

Living History in Turkey

2/22 Class 4. Still on Armenians and Modern Turkey

3/1 Class 5: the History of Greek populations in Turkey

3/8 Class 6: the Jewish Anatolians

Class 7 and 8: The New Ottomanist Turkey

You might really like to see the 11 episode Netflix Series, *The Club* on Ladino Jews in 20th c. Turkey before class on March 8.

Kars, 1880 (under Russian control) vs 2022



The Russian Context both Strategic and Cultural

Between 1770s and 1920 the Ottoman-Turkish state fought a series of wars with Russia in South East Europe, the Crimea and Ukraine, and the Caucasus.

From the Turkish perspective the Russian threat central to understanding the Armenian policies.



As late as 1940s
USSR still
claiming
territory

(useful map for
the 1914 era)



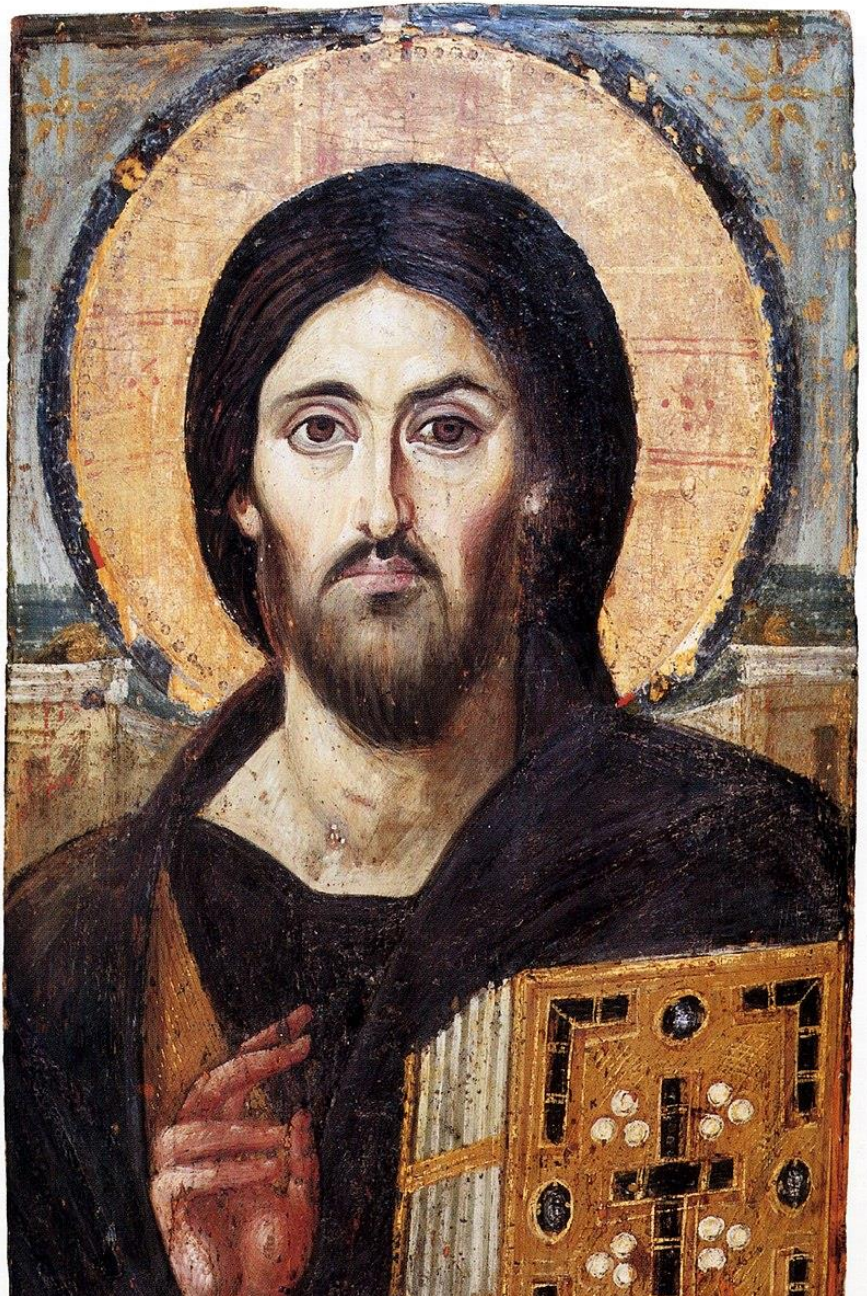
2013 Joint
Bulgarian-Russian
issue stamp
commemorating
the 135th
anniversary of the
end of the 1877-78
war.
Russia won the
right of not only of
territory but
“oversight” or
Orthodox
populations in the
Ottoman Empire.



