

KARABAGH (ARTSAKH) IN OLD MAPS*

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Heinrich Kiepert (1818–1899) was a German cartographer, who spent most of his time in the South Caucasus and eastern part of the Ottoman Empire. His maps of the Ottoman Empire, Armenia, the Iranian province of Azerbaijan and Georgia are known for much detail and accuracy. The map of Fig. 09 is taken from his map of the Ottoman Empire, 1844, published in Germany. The map was also translated into Ottoman Turkish and published in 1854.

South of the Arax River we see the Persian Province of Azerbaijan and to its north lie the regions of *Chapan* (Ghapan) and *Karabagh*, underlined red, which extends from the confluence of the *Aras* and *Kur* to the east of Lake *Goktęchai* or *Sewanga* (Lake Sevan), including the town of *Schusha* (Shushi in Karabagh).

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The map of Fig. 10 in the Armenian language is one of the maps of the first Armenian Atlas printed in Venice in the year 1849, entitled *The World according to the Old and New Geographers of France, England, Germany and Russia*. The detail reproduced here is from the above atlas map entitled *The Ottoman Empire*. It covers the eastern end of the Ottoman Empire, western edge of Persia and south of the Caucasus.

On the map Azerbaijan can be found south of the *Arax River*, inside the Persian Empire, while across the river, to the north of the river we see the country entitled *Armenia* with its easternmost region named *Karabagh*, underlined red.

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The next detail is from the map of the Caucasus and Armenia by the British cartographer Edward Weller (1819–1884) whose maps were considered to be very accurate. The map reproduced in Fig. 11 depicts the border of Persia and the Russian Empire from Wellers' map of 1858 entitled *Armenia and the Caucasus*.

* The present article is the second part of the article, which appeared in the 2017 issue No 2 of "Journal of Armenian Studies" (Banber Hayagitutyan).

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Azerbaijan is shown as a province of Persia, with the region of Karadagh on the southern bank of the River Aras, while Karabagh is on its northern bank, extending from the east of Lake Sevan to the confluence of the rivers Aras and Kur (Cyrus), underlined red. To the north of Karabagh lie the southern Caucasian regions of Shirvan and Sheki, which in 1918 were absorbed in the newly founded country of Azerbaijan.

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Fig. 12 is a partial section from the map of the old world specialist German cartographer Karl Spruner (1803–1892), who has produced many successful and detailed maps and atlases of the old world. This particular map is taken from Spruner's *1855 Atlas Antiquus* and is entitled *Armenia, Mesopotamia, Babilonia et Assyria*. On the map, the provinces of Armenia in the Middle Ages are delineated and named both in Latin and Armenian as they were known during the Middle Ages. In the region to the west of the confluence of the Araxes and Cyrus rivers the province is named Sacasene and/or Artsakh, underlined red, which extends westward to Siunik.

As this is a map of the area in ancient times, south of the Arax the Persian province is still named with its old name – Mediene (Media), which, as mentioned earlier was subsequently changed in honour of the military commander of the region Atropat, to Atropatene. This region today is generally known as the Iranian province of Azerbaijan, while the Armenians still call it by its ancient name “Atrpatakan”. The present-day Republic of Azerbaijan was established on the northern shores of the Arax River, borrowing its name from the Persian province, located south of the river¹.

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The map of Fig. 13 was prepared by the German Adolf Graf in 1866, showing the south-western part of Asia. It was published by the Weimar Geographic Institute. Here *Armenia* is shown divided between the Ottoman and Russian Empires, which was the situation after the war with Persia and the treaties of Gulistan and Turkmenchai (1813 and 1828). *Aderbeidjan* (Azerbaijan) is shown south of the Arax River, while further north the region inside the Russian-occupied territory is named *Karabagh*, underlined red. To its north the region which since

¹ Galichian R. *The Invention of History*. London: Gomidas Institute, 2009/2010, pp. 6–12 and 27–31.

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1918 has been home for the Republic of Azerbaijan, is shown under the title *Schirvan*, which was the name given to the regions in general.

