

# Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic (Armenian SSR)

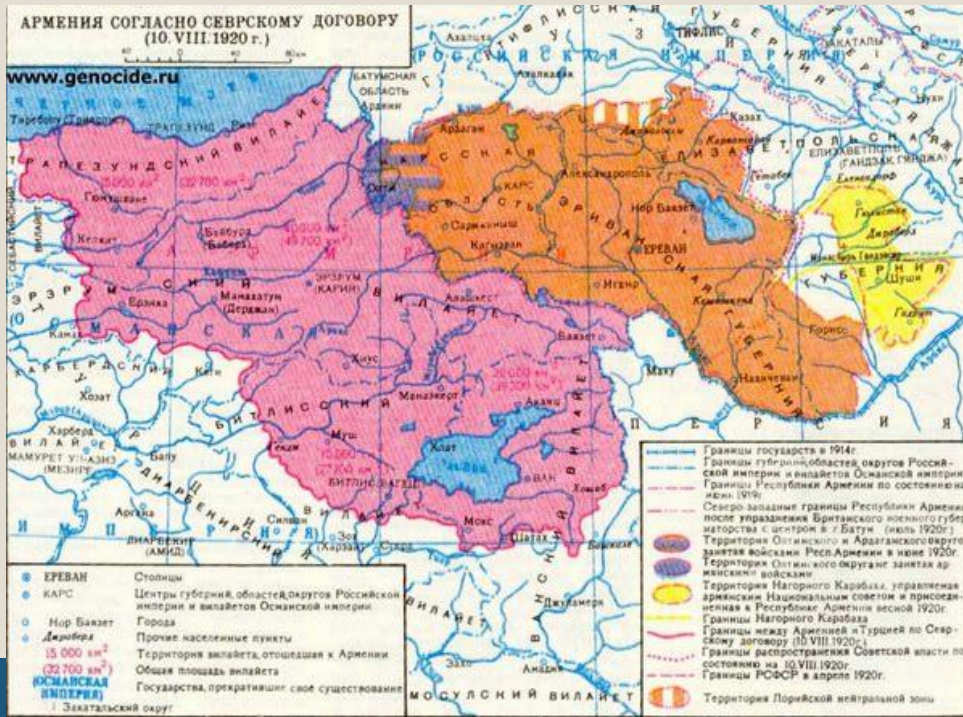
(PART ONE 1922-1954)



# Armenian First Republic – Founding of Armenia SSR



- The Republic of Armenia had many problems with refugees and disease after the genocide.
- Armenians defended themselves including a battle at Sardarabad.