St.
Catherine's
Monastery,
Egyptian
Sinai.

Russian
interest in
orthodox
congregations
extended into
the Ottoman
Sinai





The world famous Saint Catherine's library famous for preserving icons and text, but also part of the history of Pan Slavism - Russian overtures in the Ottoman South began with Napoleon – who forced the Ottoman Empire to recognize French claims over Christians-setting off concern in Moscow over the Orthodox being seduced by the French. The Tsar began funding religious missions, his brother sent to inspect the work of scholars...1840s-50s

Russian Palestine
Society (for orthodox)
funding pilgrims,
hostels, theology
schools...(Church of St
Mary Magdalene,
1888 by Mt of Olives)



Treaty of Sevres (1920)
negotiated between Sultan
and Allied Victors post WWI
recognized Russian zone
since 1877

1921 Treaty of Kars, negotiated
between Turkish Republican Military and
new Soviet Govt.

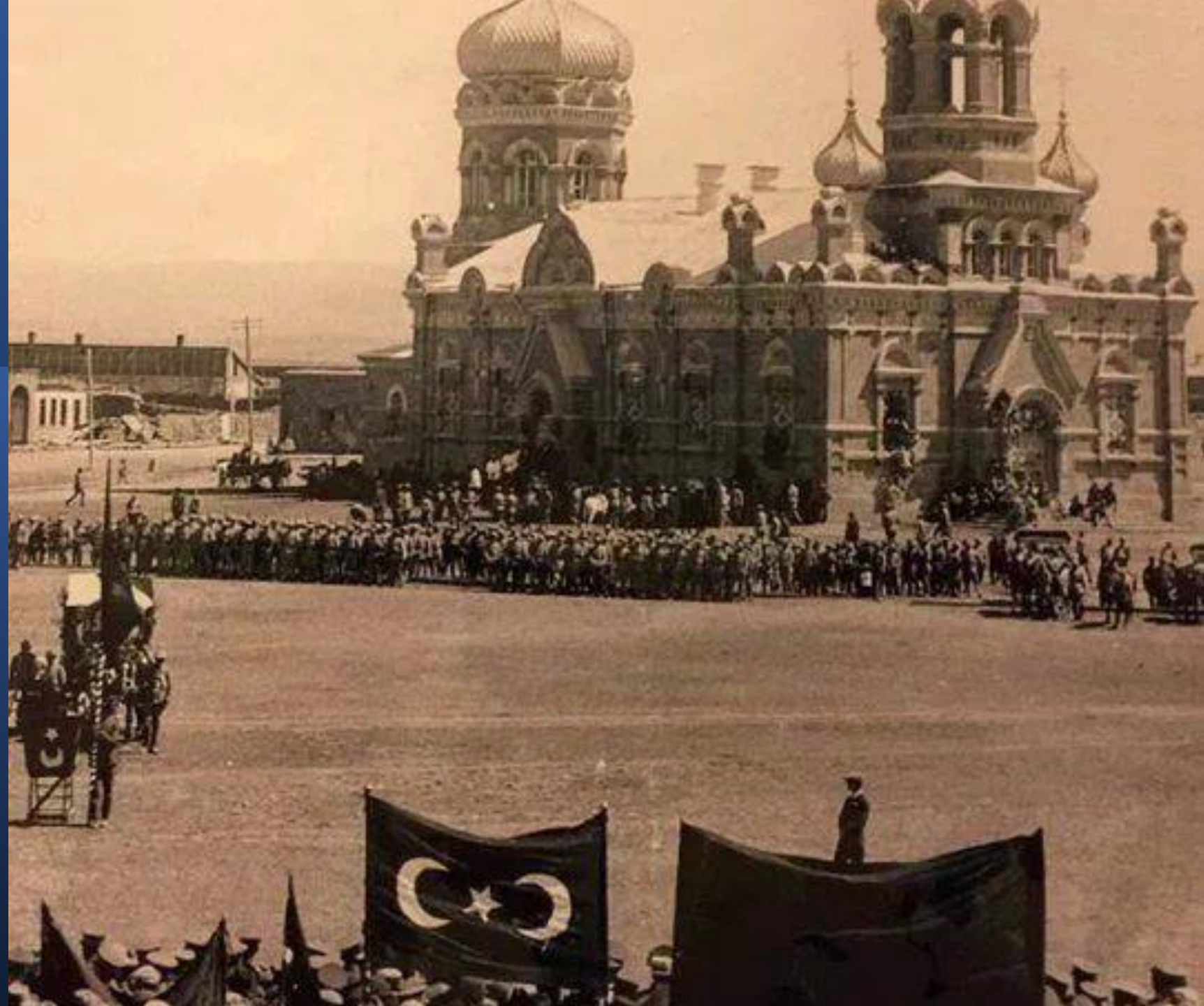


Kars,
Russian city
1877-1920.





1922 handover of
Kars to the
Turkish military,
Alexander Nevsky
Cathedral (1877)
in the back



A stable, a
gymnasium, a
salt warehouse
and now a
mosque (as of
1986)







More Russian buildings in Kars.

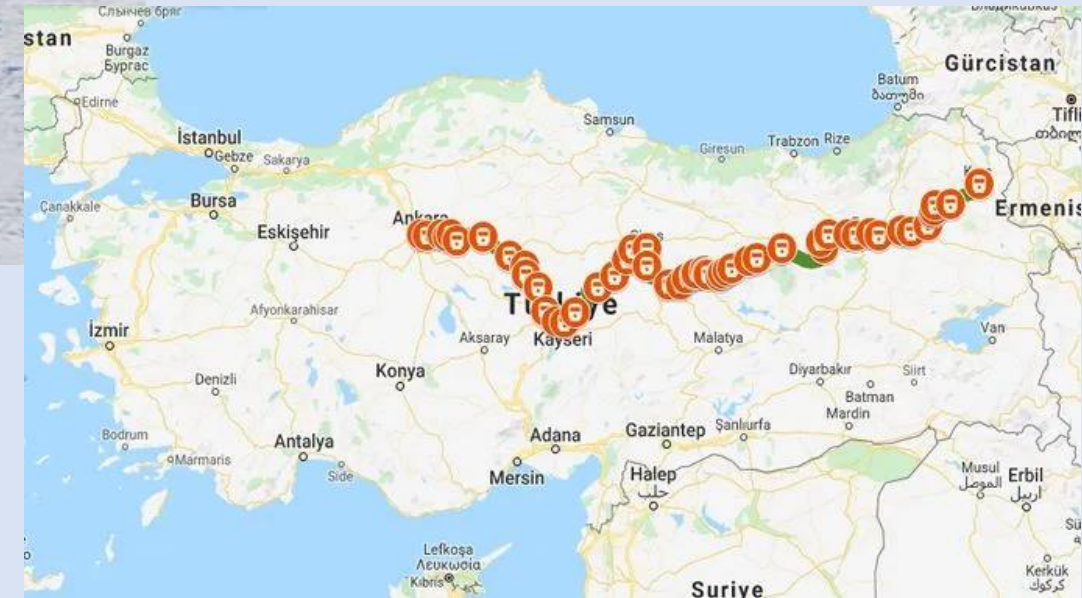
During the 1878-1920 era the province became a refuge for Christian Greeks and Armenians who are increasingly affected by rising Religious tension. Muslim refugees from the Caucuses and the Balkans bring tales of persecution, and External powers (Russia, British, French) certainly used the pretext of protecting Christians as justification for interference.







