

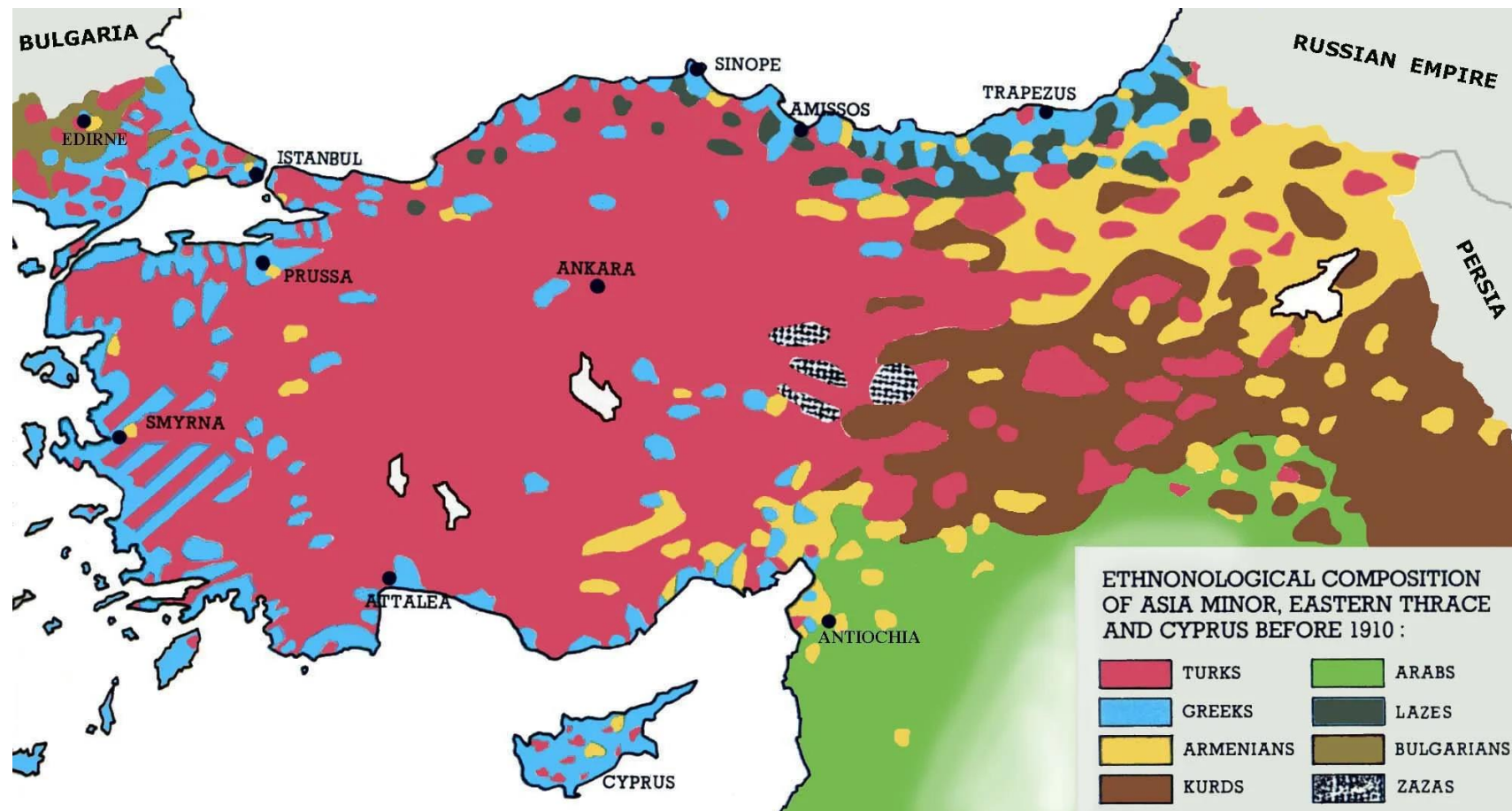
# Living History in Turkey

## **Class 3: Armenian Anatolia. Before and after the 1914 genocide**

Things I did not understand enough:

