



The Armenians in the Medieval Islamic World: The Arab Period in ArmnyahSeventh to Eleventh Centuries

By Seta B. Dadoyan

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In this first of a massive three-volume work, Seta B. Dadoyan studies the Armenian experience in the medieval Islamic world and takes the reader through hitherto undiscovered paradigmatic cases of interaction with other populations in the region. Being an Armenian, Dadoyan argues, means having an ethnic ancestry laden with narratives drawn from the vast historic Armenian habitat.

Contradictory trends went into the making of Armenian history, yet most narratives fail to reflect this rich texture. Linking Armenian-Islamic history is one way of dealing with the problem. Dadoyan's concern is also to outline revolutionary elements in the making of Armenian ideologies and politics. This extensive work captures the multidimensional nature of the Armenian experience in the medieval Islamic world.

The author holds that every piece of literature, including historical writing, is an artifact. It is a composition of many elements arranged in certain forms: order, sequence, proportion, detail, intensity, etc. The author has composed and arranged the larger subjects and their sub-themes in such a way as to create an open, dynamic continuity to Armenian history that is intellectually intriguing, aesthetically appealing, and close to lived experiences.

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Editorial Review

Review

“[M]any works on medieval Armenian history are not complete. Dadoyan’s book is a welcome antidote to this, and demonstrates just how much the Arabic and Persian sources can enrich understanding of Armenian history. Considering the pivotal role that Armenians played throughout much of the medieval Middle East, having a better understanding of the interaction between the Armenian and Islamic worlds, whether cultural, political, economic, or military, is very important. Dadoyan sensibly has planned this work to be three volumes to encompass the entire medieval period ranging from the 7th to 14th centuries. Her cross-cultural examination of interactions in Armenia, as well as of Armenians in the Islamic world, is a worthwhile exploration... Highly recommended.”

—T. M. May, *Choice*

“[E]choing the current historiographic trend that sees Judaism and Christianity as evolving and adapting within the Islamic *oikoumene*, Dadoyan discerns layers of syncretization, especially in the appearance of dissident movements and heretical groups. She effectively taps into the new literature on borderlands to explore hybridity in the Armenian adaptation to both Arabs and Byzantine neighbors. . . . Scholars of medieval Armenian history will likely glean new insights and avenues for further research.”

—Jonathan G. Katz, *The Historian*

“This is a long awaited book which fills a gap in our understanding of Armenian history.”

—Bernard Coulie, recteur honoraire, professeur ordinaire, UCL Université catholique de Louvain

“Features of this impressive work challenge received ideas about Armenian integrity and history, and the interaction between Armenians and their neighbors. It will undoubtedly provoke debate. But its value cannot be underestimated.”

—David Thomas, professor of Christianity and Islam, University of Birmingham, Adgbaston

“This is a magic carpet ride using new concepts, new interpretations, and new use of material.”

—Robert Bedrosian, New York

“[A] first in the field, also novel in its content and approach.”

—Boghos Levon Zekian, chair of Armenian Studies, Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia

About the Author

Seta B. Dadoyan was formerly professor at the American University of Beirut. She is a specialist in Islamic-Armenian interaction from the seventh to the fourteenth centuries and is the author of *The Fatimid Armenians: Cultural and Political Interaction in the Middle East*.

Users Review

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