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In 1869 the first printed map in Persian was entitled *The Map of All the Countries under the Protection of the Iranian Government*. This, in fact was the map of Iran, ancient Persia, prepared by the Iranian cartographer Qarachedaghi, the pioneer of cartography in Iran. Fig. 14 is the north-western region of Iran taken from this map.

On the map, in the region of the border of the Russian Caucasus and Iran, there are a few names which are self-explanatory. Inside the Iranian territory the border province, outlined and coloured pink, is named *Azerbaijan*. One of its regions, on the southern shore of the *Aras River (Arax)* is *Karadagh*. Consistent with all other maps, the neighbouring Russian-occupied region north of the river is named *Karabagh*, underlined green, with the *Shirvan* to its east, *Nakhijevan* to its south and *Irevan (Yerevan)* to its west.

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The map of Fig. 15 is a British map from 1900 entitled *Turkey in Asia, Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan & Baluchistan*. On this detail taken from the map the border of Persia and Russia shows the situation of the Southern Caucasus, which is exactly the same as in 1869, shown in Fig. 14 above.

In this map *Azerbaijan* is a province of Iran, *Karabagh* lies north of the *Arax River* and west of its confluence with *Kura*. The territory of *Armenia* is shown as divided between the Russian and Ottoman Empires.

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Henry Finnis Blosse Lynch (1862–1913) was a British traveller, who spent some time in western and eastern Armenia and his two-volume illustrated work entitled *Armenia, Travels and Studies* is a detailed description of the land and peoples of Eastern (*Russian provinces, Vol. I*) and Western (*Turkish provinces, Vol. II*) Armenia. The volumes are accompanied by a detailed map entitled *Map of Armenia and Adjacent Countries*, 1901 (Fig. 16) as well as numerous images and sketches.

In this map *Karabagh* is shown extending from the south-eastern end of *Lake Sevan* eastward to the *Karabagh Steppe*. This is the name given to the easternmost region inside the confluence of the rivers *Arax* and *Kur*, at the time all under the rule of the Russian Empire. The name of this region is underlined red.



Fig. 09 – Easternmost part of Kiepert's map of the "Ottoman Empire", 1844.



Fig. 10 – Detail from one of the maps of the first Armenian Atlas, published in 1849.

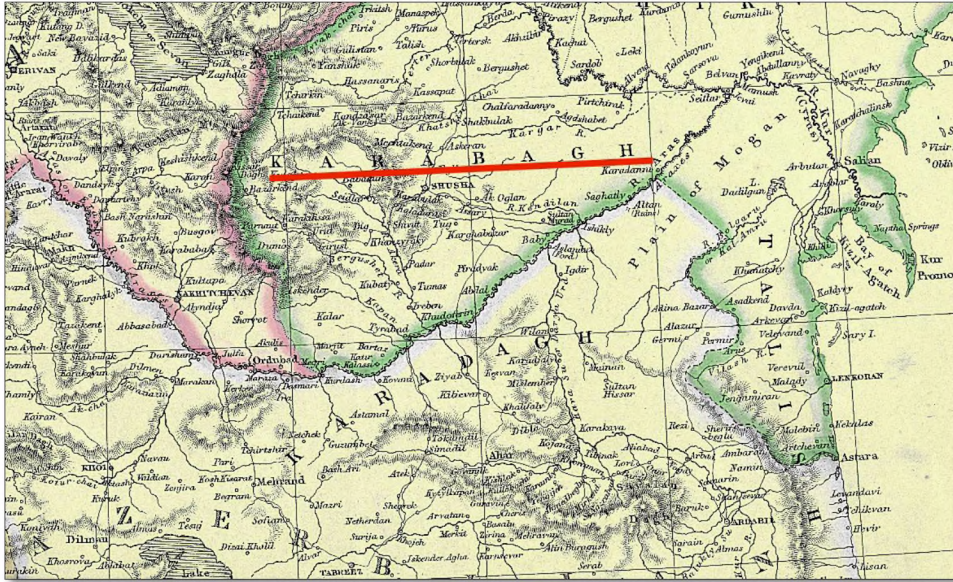


Fig. 11 - Detail of the border of Iran and Russia from Wellers' map of the "Caucasus and Armenia", 1858. London.