A 32 hour trip arranged to allow cultural visits to historic sites: Kayseri, Sivas, Divrigi, Erzincan, Erzurum, Sarikamis, Kars...



New Eastern Express to pave way for tourist train journeys across Turkey

BY DAILY SABAH | ISTANBUL | MAY 03, 2019 - 12:28 AM GMT+3 |

2019 Old Rail line converted to tourist route.



The Turkish State Railway (TCDD) will inaugurate the second Eastern Express on May 29.



Our Group.



Battle of Sarikamish – January 1915

- Catastrophic losses for Ottoman army, as least 60,000 of the 118,000 troops died, most frozen before the battle.
- Military plan of Enver Pasha, who then blamed the losses on the “treason” of the Armenians, some of whom had fought on the side of the Russians.
- (Sort of overlooks the massacres of 1894-6 (200,000 Armenians across the Empire) and 1909 Adana.

Sarikamis

Poem recitation by our
Guide -- something I did
not capture but everyone
else knew by heart...



January 2020 Reenactment of Sarikamis, Jan. 2015

The annual march tradition began in 2003.

“The commemorative march was arranged to take place through the Allahüekber mountain range under the banner “The Youth Follow the Footsteps of Martyrs.”

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2020/01/05/nation-mourns-tragic-world-war-i-sarikamis-campaign>

Nation mourns tragic World War I Sarikamis campaign

BY DAILY SABAH | ISTANBUL | JAN 05, 2020 - 6:50 PM GMT+3



Some 20,000 people marched the route where soldiers perished 105 years ago in the march in Sarikamis, Kars province, Jan. 5, 2020. (AA Photo)

Thousands re-enacted the doomed World War I campaign of Sarikamis in eastern Turkey in a march Sunday, on its 105th anniversary, while events were held across the country to remember the soldiers who died in the bitter cold





Museum to the Veterans of Sarikamishin Kars



So what do people learn about the Armenian Genocide?

(1999 Memorial and Museum to those martyred by Armenians in Igdir)





TURKIYE, ARCHIVE

Eyewitnesses recall Armenian massacre of Muslims in 1915

Archives of the Erzurum-based Ataturk University's Turkey-Armenia Relations Research Center reveal eyewitness accounts of atrocities carried out in 1915.

22.04.2015

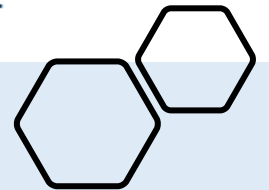


ANKARA

Armenian gangs killed thousands of Muslim civilians, including women and children during World War I in eastern Anatolia, archives of the Erzurum-based Ataturk University's Turkey-Armenia Relations Research Center have revealed.

In the archives, one can read eyewitness accounts of several survivors of the series of atrocities allegedly carried out by Armenian groups in 1915.

In an interview given in 1980, Ismail Gurcan, a witness of the massacre in Erzurum's western town of Alaca, recalled how he had escaped death at the hands of Armenians when he was just 12-years-old. Gurcan's mother, however, was not as lucky as him and she in fact died protecting him, he said.



- <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/eyewitnesses-recall-armenian-massacre-of-muslims-in-1915/54744>

TÜRKİYE, CULTURE, ARCHIVE

Turkey: Evidence found of killings by Armenian gangs

Excavations in eastern Turkey show thousands of Muslims were massacred by Armenian gangs in 1918, say research experts.

17.04.2015



ERZURUM, Turkey

Coronavirus

Vaccinating 80% of world population in 6 months may end pandemic: Sputnik V developer

Anadolu Agency's Morning Briefing - Feb. 8, 2022

Türkiye reports over 96,500 new coronavirus cases

Winter Olympics organizers confirm 24 more COVID cases

Spain to scrap outdoor mask mandate from Thursday

Contemporary textbooks refer to the “relocation to safe areas within the empire” after hostilities broke out.

Atrocities blamed on Armenian rebels, foreign meddling...