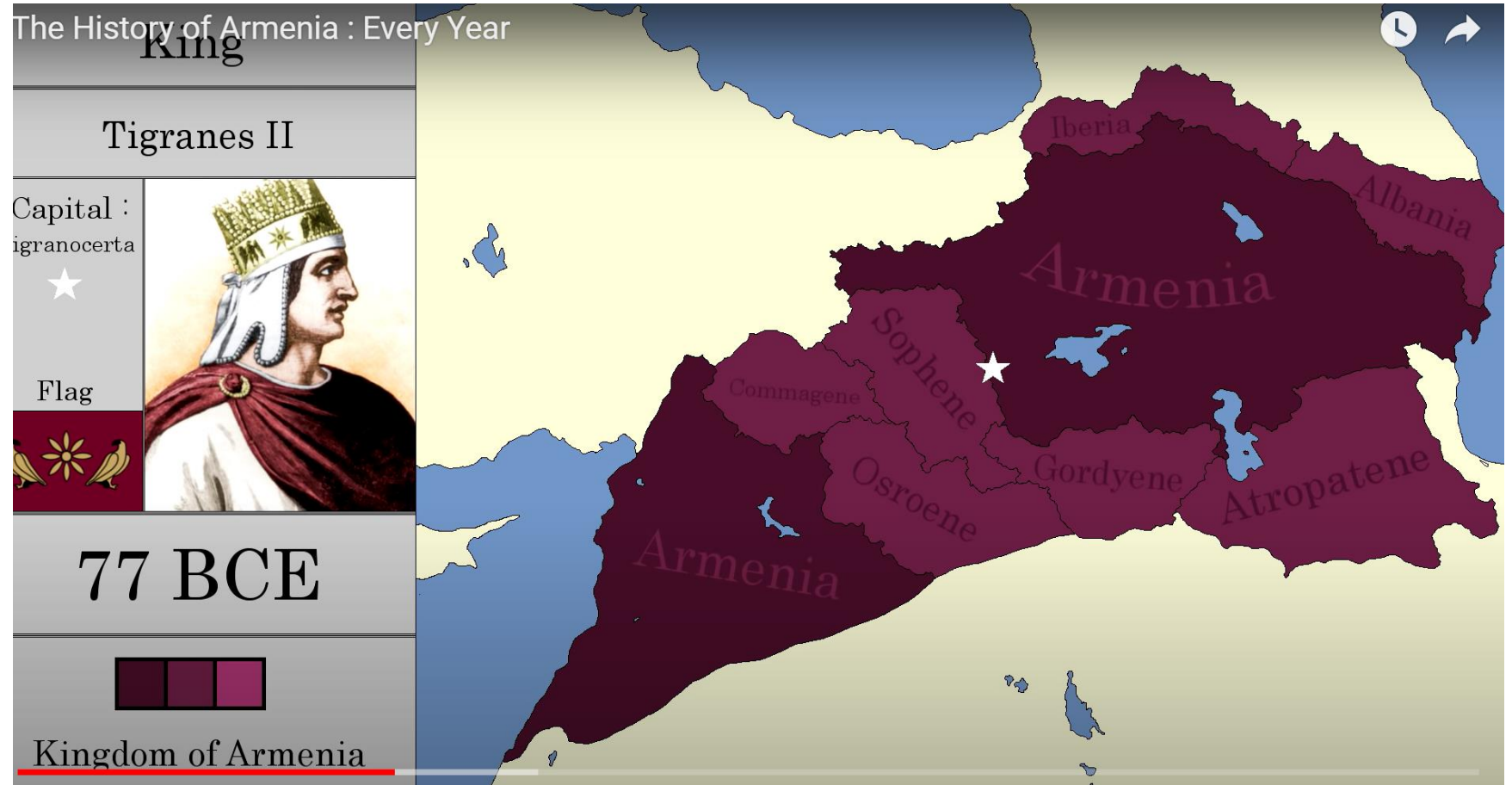
- What living in denial looks and feels like (and the international politics around denial)
- The Turkish nationalist narrative of the Armenian conflict vs the Armenian Narrative
- The role of European states in exploiting (with fatal consequences) religious differences in the Ottoman Empire

“Turkish nationalism” left out many groups.



Nationalist Armenian history traces the community from 1500 bce to the present. (here at greatest extent)

(And yet there is no section in the Ankara Museum of Anatolian Civilizations on Armenian civilization...)



# The diasporic vision of Armenia today.







Armenian empire historic capitals at Kars, Erzurum, Van, Ani, etc., (but still not included in the Museum of Anatolian Civilization)

This is the Roman baths site in Ankara, where not just Roman finds are taken, but the odd Byzantine or Armenian finds as well.





1898 Armenian  
Tombstone at  
the Roman  
Baths (1903  
date) in the  
“found objects  
pile” at the  
back of the  
Roman baths.



