

# TO EASTERN EUROPE IN THE 10TH CENTURY

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The earliest traces of Armenians in what is now Romania and Moldova date from 967. The early Armenian Diaspora stemmed in the fall of the Pakraduni rule and other disasters, including the Mongol invasions. The Armenian settlers were awarded tax exemption at different times in the Danubian Principalities' history. Encouraged to settle as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Armenians became a familiar presence in towns as the main entrepreneurs of the community. Armenian guilds were awarded political representation and degrees of self rule. Full citizenship was bestowed on them only the decision taken by the international protectorate over the two countries, instituted after the Crimean War and the ensuing of Treaty of Paris to extend civil rights to all religious minorities.

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