss the troublemaking "revanchist" Diaspora.. This has been Erdogan's strategy all along. Pashinyan reminds me of the sniveling and hypocritical Uriah Heep of Charles Dickens.



Vahe H Apelian – 2024-09-25 21:28:06
Policies are how we judge a head of State. I am really curious to know what should the policies of the Armenia's PM be in order to qualify him a patriot?



wally SArkeesian – 2024-09-24 14:54:50
Blame the diaspora IDIOTS who wasted their own money to listen to another fool at the so-called Global Armenian event,



Harry Armen – 2024-09-24 11:35:06
Pashinyan has made so many terrible mistakes that he should not be trusted anymore, his theatrical performance doesn't help anymore. The day of his reckoning is coming soon.



Keith Garebian – 2024-09-24 05:22:31
What a disgusting, disgraceful Prime Minister! He is the enemy within the state, within the country.