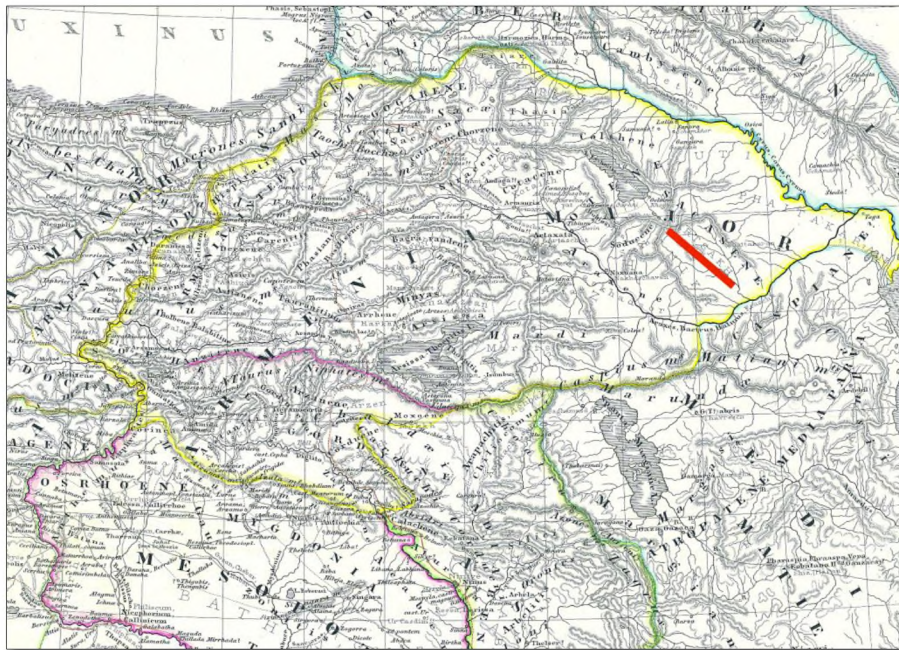


Fig. 12 - Detail from Spruner's map of the ancient lands entitled "Armenia, Mesopotamia, Babylonia and Assyria", a page from the "Atlas antiquae" published in 1855.

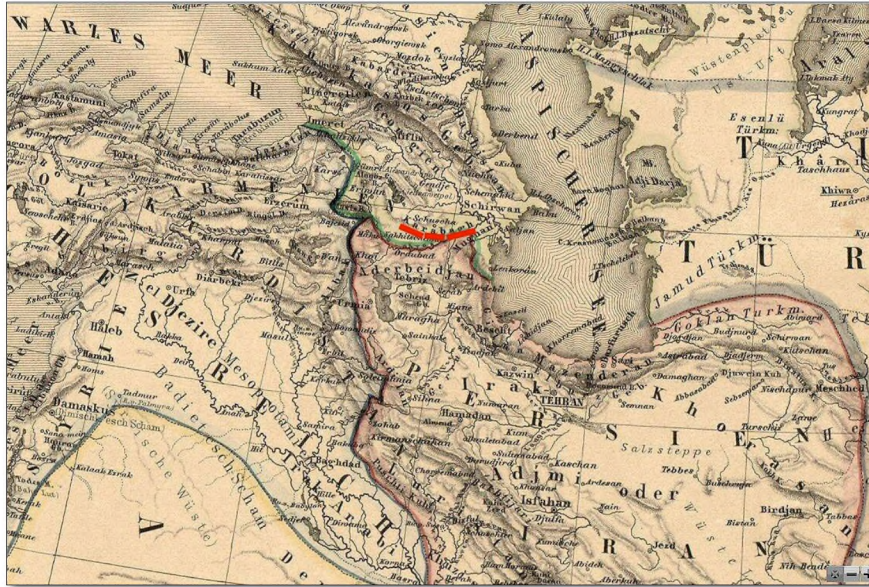


Fig. 13 – Detail from Adolf Graf's map entitled "Südwes Asien", Weimar, 1866.