Museums in Turkish heartland shed light on history

Bandirma Ship Museum in Samsun, Ataturk and Erzurum Congress Museum and historical building in Sivas take visitors to past

Mustafa Cavus, Serhat Zafer and Muhammet Mutaf | 06.04.2021



Turkey marks centennial of Erzurum Congress

War of Independence

Yunus Okur | 23.07.2019



<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/culture/museums-in-turkish-heartland-shed-light-on-history/2199202>



1897 Class.
High School
graduates,
Erzurum.

Erzurum during the massacre (from Blue Book, 1916)

Our information concerning Erzeroum itself was at first somewhat scanty, but since its capture by the Russians it has been visited by representatives of various relief organisations in the Caucasus, who have obtained circumstantial accounts of what happened in the city and the surrounding villages. They report that, out of an Armenian population estimated at 400,000 souls for the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Bitlis, not more than 8,000—10,000 have survived—in other words, that 98 per cent. of the Armenians in these vilayets have been either deported or massacred.*

https://go-gale-com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/ps/i.do?p=MMLF&u=uiuc_uc&id=GALE%7CHT0100970796&v=2.1&it=r

1895 Erzurum Photos had galvanized International Attention. The Hamidian Massacres led to the death of 200,000 Armenians in cities throughout the Empire.



<https://www.jelleverheij.net/historical-photos/Sachtleben/>

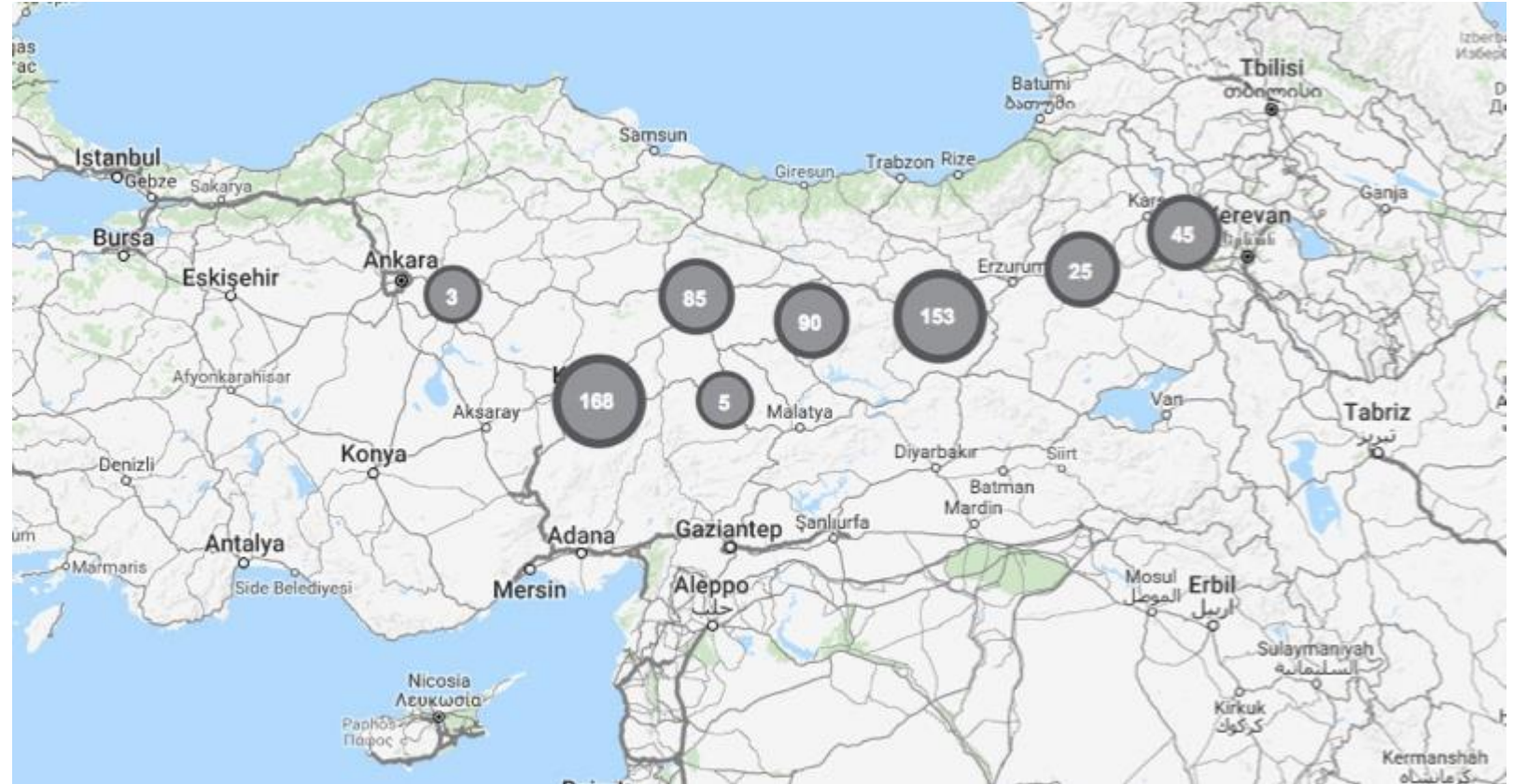
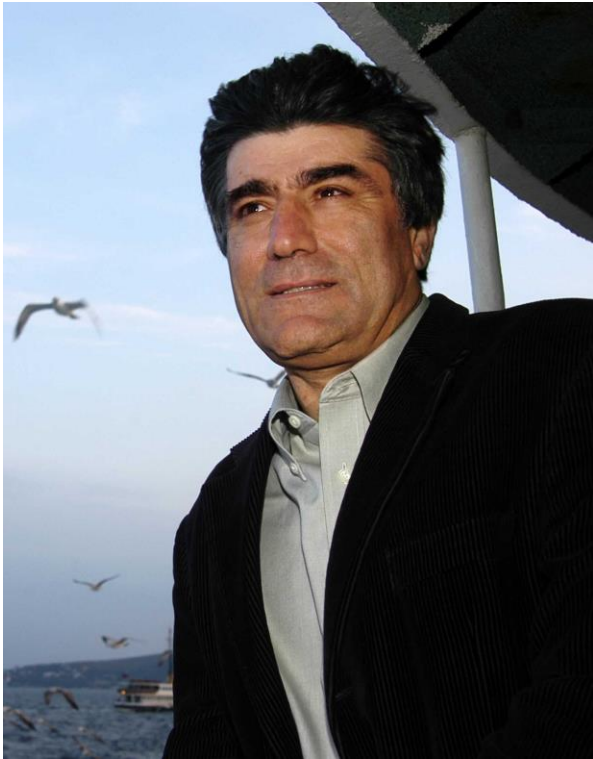
<https://source.wustl.edu/2012/08/a-brave-and-resourceful-man-frank-g-lenz-cyclist/>

