

READING LIST FOR ARMENIA

BOOKS

Lonely Planet Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan
3rd Edition, published May 2008
John Noble, Michael Kohn

Armenia – Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture (2009)
Susan Soloman

Culture Smart! provides essential information on attitudes, beliefs and behavior in different countries, ensuring that you arrive at your destination aware of basic manners, common courtesies, and sensitive issues. These concise guides tell you what to expect, how to behave, and how to establish a rapport with your hosts. This inside knowledge will enable you to steer clear of embarrassing gaffes and mistakes, feel confident in unfamiliar situations, and develop trust, friendships, and successful business relationships.

Looking Backward, Moving Forward: Confronting the Armenian Genocide, Richard G. Hovvansian (Editor)

The decades separating our new century from the Armenian Genocide, the prototype of modern-day nation-killings, have fundamentally changed the political composition of the region. Virtually no Armenians remain on their historic territories in what is today eastern Turkey. The Armenian people have been scattered about the world. And a small independent republic has come to replace the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, which was all that was left of the homeland as the result of Turkish invasion and Bolshevik collusion in 1920.

Visions of Ararat: Writings on Armenia
Christopher Walker (Editor)

Despite the great geographical gulf that separates them, Armenia and Europe have maintained links for many centuries--at least since the late Middle Ages when the King of Armenia traveled to London to try and reconcile the warring kingdoms of England and France. Since then, diverse travelers have written perceptively and affectionately of that far off, beautiful land and of a people who have shown great inner tenacity in the face of a difficult history. This anthology brings together the best writing on Armenia--accounts by travel writers, early anthropologists, historians, soldiers, poets and politicians. Each section is annotated and placed in context. The result is a lively and colorful picture of a resilient and resourceful people.

A Question of Genocide: Armenian and Turks at the End of the Ottoman Empire (2011)

Ronald Grigor Suny (Editor), Fatma Muge Gocek (Editor), Norman Naimark (Editor)

One hundred years after the deportations and mass murder of Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, and other peoples in the final years of the Ottoman Empire, the history of the Armenian genocide is a victim of historical distortion, state-sponsored falsification, and deep divisions between Armenians and Turks. Working together for the first time, Turkish, Armenian, and other scholars present here a compelling reconstruction of what happened and why.

This volume gathers the most up-to-date scholarship on Armenian genocide, looking at how the event has been written about in Western and Turkish historiographies; what was happening on the eve of the catastrophe; portraits of the perpetrators; detailed accounts of the massacres; how the event has been perceived in both local and international contexts, including World War I; and reflections on the broader implications of what happened then. The result is a comprehensive work that moves beyond nationalist master narratives and offers a more complete understanding of this tragic event.

Armenia in Pictures (2008)

Bella Waters

Armenia: A Journey Through History (2008)

Arra S. Avakian and Ara John Movsesian

Contains a wealth of information about the Armenian people, history, significant events, important places, and individuals who did much to make the Armenian nation what it is.

Armenia: The Sacred Land: The Cradle of Christianity (2010)

Graziella Vigo

Two hundred extraordinary photographs of sacred ceremonies, interiors, and breathtaking landscapes from one of the lesser-known cradles of civilization. Armenia is a country of unforgettable landscapes: a country framed by mountains covered in snow, dotted with deep caverns, stone valleys, lakes set around rocks, and countryside covered in wild flowers. But the true essence and soul of Armenia are the thousand year-old monasteries isolated in the depths of valleys and the more than 40,000 churches dedicated to the most ancient Christian religion in the world. All this, and much more, is documented through Graziella Vigo's two-hundred extraordinary and original photographs: a collection of images portraying ceremonies, private rites, interiors of great allure and atmosphere, and incredible landscapes. An illustrated narrative of the country's past and present is the ideal gift for lovers of travel, art and history of civilizations.

Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War (2004)
Thomas de Waal

Black Garden is the definitive study of how Armenia and Azerbaijan, two southern Soviet republics, got sucked into a conflict that helped bring them to independence, bringing to an end the Soviet Union, and plaguing a region of great strategic importance. It cuts between a careful reconstruction of the history of Nagorny Karabakh conflict since 1988 and on-the-spot reporting on its convoluted aftermath.

Part contemporary history, part travel book, part political analysis, the book is based on six months traveling through the south Caucasus, more than 120 original interviews in the region, Moscow, and Washington, and unique primary sources, such as Politburo archives.

The historical chapters trace how the conflict lay unresolved in the Soviet era; how Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders exacerbated it; how the Politburo failed to cope with the crisis; how the war began and ended; how the international community failed to sort out the conflict.

The Knock at the Door: A Journey Through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide (2007)
Margaret Ahnert

This personal, homespun account by an American of Armenian descent interweaves two narratives in alternating chapters: Ahnert's mother Ester's firsthand description of coming-of-age during, and miraculously surviving, the Turkish-sponsored Armenian genocide of 1915, and the middle-aged author's own tender yet urgent reflections on her connection to the distant world of her 98-year-old mother. Ester's formidable personality, humor and abiding religious faith pervade Ahnert's debut, while the latter's fluid transcription of Ester's story provides a frank and searing testimony, as well as a vivid depiction of Armenian village life.