# Treaty of Sèvres



The post WWI 1920 Treaty of Sevres (which inspired Ataturk to challenge the West and lead a military revolt) showed The Western Allies assumption that the East of Anatolia should be an area of Russian influence.

The treaty was never enforced, as the details became public Ottoman officers led by Ataturk revolted against the Sultan.





By the time of the 1920 Treaty the Armenian Genocide had effectively eliminated the Armenian population, and Western allies were responding (1.5 million people too late to the sense that Armenians were not safe under Turkish rule.

But Within Turkey the Armenians seen in the 1890s, 1915, and post 1920 as traitors that sided with outside powers, leaving little room in the Turkish national narrative for seeing the Armenians as victims. That view still dominates Turkish textbooks.

1919 Monument to the Victims of the Armenian Genocide, Taksim Square, Istanbul.

The Monument dismantled in 1922, subsequently "lost".



Since 2000s the Armenian heritage of Turkey getting more attention. Diaspora histories, “virtual Armenia” a place for sharing campaigns to preserve Armenian history, also a new generation of Turkish scholars and writers pushing against the official refusal to acknowledge the topic.

Construction project in downtown Ankara, 2017-2021 uncovered the Armenian cemetery.







In 2017 construction of the Melike Hatun Camii, Ankara uncovered the cemetery.







Despite complaints, construction of the underground parking and shopping mall went ahead.





Since 2000s new tone in discussions of Armenian heritage.  
Armenian Diaspora organizing digitally, globally,  
New generation like Peter Balakian,  
Census records open, DNA testing in Turkey

But for the most part, still an unwelcome topic.



## First Armenian museum opens in Turkey's Hatay

HATAY – Demirören News Agency



Above: June 2020, private museum in Hatay opens.

Left: Armenian bracelet from French Diaspora museum



- Cemil Koç, head of the Culture Ministry's Directorate of Surveying and Monuments in Diyarbakir, said the 16th-century building deteriorated over time due to a “decline in congregations.”
- Left: The church in 2008, and on the right in 2013 after restoration with diaspora funds and legal battle. As of 2022 there has been no progress on a museum.

## Ancient Armenian church in Turkey's Diyarbakir to be renovated

BY ANADOLU AGENCY | DIYARBAKIR | FEB 06, 2022 - 6:33 PM GMT+3 |



Surp Sargis church in southeastern Diyarbakir province, Turkey, Feb. 6, 2022. (AA Photo)