Armenian Church of Erzurum at center of legal battle today



<http://www.agos.com.tr/en/article/26578/how-may-sourp-minas-church-be-saved>

The Hrant Dink Foundation subversive guide to the Eastern Express Tourist Train.



Hrant Dink, journalist and founder of Agos (Armenian Newspaper), assassinated 2007.



Erzincan teachers and students.



Kemah Gorge, West of Erzincan





The Kemah Gorge lookout and picnic area.

Kayseri church of
Armenian Surp
Asdvadzadzin
Church used as
police station, sports
hall, now being
renovated as a
library.

Hrant Dink
foundation





1939 — “Who, after all, still talks nowadays about the extermination of the Armenians?”



All news

Photos

Videos

Life

Sports

Armenian cemetery tombstones found in Taksim Square presented to public

Like 0

Tweet

Save

Share



16:20

Recommended short documentaries:

Land of Our Grandfathers, 2008. <https://vimeo.com/59706264> lots of emotion as a young Turkish-Belgian scholar and an Armenian-American descendant travel together to explore the landscape of their family stories.

Grandma's Tattoos:2011 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwj4e_f_1DI Armenian-Swedish woman finally exploring family past from her memoirs of Lebanese childhood.

Books:

Peter Balakian. *Black Dog of Fate* (memoir on finally exploring his grandparents history from 1915);

Sandcastle Girls, (after thirty years of writing mystery novels Chris Bohjalian finally writes a completely different story inspired by his family.)

Elif Shafak. *The Bastard of Istanbul*. Set in contemporary Istanbul.