

# Armenian Karin/Erzerum



**Edited by  
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<sup>1</sup> Khirikian's views on the *Sahmanadrutian* are cited in T.E.G. (Bishop Torgom

The picture was dramatically different, however, in the eastern provinces, where cultural life was stifled, political activity suppressed, and national expression censored. In a land where the perniciousness of the local Turkish or Kurdish authorities was the prevailing way of life, the Armenian National Constitution had little bearing. As stated by Bishop Mkrtich (Mgřdich) Khirikian (known affectionately as "Hayrik"), who was elected Patriarch in 1869, the Constantinople intelligentsia, which had invested so much time in drafting the statutes, knew Europe better than the geography and the physical makeup of Armenia. The people whom the *Sahmanadrutian* should have served lived not on the shores of the Bosphorus but in the remote Armenian provinces.<sup>1</sup> Aside from its intrinsic shortcomings, the Constitution

amelioration of the unbearable conditions in the interior Ottoman provinces (*vilayets*) had created an atmosphere of hope and optimism among the intelligentsia. The picture was dramatically different, however, in the eastern provinces, where cultural life was stifled, political activity suppressed, and national expression censored. In a land where the perniciousness of the local Turkish or Kurdish authorities was the prevailing way of life, the Armenian National Constitution had little bearing. As stated by Bishop Mkrtich (Mgřdich) Khirikian (known affectionately as "Hayrik"), who was elected Patriarch in 1869, the Constantinople intelligentsia, which had invested so much time in drafting the statutes, knew Europe better than the geography and the physical makeup of Armenia. The people whom the *Sahmanadrutian* should have served lived not on the shores of the Bosphorus but in the remote Armenian provinces.<sup>1</sup> Aside from its intrinsic shortcomings, the Constitution

*Rubina Peroomian*

“A CALL SOUNDED FROM THE ARMENIAN  
MOUNTAINS OF ERZERUM”