July 15 2013 00:01:00



## Diyarbakir's Surp Giragos Church set to have Armenian museum

STANBUL - Hürriyet Daily News



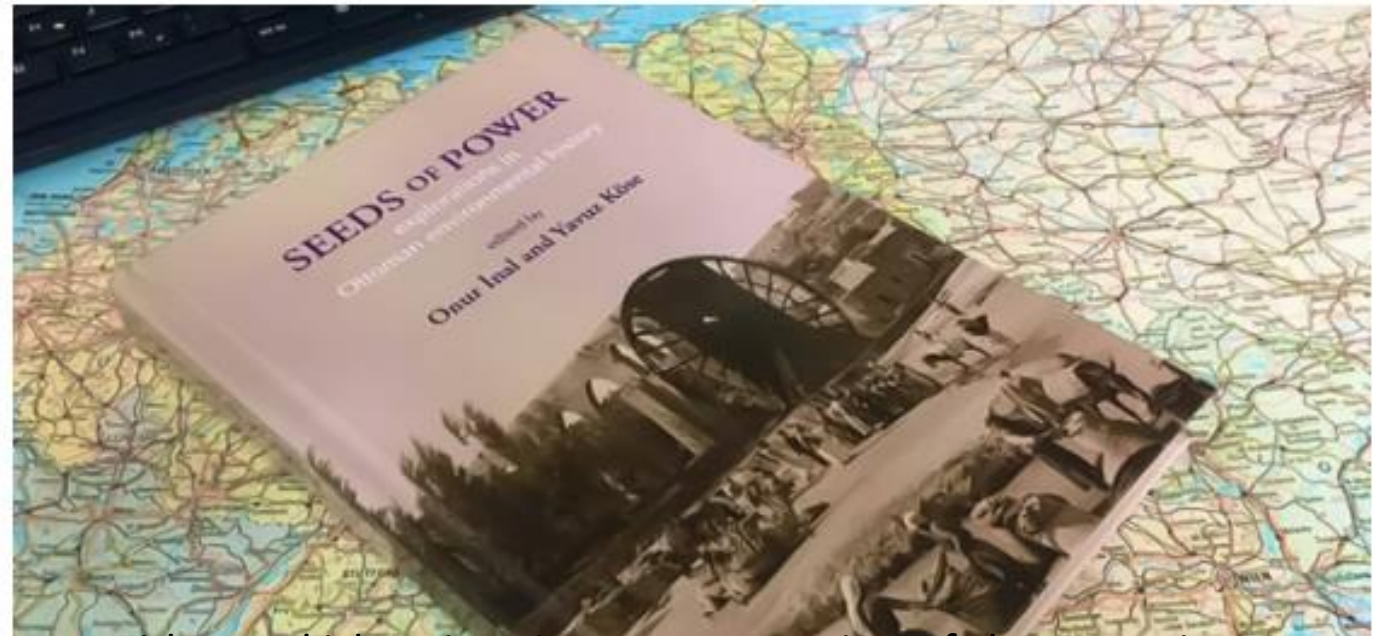


Jan. 2022:  
"Genocide" still  
an academic  
issue – but  
Turkish diaspora  
has more space  
to write about  
the past.

## Historians lose book contract with a Turkish university over a mention of the 'Armenian Genocide'

Onur Inal explained that the Koç University first requested a revision of a phrase in a book that used the term 'Armenian genocide' as a citation, and then terminated the contract, upon their refusal to comply.

10:48 am 20/01/2022



<https://medyanews.net/historians-lose-book-contract-with-a-turkish-university-over-a-mention-of-the-armenian-genocide/>