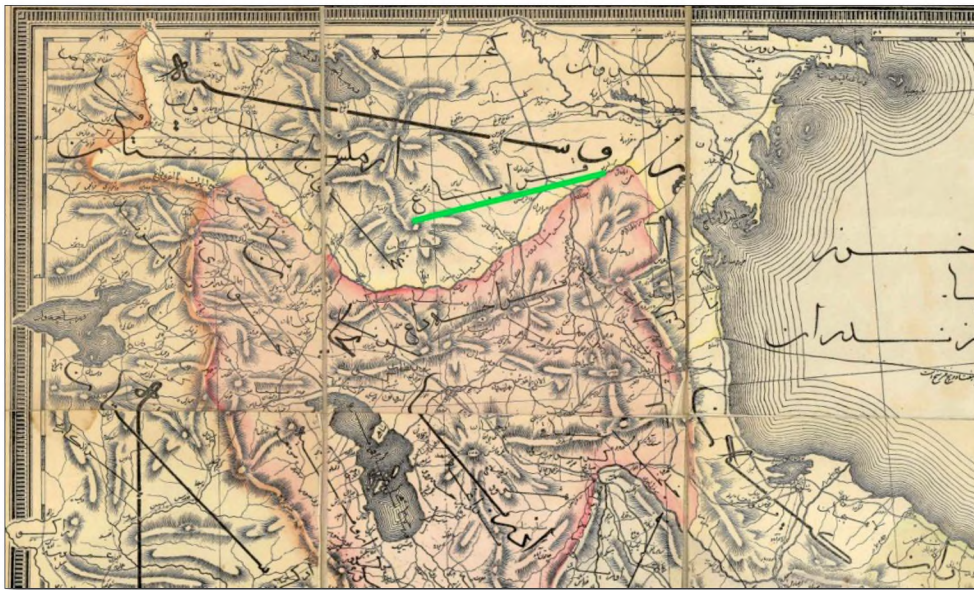


Fig. 14 – North-western part of Qarachedaghi's map of Iran, 1869.

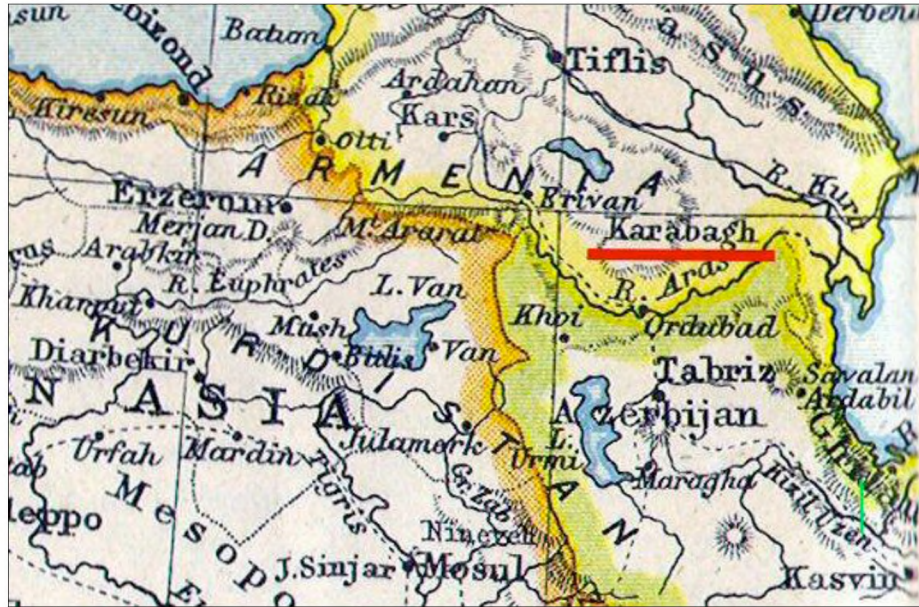


Fig. 15 – British map entitled “Turkey in Asia, Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan & Baluchistan”, 1900.

