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ONCE UPON THE ARMENIAN HIGHLANDS

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–And Once Again in Twenty Ninety-Two!

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Once upon the Armenian Highlands, there lived the Armenian race for the millennia. During the period of 1915-1923, the population of this birthplace of civilization was decimated by the Ottoman Turks' cruel campaign for ethnic cleansing. The Western Armenia's Highlands stood silent by losing its indigenous population to a heinous Genocide of the 20th century which claimed 1.5 million innocent lives.

Thus, the life of the Highlands was squeezed out of a vibrant population by massacres, deportations and forced death marches to the unforgiving desert of Deir ez-Zor in northern Syria. A nation was wiped out of its native land, a tragedy beyond tears.

The Eastern Armenia, known now as the Republic of Armenia, currently has a population of 2.9 million people living on the remaining Armenian Highlands. According to my recent study, the majority of the Armenian race between 7 and 9 million expatriates lives in diasporas across the seven continents in

nearly 120 countries.

Both Eastern Armenia's and Diaspora's population face eventual annihilation by a hidden, silent genocide perpetrated this time by self-infliction through oblivion about the impending minoritization of the Armenian population.

For fear of not being branded a pessimist or a doomsayer, let me share with you what I have researched recently on this issue.

There seems to be three major factors at play in Armenia, which will drastically change the social-cultural landscape of the country if these forces are not curtailed or put under control:

1. Sex imbalance (114 males to 100 females)
2. Immigration (young men are immigrating in greater numbers than young women)

Sex Imbalance

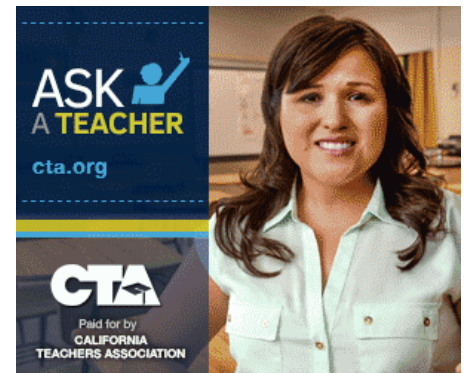
According to a recent report released by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in May of 2013, almost 93, 000 women will be less in the population of the Armenian society by the year 2060 if Armenians continue to favor the male child over the female child.

A rate of 114 boys born for every 100 girls singles out Armenia as having one of the highest sex imbalance levels in the world –surpassed only by China 118 boys and Azerbaijan 116 boys to 100 girls. In Armenia's case, the imbalance gets worse yet for the third births in the family –the record level of 173 boys born for every 100 girls makes the highest level in the world.

The culprit has been the patriarchal culture of the Armenian people, favoring sons over daughters. The result is a heavily skewed sex ratio for the population.

The accomplice to the alarming sex ratio disparity is attributed to the abortion practices inherited from the Soviet era, providing easy access through advance knowledge of the baby imaging technology before its birth. As a consequence, Armenia ends up with less child bearing women and temporarily with more young men who, unfortunately, would be waiting in the wings to immigrate when the opportunity present itself.

With the current level of sex ratio imbalance in Armenia, it has been projected that a surplus of young men will



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materialize by 2020. Lack of young women will make it difficult for young men to find suitable partners; this may lead to a higher frequency of immigration among young men.

Centered primarily in Eurasia and other Eastern European countries with serious male population imbalances are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Serbia and Belarus to cite a few. According to the United Nations, North Korea had a very serious problem at one time, but by partnering the government with its people, they have this problem under control now. So, the darkest light at the other end of the tunnel is that it can be done with dedication, diligence, and with the spirit of patriotism.

As you know, if you were to throw a frog into a boiling bowl of water, it will instantly jump out. The shock effect activates the reflexes. But if you were to put a frog in a bowl with cold water and heat it slowly, the frog will stay there until to its death. Armenians are found now in socio-cultural environment which is surreptitiously changing beyond the average Armenian's consciousness. Armenia is being depleted of its citizenry either by rampant immigration or by the low fertility rate and yet nothing substantive is being done to reverse these devastating trends other than sterile rhetoric to dupe the critics. The country's population will most likely dwindle down to a minority status, and after a while will be absorbed into the mainstream society by losing its culture and identity.