# Ani, near Kars on the Armenian Border



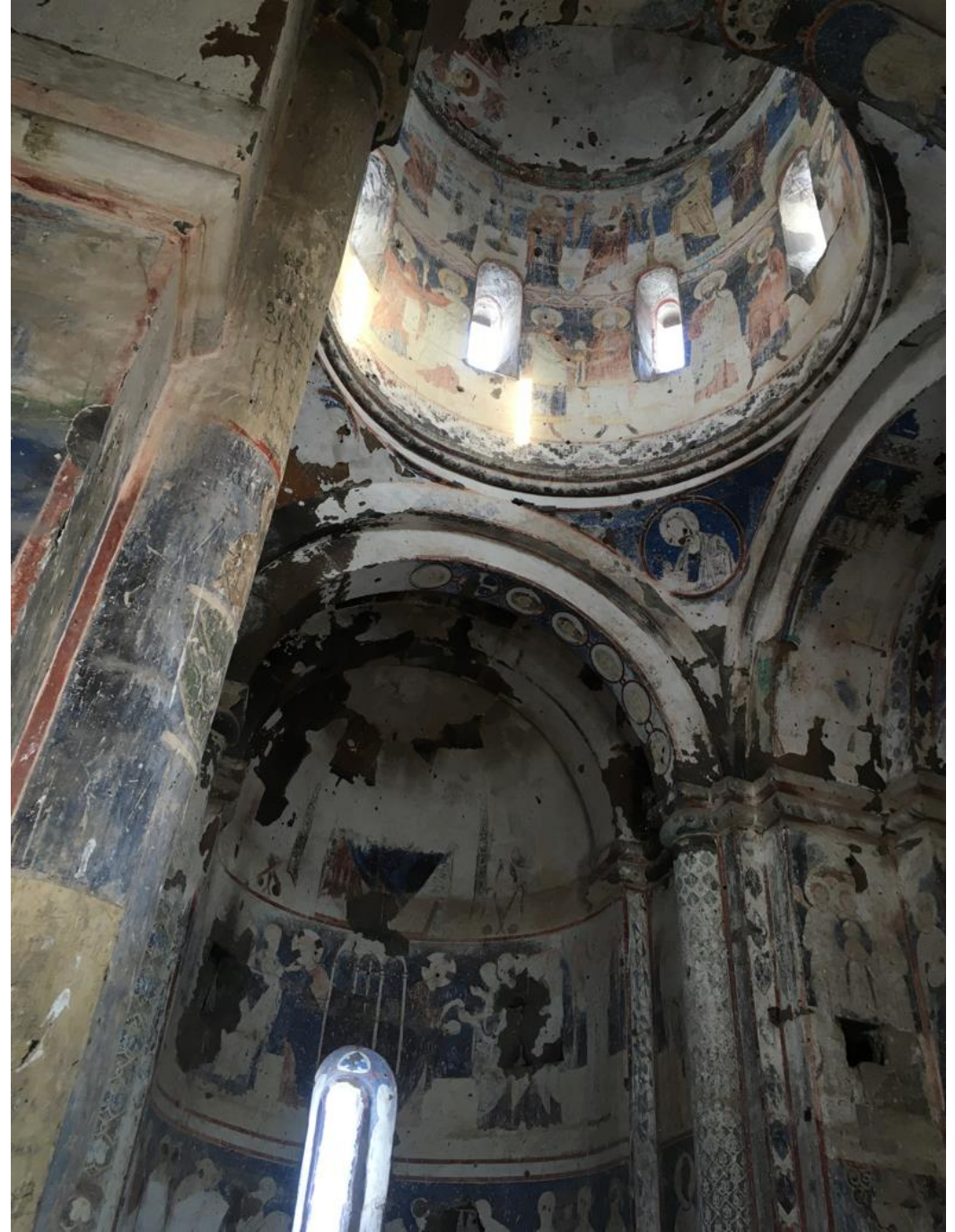






















Oculuk village, Kars province, where we had lunch. It only came up accidentally that this is the region where the Kardashian family came from (emigrated 1890s) as “they were all Armenian villages”. After 1922 refugees from the West were resettled in Armenian homes.







Our tour group at lunch in the previously Armenian village (with Che Guevara on the wall!)





Kars, with the historic Castle on the hill above what used to be an Armenian neighborhood



