

Armenia

Ethnicity in Armenia

Power relations

Armenia was always the most homogeneous country of the Soviet Republics ⁽⁹³⁾. While Azerbaijanians constituted the largest ethnic minority in Armenia (approx. 180 000 people) before 1990's, after the Nagorni-Karaback conflict (end of 1980's-beginning of 1990's) the entire Azeri community was displaced to Azerbaijan ⁽⁹⁴⁾ leaving Armenia nearly a mono-ethnic country.

Numbers here are taken from the census of 2001. The last census was conducted in 2011. While the size of the overall population of Armenia has decreased, the share of ethnic minorities in it has not altered significantly (according to the 2011 census data Armenians=98.1%, Kurds=1.2% and Russians=0.4%). Both Census data are cited from ⁹⁵ (p. 3).

Armenians hold a monopoly of political power, there were no members of ethnic minorities in the National Assembly or government cabinet, nor did any members of ethnic minorities participate in the presidential election ⁽⁹⁶⁾.

While the Armenian Government had made some positive moves towards the improvement of minority rights in 2003-2004 (particularly, in terms of improving the legal bases), the political power configuration for ethnic minorities on the national political arena has not changed substantially ⁽⁹⁷⁾

The Kurdish minority in the data set is sometimes referred to as the Yezidi ethnic minority. In the 2001 Census, there were a total of 42,139 Kurds registered, of which 40,620 were Yezidi Kurds (in the 2011 Census there was a total of 37 403 Kurds, of which 35272 were Yezidi Kurds). Although some members of the Kurdish minority got involved into the public and political life of Armenia, due to the emergence of NGOs and the establishment of a Kurdish program at Armenia's National Radio ⁽⁹⁸⁾, the Kurds are politically powerless. Some economic discrimination of the Kurds was reported, e.g. unfair adjudication of land, but no political discrimination ⁽⁹⁹⁾. The latest census data for the ethnic composition of the country is from 2011.

The Russian minority declined in their size since the end of the Soviet Union, there are few Russian organizations and a Slavic university in the Capital of Armenia, but the Russians are powerless with a tendency to become irrelevant if the emigration of Russians in Armenia continues. According to the Census 2011, the size of

⁹³ [Minority Rights Group International, 2005]

⁹⁴ [Minority Rights Group International, 2005]

⁹⁵ [Ulasiuk, 2013]

⁹⁶ [U.S. State Department, 2005 - 2013]

⁹⁷ [Selimyan, 2004]

⁹⁸ [Asatryan, 2002]

⁹⁹ [U.S. State Department, 2005 - 2013]

Russians has slightly decreased since 2001, however, a small group of Russians still exists in Armenia (amounting to 0.4%). Russian remains the only minority language in which education exists in Armenia. The Slavic University in Yerevan and some Russian-language newspapers still existed in 2013 (¹⁰⁰; ¹⁰¹). This points to the fact that Russians, although a small group, are not irrelevant in Armenian public and political life.

¹⁰⁰ [U.S. State Department, 2005 - 2013]

¹⁰¹ [Ułasiuk, 2013]

Bibliography

- [Asatryan, 2002] Asatryan, Garnik Arakelova, Victoria. (2002). The Ethnic Minorities of Armenia. Yerevan Press.
- [Minority Rights Group International, 2005] Minority Rights Group International. (2005). Armenia Overview. Retrieved on 20.3.2014 from: <http://www.minorityrights.org/1915/armenia/armenia-overview.html>
- [NATO Parliamentary Assembly Committee Report, 2009] NATO Parliamentary Assembly Committee Report. (2005). Minorities in the South Caucasus: Factor of Instability? NATO Parliamentary Assembly, 2005 Annual Session, Committee Report 166 CSCDG 05 E. Retrieved on 20.3.2014 from: <http://www.nato-pa.int/default.asp?SHORTCUT=683>
- [Selimyan, 2004] Selimyan, Gayane. (2004). Ethnic Minorities in Public Administration in the Republic of Armenia: Distant Utopia or a Tangible Future? Paper presented at the 12th NIS-PAcee Annual Conference "Central and Eastern European Countries Inside and Outside the European Union: Avoiding a New Devide", Vilnius, Lithuania, May, 2004
- [Ulasiuk, 2013] Ulasiuk, Iryna. (2013). National Minorities and Migration in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. CARIM-East RR 2013/33, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, San Domenico di Fiesole (FI): European University Institute, 2013.
- [U.S. State Department, 2005 - 2013] US State Department. (2005-2013). Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Armenia. Retrieved on 20.3.2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/>

Political status of ethnic groups in Armenia

From 1991 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Armenians	0.979	MONOPOLY
Kurds	0.013	POWERLESS
Russians	0.005	POWERLESS



Figure 27: Political status of ethnic groups in Armenia during 1991-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Armenia

From 1991 until 2013

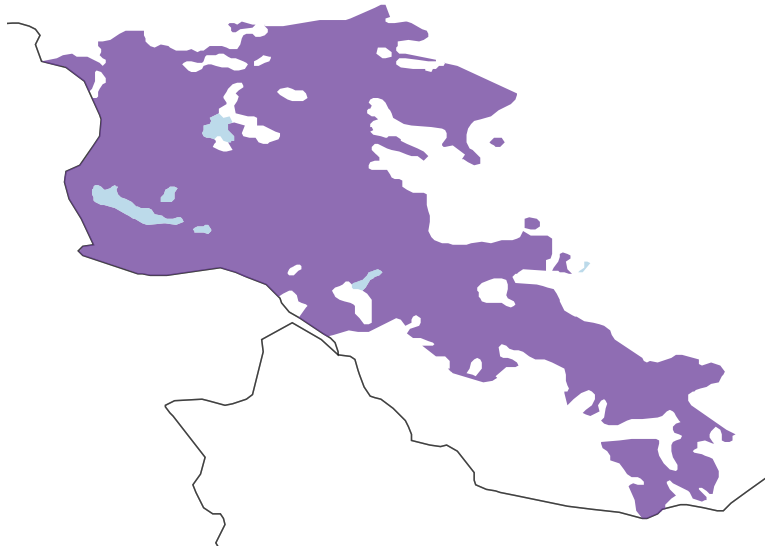


Figure 28: Map of ethnic groups in Armenia during 1991-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Armenians	23 402	Regional & urban
■ Kurds	468	Regional & urban
■ Russians		Urban

Table 12: List of ethnic groups in Armenia during 1991-2013.