

NO GENUINE PEACE WITHOUT RESTITUTION

Posted on May 12, 2010 by Keghart

keghart.com

Category: [Opinions](#)





Team Keghart Editorial, 13 May 2010



In late April welcome torrent of news and opinion related to the Genocide of Armenians and President Serzh Sargsyan's pullback from the Armenia-Turkey negotiations, an odd and probably original thought was expressed by an Armenian activist regarding Armenian-Turkish relations. To wit: Before negotiating with Turkey, Armenians should understand the psychology of Turkey and Turks; Armenians should know where Turks and Turkey are "coming from" before we present our list of just demands.

The activist elaborated his suggestion by reminding Armenians that Ottoman Turkey once ruled a large mass of land from Yemen to Yugoslavia , from Mesopotamia to Morocco... Ottoman armies reached the gates of Vienna in the 1680s... Thus, since the demise of the unlamented Ottomans, Turkey feels bereft, left only with Asia Minor and a small slice of Europe west of the Bosphorus.



Team Keghart Editorial, 13 May 2010



In late April welcome torrent of news and opinion related to the Genocide of Armenians and President Serzh Sargsyan's pullback from the Armenia-Turkey negotiations, an odd and probably original thought was expressed by an Armenian activist regarding Armenian-Turkish relations. To wit: Before negotiating with Turkey, Armenians should understand the psychology of Turkey and Turks; Armenians should know where Turks and Turkey are "coming from" before we present our list of just demands.

The activist elaborated his suggestion by reminding Armenians that Ottoman Turkey once ruled a large mass of land from Yemen to Yugoslavia , from Mesopotamia to Morocco... Ottoman armies reached the gates of Vienna in the 1680s... Thus, since the demise of the unlamented Ottomans, Turkey feels bereft, left only with Asia Minor and a small slice of Europe west of the Bosphorus.

The activist was historically and geographically accurate, but that's not where his observation should end. There's more to the story.

In the Middle Ages Turkish marauders, from Central Asia, conquered by sword what wasn't theirs. They soaked in blood the people of the Middle East and others around most of the Mediterranean littoral. After oppressing the conquered peoples for five hundred to a thousand years, Turks were driven out by indigenous Greeks, Bulgarians, Arabs and other nations. Turkey didn't withdraw from these lands willingly. Unrepentant to the last, it withdrew to Asia Minor only when it had run out of options.

Turkey lost its empire long before 1915. The Sick Man of Europe started shrinking in the early 18th

century as Russian armies began to push Turks out of Crimea and Ukraine. The shrinkage continued as Greece, Egypt, Bulgaria continued to push back the demonic empire.

Turkey lost the largest chunk of its conquered lands during the First World War because of its misconceived alliance with Imperial Germany and Austria-Hungary. The Young Turks entered the war hoping they would regain the lands they had lost and possibly conquer more lands, thanks to German and Austrian largesse. Unluckily for Turkey, it lost the war. But once the war had ended, a defeated Turkey, under Mustafa Kemal, the self-styled "Father of the Turks", attacked—unprovoked—nascent Armenia, which was already suffering from mass starvation, in addition to other depredations. Bloody Kemal simply wanted to strangle the just-born Armenian republic. In this, he proved himself a rightful successor to Tala'at, Enver and Jemal.

This brings us to our just demands.

When we demand, our assertions need no qualification, let alone apology. We will look into their eyes and in plain language demand that they return what doesn't belong to them. And until we obtain what's rightfully ours, there can't be genuine peace between the Armenian nation and Turkey. The border might open, ambassadors might be exchanged, soccer matches might be held in Yerevan and in Ankara, we might buy cheap consumer goods from Turkey, but the outcome will be a cold peace, a phony peace—like the one between Egypt and Israel.

No Armenian can forget the Genocide; no Armenian heart can abandon captured Ararat, the churches of Ani, Lake Van. If we accept a shambolic peace, if we abandon the lands of our forefather Armenia will be a truncated welfare state dependent on the kindness of strangers. And as our history has taught us well, there's no future in that.

