



Kurkjian Vahan M.

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Kurkjian Vahan M. : A History of Armenia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of Armenia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Armenia: Tiger of the Caucasus By Stephen T. Few nations claim such an epic history as Armenia, but A History of Armenia by Vahan M. Kurkjian attempts to put that epic, and at times explosive history, into context. A seasoned writer, Mr. Kurkjian wrote many books on Armenia and its people during his lifetime extending from the last half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. With that said, the latter chapters on Armenian socialism and description of the relatively brief independent Armenian state (in existence after WWI then lost) are written in a more present-day frame-of-mind and displays the book's age and the author's passion. Despite the book's age, the book went through multiple editions and updates throughout the 20th century. Therefore, it is appropriate that this book is a history of the Armenian people rather than the current nation of Armenia. The book is somewhat less accessible to general readers (especially in the early ancient periods), but brushing up on the Ancient Near East geography and history should make for a more complete understanding (perhaps easier said than done). It is written in episodic format, which means historical highlights are given several paragraphs of content; and in this way, the book is more helpful for casual readers. Otherwise, the book would be overwhelming if read in large continuous blocks. There is a lot of information presented; and while the sketches and photographs are helpful from a archaeological, historical, or religious standpoint; yet the lack of maps is positively debilitating for general readers. With that stated, Mr. Kurkjian is a gifted religious historian. The portions concerning religion make the book worth the read alone because Mr. Kurkjian breaks down the complex elements of the region's Christian history quite well. Mr. Kurkjian's explanations on the Armenian Orthodox Church and its differences between Greek,

Syriac, and Latin churches very clearly (i.e. The Council of Chalcedon). Mr. Kurkjian also takes great pains to discuss Islam's (both Sunni and Shi'a) effects on the region. Readers will come away from A History of Armenia with a breadth of knowledge on all things Armenian: architecture, art, literature, education, politics, religion, etc. and this comprehensiveness is the book's greatest strength. Recommended for anyone interested in Armenia, its people, religion, or history. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good info, tough read. By amoloian Full of amazing information but a very rambling read. Also takes a lot of energy to understand the turn of the century prose 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What happened to the first 68 pages? By BillI ordered the paperback version of the book, and it started on page 69. What happened to the rest of the book? I'm sending it back. Too bad.

Book: Armenian history