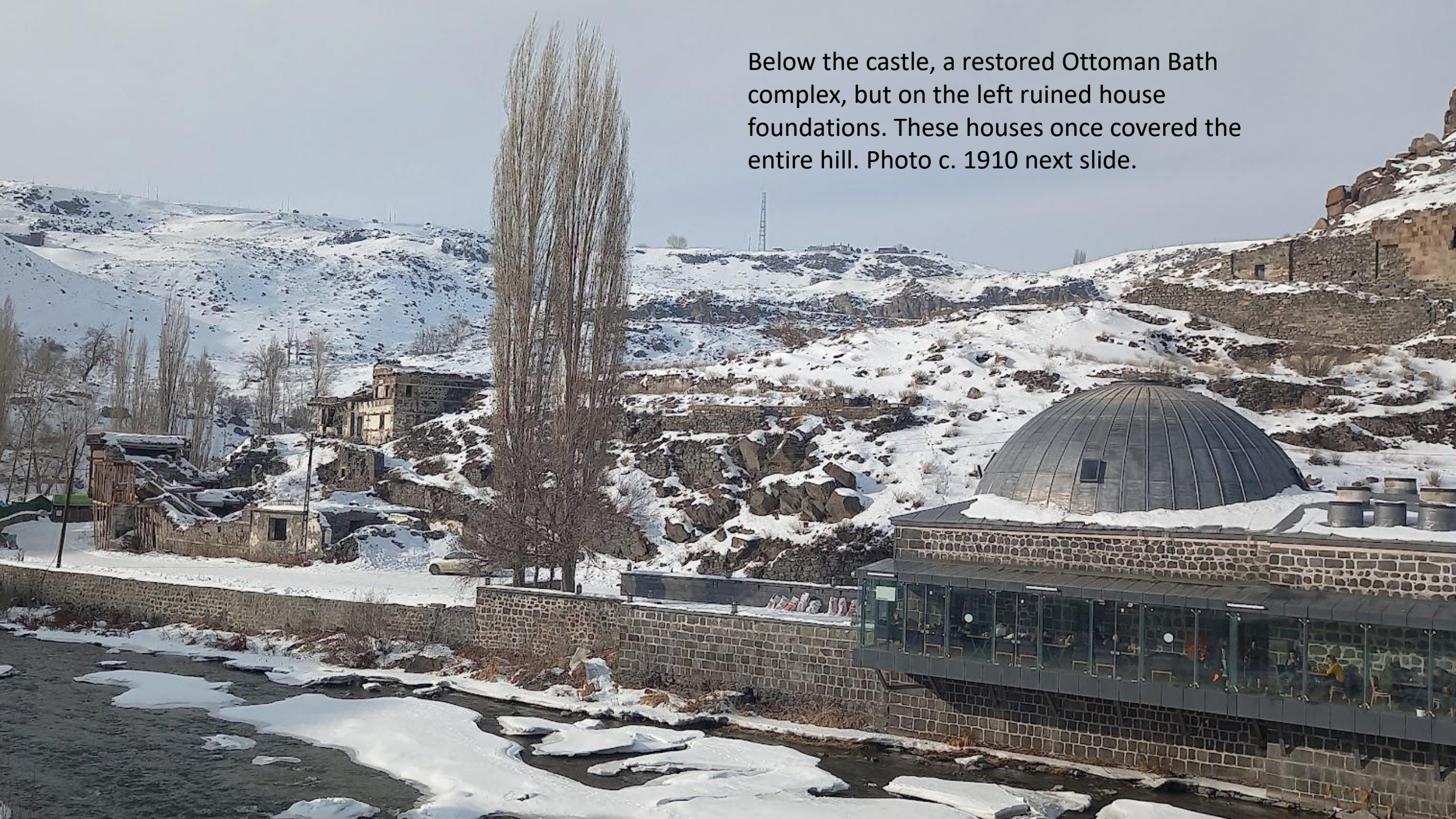


Ok, that is my daughter – but behind her you can see the former Armenian Cathedral (now a mosque) and the Castle at the other end of the garden plaza, with its beautiful landscaping and brand new community center, and statues...but no acknowledgement of the Armenian people that lived there.





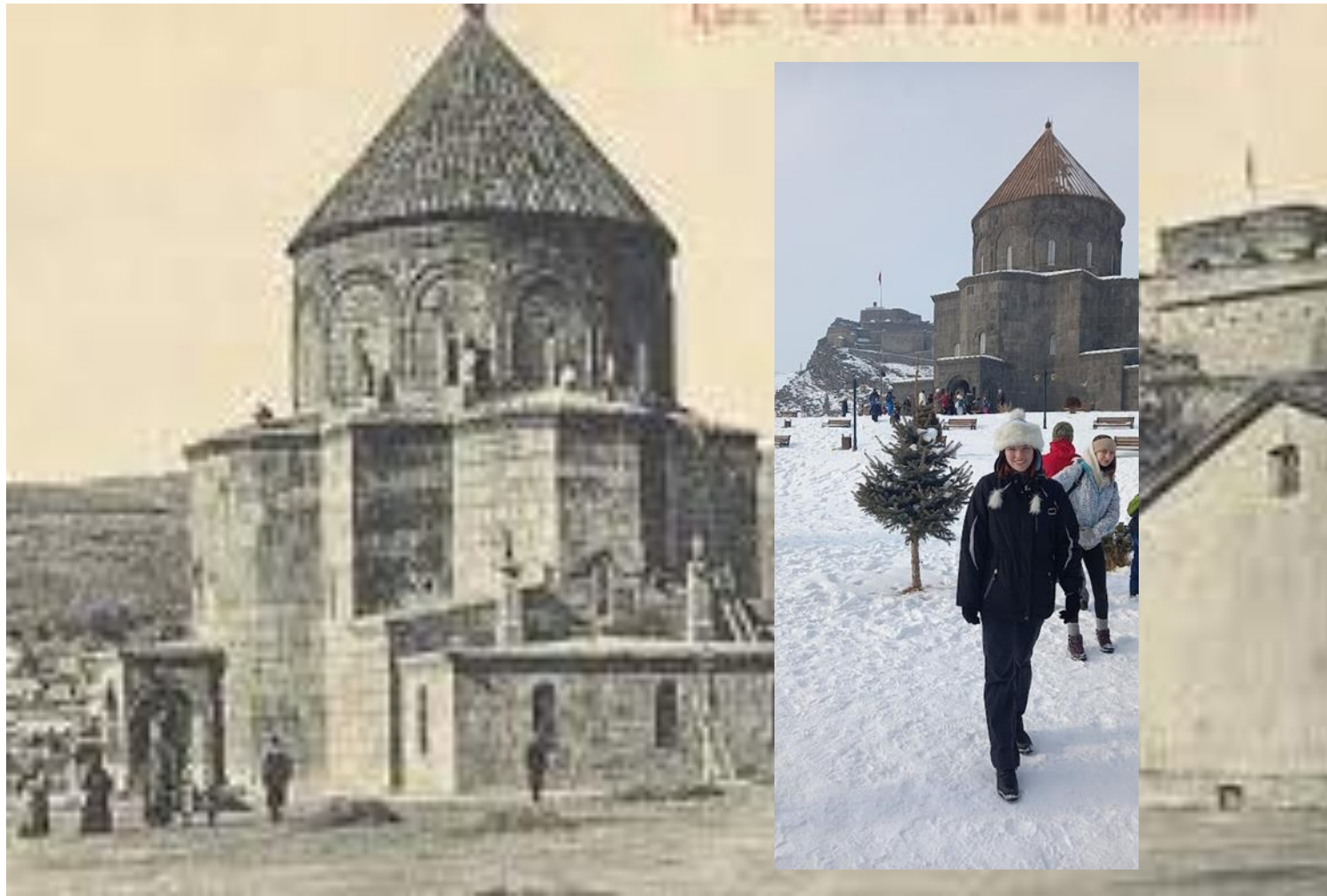
Below the castle, a restored Ottoman Bath complex, but on the left ruined house foundations. These houses once covered the entire hill. Photo c. 1910 next slide.