Immigration Nightmare

When Armenian young men leave the country in droves every week, what happens to the young women? They become "wallflowers" as far as marriage goes due to lack of eligible men—for there is 1 young man for every 13 young girls despite the patriarchal culture of the Armenian society which favors sons over daughters. Although many more male children are born than female children, the male children tend to leave the country for better opportunities in foreign lands when they attain adulthood.

Unless drastic measures are taken, Armenia will be again depopulated this time by voluntary exodus to foreign lands as it was done once during Stalin's years. Since Armenia's independence in 1991, over 1.2 million people have chosen to live in the Diaspora. Mind you that is over 1/3 of the total population! That figure is a debilitating reduction for a tiny country strapped with an already small population.

Thousands upon thousands of people are leaving Armenia annually in recent years to settle down permanently in foreign countries. Most of them end up going to Russia because of its proximity, lax immigration laws, and now on account of an unconscionable Russian program offering Armenians hard-to-pass incentives such as work permit, housing, citizenship including cash money (from \$4K to \$8k) to live and work in different parts of Russia.

As a result, about 65 percent of Armenians prefer to go to Russia. In addition, Ukraine (before the advent of separatist crisis), other Eastern European countries are also attracting many Armenians. Although the United States is considered to be the ideal Promised Land of Opportunity, presently it is not within the reach of the average Armenian.

A recent Gallop poll has found out that at least 40 percent of the citizens of Armenia are willing to leave their country in search of better living conditions. If the relentless drain on population does not abate, Armenia will create a vacuum to be filled by mostly neighboring people for at this point in time home and land prices will plummet and make them irresistible for foreign investors. Armenia has many problems. Creating a rapidly growing minority population would be the last straw to break the native society's back.

I am not sure whether it was President Heydar Aliyev or an Azari of Nakhitchvan who said to an American journalist that fighting or war with the Armenians is not necessary. Slowly but surely, Armenia will be emptied by immigration. Then, we would go to Yerevan and occupy it. Would this be within the realm of possibility? Let us take another head of state foretelling the future for Europe.

Like Muammar al-Gaddafi who once prognosticated the population change Armageddon of Europe: "There are signs that Allah will grant victory to Islam in Europe without swords, without guns, without conquest. We do not need terrorists, we don't need homicide bombers. The 50 + million Muslims [in Europe] will turn it into a Muslim continent within a few decades." Has al-Gaddafi's foresight materialized?

Well, there are currently well over 52 million Muslims in Europe. Al-Gaddafi was right on the money. The German government reported that that number will double in the next 20 years to 104 million. The government also stated that "The fall in the German population can no longer be stopped. Its downward spiral is no longer reversible... It will be a Muslim state by the year 2050." (Source: Federal Statistical Office of Germany, 2011). Anywhere from three to four million Turks alone live and work in Germany.

As for our homeland, we presently do not have the minoritization process taking place in Armenia. We have other problems such as the unabated hemorrhaging of the population. This ominous outlook, however, may materialize if drastic measures are not taken to curb the exodus of the population to various countries. Unless our leaders shine a bright light on these problems, the search for systematic solutions will not be brain stormed.

In very recent years, I have written and published a good number of research-based articles to counter Armenia's perennial population loss as a community service:

Here are some of the titles: Immigration Behavior: Toward a Social-Psychological Model for Research; Armenia without Armenians: The Involuntary Genocide; Armenian Brain Drain During World Economic Decline; and Populate and Prosper: "Motherlandsteading" for Armenia and Artsakh. All this work must have fallen on deaf ear. No one from Armenia has shown any interest in the ideas, methods, and strategies offered to solve the number one national problem, the constant drain of population to foreign lands.

The Armenian leaders must live in the future by utilizing an effective method of intelligence gathering. That it was ideas that changed the world has become a cliché. Our compatriots in Armenia have great ideas, so does the Armenians in the Diaspora. Harvesting viable ideas from these sources will put the Armenian nation on the path to progress and prosperity.