# Armenian First Republic – Founding of Armenia SSR

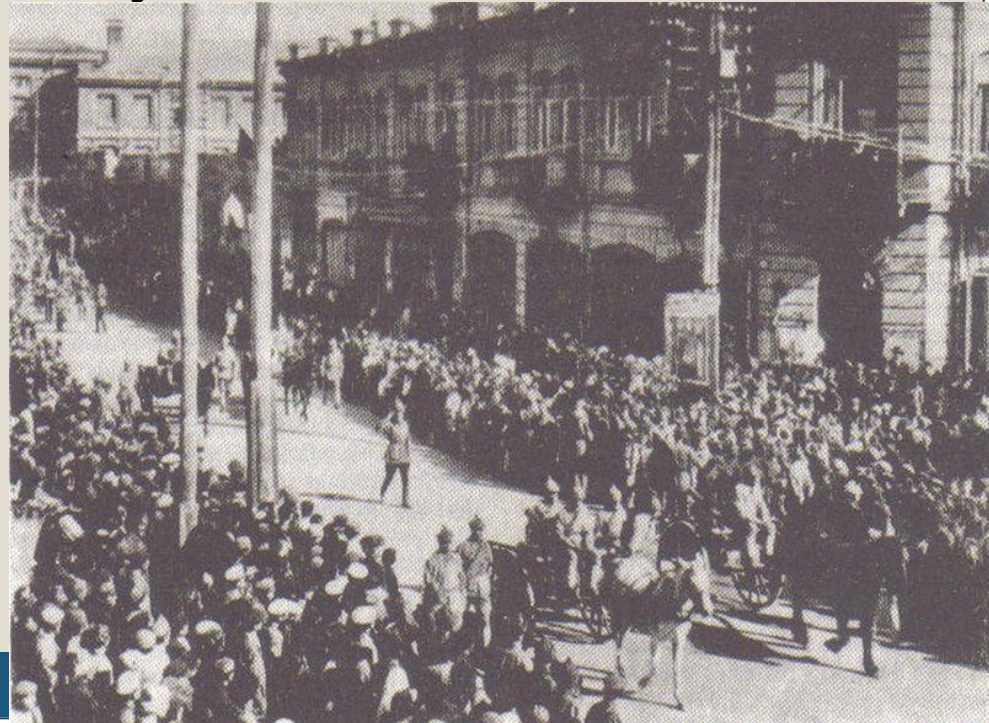


- “1000 Day Republic”
- Poverty, Sickness
- Armenia’s freedom and return of some of western Armenia was guaranteed in the Treaty of Sevres (August 1920)
- Turks threatened to invade a free and independent Armenia

# Armenian First Republic – Founding of Armenia SSR



- Turkey did not honor the treaty and attacked Armenia in September
- Armenia was taken over by the Soviet Russians to save it from Turkish brutality.
- December 2, 1920



# Changes for the Armenian people



Armenian SSR National Anthem

# Changes for the Armenian people



# Changes for the Armenian people



- **Biggest Change?**



# Changes for the Armenian people



- **Biggest Change?**
- The Soviets were atheists and oppressed nationalism and religion in Armenia.
- The economy improved but at the price of freedom.
- The Soviets, especially under Stalin from 1928-1953 viewed the church as a threat to their rule.
- The result were difficult years for our Christian faith that was preserved with brave leaders.

# The Great Purge



- August 1938 Etchmiadzin is shut down!
- Can you imagine what that would be like today?
  - No church
  - No TALK of church
  - Prayer in secrecy

# Catholicos Gevorg V 1911-1930



- He was the Catholicos during the early years of the Soviet rule and resisted attempts to weaken the church.
- Despite his efforts the seminary and almost all churches remained closed to the faithful.
- Upon his death in 1930, the Soviets keep the seat of the Catholicos open for two years.



# Catholicos Khoren I 1911-1930



- Catholicos Khoren was elected in 1932 and was thought to be more cooperative with the Soviets.
- He also resisted the oppression of the church and freedom of worship.
- His death in 1938 was believed to have been ordered by the government.
- Many priests and lay people were jailed during the period from 1936-38.



# Catholicos Gevorg VI 1945-1954



- The Soviets kept the seat open for seven years finally allowing the election of Gevorg VI after the war in 1945.
- Gevorg was very cooperative with the Soviets during his time.
- The Soviets allowed the Gevorkian Seminary to be re-opened and encouraged better relations with Holy Etchmiadzin and Armenians outside Armenia.



# Armenians during World War II



- During World War II Armenia contributed about 500,000 soldiers to the war effort.
- 175,000 Armenians died in the military effort of the Soviet Army from 1941-45
- 4 Armenians were named Marshall(highest rank) and one was the first non-Slavic.
- Designer of the most important jet fighter (Mig) was Armenian(Mikoyan)

# Cultural Impact Of Soviet Union



- The Soviet goal was to reduce or eliminate nationalism and religion in Armenia.
- The first attempt was to weaken the church and to limit the use of the Armenian language.
- Both attempts failed. By 1940 , Armenia was a fully literate nation and Armenian national culture was thriving( Yeghishe Charents, Martiros Saryan , Avetik Isahakian ).

# Victory Park, Yerevan



# Victory Park, Yerevan