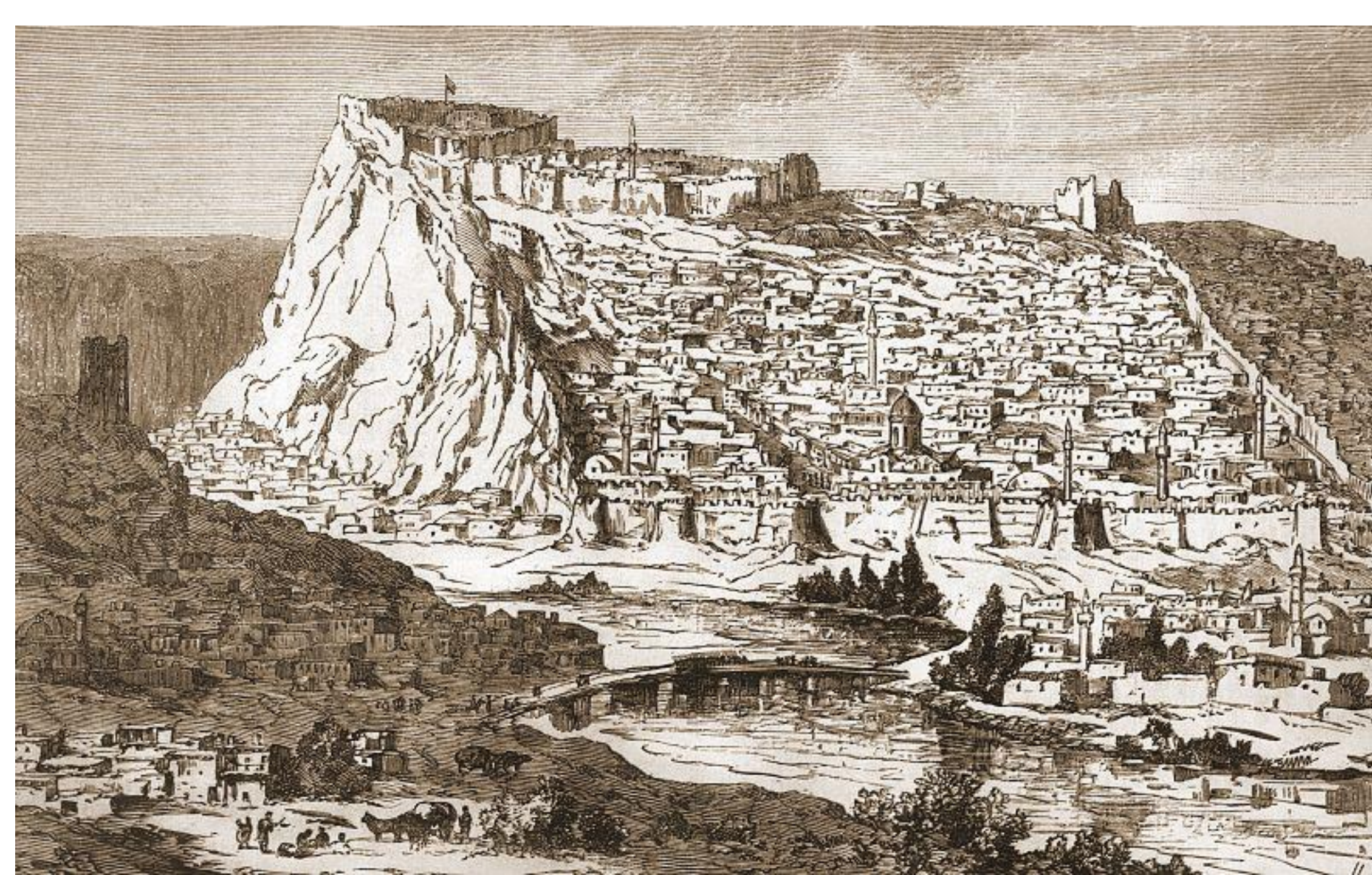






Again, you can see the Cathedral, with other Church structures and the Castle in the background.





Kars, c.  
1850



Lynch estimated population about 4000,  
2500 Armenians. 300 Greeks.