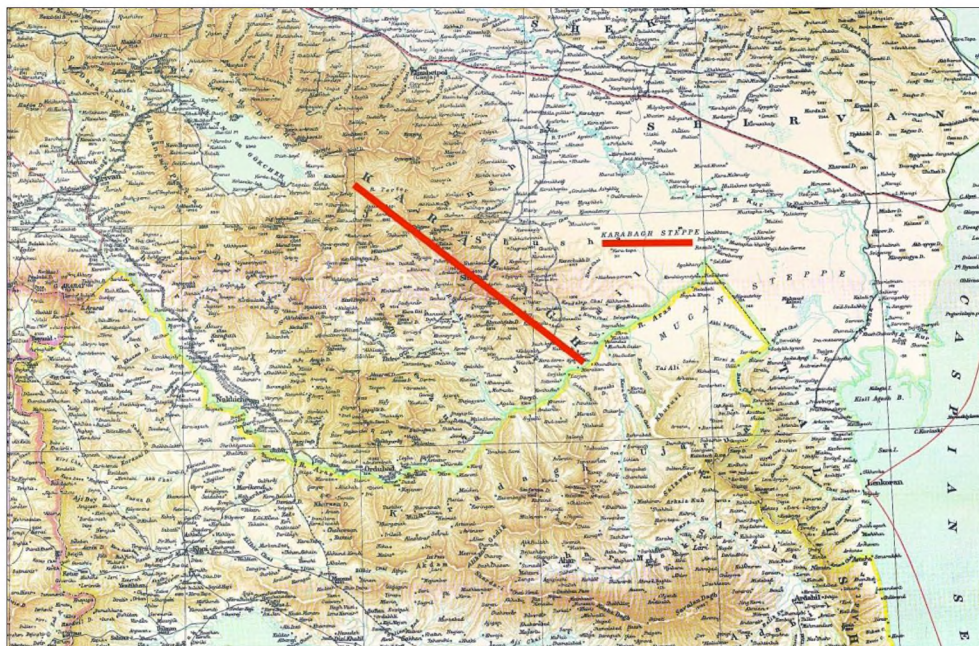


Fig. 16 – Part of Lynch’s “Map of Armenia and Adjacent Countries”, 1901

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From the analysis of the above maps and all other relevant documents one can conclude that the region of Karabagh/Artsakh mainly Armenian-populated has been present on the maps prepared by non-Armenian, mainly western specialists since 1460s. On all the maps of the region which include details and the regional toponyms, the name of Karabagh is omnipresent. Regarding the population of Karabagh, all travelogues confirm that the region has been populated by the Armenians. As an example, Schiltberger, who spend 26 years with the Tamarlane and his son Shahrokh, in his memoirs entitled *Bondage and Travels: 1396 to 1427*, writes the following:

I have also been a great deal in Armenia. After Tämurlin [Tamarlane] died, I came to his son, who had two kingdoms in Armenia. He was named Scharoch [Shahrokh]; he liked to be in Armenia, because there is a very beautiful plain there. He remained there in winter with his people, because there was good pasturage. A great river which is called the Chur [kura] runs through the plain, ... and near this river, in this same country, is the best silk. The Infidels [Muslims] call the plain in the Infidel tongue Karawag [Karabagh]. The Infidels possess it all, and yet it stands in Ermenia. There are also Armenians in the villages, but they must pay tribute to the Infidels. I always lived with the Armenians, because they are very friendly to the Germans and because I was a German they treated me very kindly; and they also taught me their Pater Noster...²

The above-given example would be the subject of another research and article.