Fertility Rate

Next to the Black Plague, low fertility rate is the kiss of death for an ethnic group. According to actuarial research, in order for a culture to maintain itself, to survive, to retain its culture for greater than 25 years must have a required fertility rate of 2.11 children per family. If the required rate is less than 2.11 such as 1.9, chances are it will NEVER

reverse itself –that ethnic group will be on the road to extinction. At 1.3 rate, it would be IMPOSSIBLE to reverse the downward spiral of the population caught in the Black Hole of disappearance.

Of all the places in the world, Western European native people will suffer the most from the low fertility rate. Here are some of the fertility rates recorded in 2010 of the indigenous population (excluding their diasporas):

France 1.8 Germany 1.3

England 1.6 Italy 1.2

Greece 1.3 Spain 1.1

As for the European Union (EU) of 31 countries, the fertility rate is 1.38. Surprisingly, despite the very low fertility rates, the population of Europe is not declining due to increased Islamic immigration. Of all the population growth in Europe since the 1990s, 90 percent has been Islamic immigration.

France, for example, has 1.8/family while its Muslim population has 8.1/family. By 2027 one in five Frenchmen will be Muslim; in 39 years, France will have become an Islamic republic.

The United States white population has currently 1.6 fertility rate as compared to 2.11 with the Latino immigration.

The Census Bureau forecasts that the United States will become a minority-majority population for the first time in 2043 based on the most recent 2010 U.S. Census. What this means the whites will become a minority in the United States by the year 2043. This has already alarmed some ethnic groups such as the Irish, the English, and the French Americans to name a few to the point of "immigrating" [returning] back to Europe.

Closer to homeland, Armenia has one of the lowest fertility rates in Eurasia:

Turkey 2.0 (2011) Armenia 1.7 (2011)

Azerbaijan 1.9 (2011) Georgia 1.5 (2010)

In 78 years, Armenia will become without Armenians. That is, in the year twenty ninety-two (2092), once again the Armenian Highlands will become silent of the voices of the native people. This time around, it won't be the Ottomans perpetrating another Genocide on the Armenian race — but the 2092 Genocide will be self-inflicted if we do not act in a timely manner to circumvent the impending population disaster.

In conclusion, any event that is classified as futuristic is often swept under the rug or discounted by exclaiming:

Armenians have always survived against the odds –as though the Armenian race has an eternal lease on perpetuity. Perhaps the Sumerians had held to the same arrogant attitude despite being the most intelligent and hardworking constituent members of the cradle of civilization. Where are they now? Being arrogant about the future is a dangerous proposition when it comes to the survival of a culture. It is my culture, it is my worry, survival of our race is crucial for me now. Shouldn't it be paramount for every blue blooded Armenian men and women?

Our leaders cannot continue to hide their heads in the sand any more. The danger is at the door. The elephant is in the room. Lip service is not enough. Like the Black Death of 1348, continuing sex imbalance, relentless immigration, and irreversible fertility rate will play havoc with the native people of our homeland unless drastic measures are taken to reverse these trends.

Armenians should never share the fate of the "single sheep vs. two wolves" in the old parable by becoming a minority in their own country (If two wolves and one sheep vote on what to have for dinner, it is unlikely that the sheep and its opinion will ever be a deciding factor in the outcome of the voting). Armenian population should never, ever become a victim of minoritization on their Highlands.

Again, unless we take corrective and preventive measures now, the future of the Armenian people and their culture would be in the balance just like most European nations are facing minoritization. Let us not engage in "Motivated Forgetting", which is a psychological defense mechanism whereby people cope with threatening and unwanted memories or with future disturbing facts by suppressing them from consciousness or by sublimation.

We need to rudely awaken not only our politicians, but also the average citizen to reverse the devastating effects of these plagues facing the Armenian nation for the sake of our children and their children to enjoy living in our beautiful ancestral homeland by preserving its culture and identity. Otherwise, like the frog in a bowl of water being gradually heated, the Armenian society will be slowly "boiled away" out of existence without any prior consciousness of the danger. We must all heed the simple but compelling words of John Galsworthy (1928): "If you do not think about the future, you cannot have one."

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