From Henry F. B. Lynch (British traveller with  
Armenian relatives)  
Armenia Travels and Studies, V. 1. 1901.  
Hathi Trust.

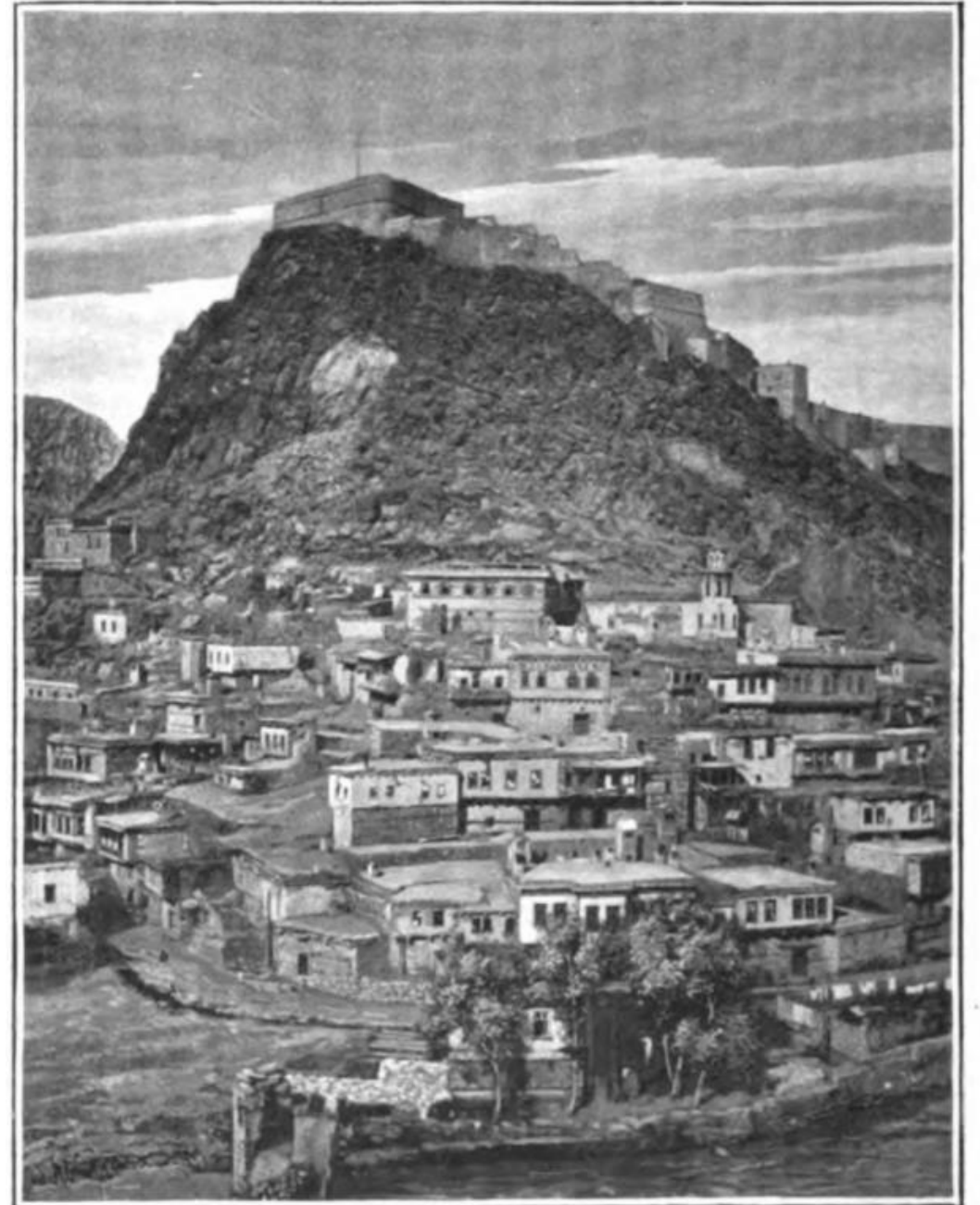


FIG. 98. THE CITADEL OF KARS.



# 2015 vs 2022: Armenian Church by Citadel, Divrige.



— The citadel and Armenian church, Divrige.

This is from a traveller post in 2015, showing the ruins both of the Ottoman era Walls and Armenian church (Byzantine?). The next slide is from 2022 when I passed through Divrige.



<https://amongarmenianruins.wordpress.com/2015/08/06/di>





# Divrige

- Reconstruction of City walls contrast with the church walls.