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The reader is reminded of the author's suggestion, backed by Iranian and Armenian specialists that the prefix "kara", which in the Turkish and Azerbaijani languages means "black", should be correctly translated as "great" or "big". These names originate from the Middle Ages, when the language of the local population was a dialect of the old Persian, the Pahlavi language. In this language the word kara or kala was used to denote "large" or "big" size³.

² Galichian R. *Clash of Histories in the South Caucasus*. London: Bennett & Bloom, 2012, p. 103.

³ See **Ahmad Kasravi**, *Collection of 78 papers*, Tehran: Ketabhaye Jibi, 2536 (Persian) also **Abdolali Karang**, *Tati and Harzani two ancient dialects of Azerbaijan*. Tabriz: Vaezpour, 1954 (Persian) and **Bagrat Ulubabian**, *The Kingdom of Khachen*, Yerevan: NAS 1975. (Armenian)

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Accordingly Karabagh, which is translated as “Black-garden” should be “Large garden” and similarly “Karadagh” should be translated to “Large mountain”, which are quite appropriate terms, as the first one is a forested and green country and the second is dominated by a mass of high mountains.

This correction will clarify why there are so many names with the prefix “kara” in Iranian Azerbaijan and Turkey, which have no relevance to the colour black⁴. The matter is further confirmed by the following terms:

- The largest tree in the city of Tabriz was called “Kara-aghaj” (meaning “Large tree”, not “Black tree”);
- One of my Azeri colleague’s tall and well built great grandfather, according to him was addressed as “Kara-agma” (meaning “Big man” not “Black man”).
- The widest river in Iranian Azerbaijan is called “Kara-su” (meaning “Large water” not Black water”);
- The largest monastery in Iranian Azerbaijan is St Thaddeus, which is built in white marble, with one of the domes having couple of rows in black stone. This is called “Kara-Kilisse” (meaning “Large church” not “Black church”).

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Ամփոփում

Այս հոդվածը «Բանբեր հայագիտության» հանդեսի 2017-ի No 2-ում լույս տեսած նույնանուն հոդվածի շարունակությունն է, և պարունակում է հոդվածի 9–16 քարտեզների բացատրությունները և պատկերները:

Հոդվածի այս կեսում պատկերված բոլոր քարտեզները, ինչպես նաև առաջին 8 քարտեզները, համաշխարհային քարտեզագրական մշակութային ժառանգության մասն են կազմում: Ցուցադրված են քարտեզների այն հատվածները, որոնք վերաբերում են Արցախ-Ղարաբաղին և Հայաստանին: Քարտեզներում կարելի է տեսնել, որ Սյունիքի արևելյան մասում՝ Սևանա լճից մինչև Արաքս և Կուր գետերի միախառնման տարածքն ընդհանրապես ան-

⁴ Galichian R., Historic Maps of Armenia. London and New York: I.B.Tauris, 2004, p. 210.

վանված է Ղարաբաղ: Այս անունը երևում է Արևմտյան Եվրոպայում և Պարսկաստանում պատրաստված հին քարտեզներում:

Հոդվածի ավարտին հեղինակը ընթերցողին հիշեցնում է «ղարա» նախածանցի հին պարսկերենի նշանակությունը, որը նշանակում է ոչ թե «սև», այլ «մեծ»:

КАРАБАХ (АРЦАХ) НА СТАРЫХ КАРТАХ

ГАЛИЧЯН (ГАЛЧЯН) Р.

Резюме

Данная статья является продолжением одноименной статьи, опубликованной во втором номере «Вестника арменоведения» за 2017 г. В ней дано описание карт с 9 по 16 общей статьи.

Все представленные в этой части статьи карты, как и предыдущие восемь карт, – часть всемирного культурного картографического наследия. В статье приводятся фрагменты карт, относящихся к Арцах-Карабаху и Армении. Из карт явствует, что территория восточной части Сюника, от озера Севан до слияния Аракса и Куры, называется Карабах. Этот топоним присутствует на всех старых картах, начерченных в Восточной Европе и Персии.

Автор также отмечает, что на древнеперсидском языке префикс «карта» означает не «черный», а «большой».