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ARMENIA  
AND  
THE ARMENIAN QUESTION

SIMON VRATZIAN

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**THE ARMENIAN QUESTION**

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Translated from the Armenian

*By*

**JAMES G. MANDALIAN**



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## FOREWORD

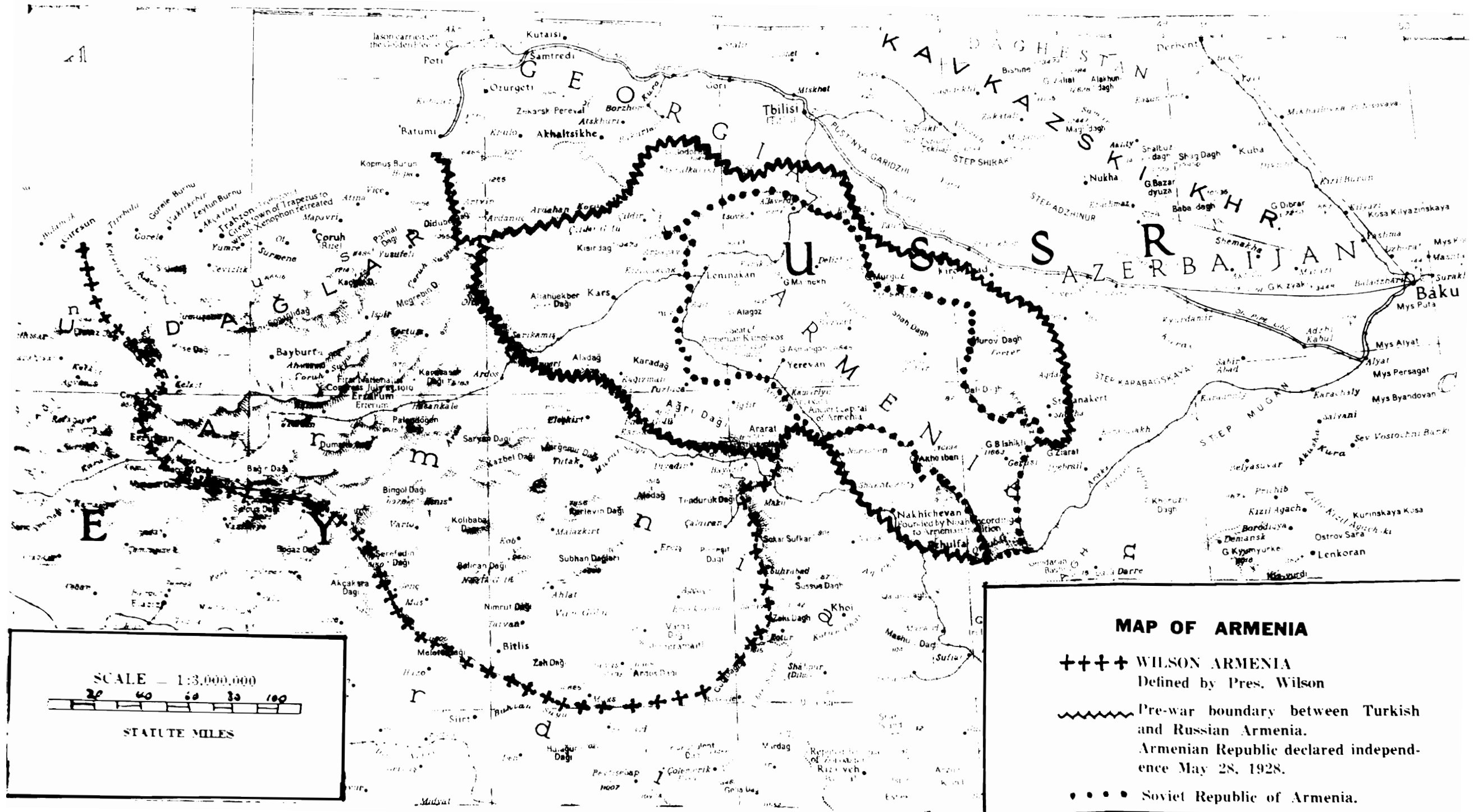
No future peace can permanently be maintained unless the downfall of present day dictatorships is followed by the establishment of those factors which make peace enduring, foremost among which is the principle of the rights of national freedom and of self-determination.

This is the reason why the Atlantic Charter—the official expression of our war aims—gives first place to the national questions.

“They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned.

“They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.”

The Armenians are one of those peoples whose fatherland has been forcibly seized; consequently, they are a people who have been forcibly deprived of “sovereign rights and self-government.” After the present war of liberation, together with all other countries which have been deprived of their freedom, Armenia, too, expects the restoration of her bounda-



ries, her lost freedom and her sovereign right to take her place in the family of nations.

What the Armenian people want is nothing more nor less than what the Honorable Sumner Welles formulated in his Decoration Day speech of May 30, 1942:

"If this war is in fact a war for the liberation of peoples, it must assure the sovereign equality of peoples throughout the world as well as in the world of the Americas. Our victory must bring in its train the liberation of all peoples. Discriminations between peoples because of their race, creed, or color must be abolished. The age of imperialism is ended. The right of a people to their freedom must be recognized as the civilized world long since recognized the right of an individual to his personal freedom. The principles of the Atlantic Charter must be guaranteed to the world as a whole—in all oceans and in all continents."

This is a solemn promise which the great liberty-loving American Commonwealth gives to the world. This is also a source of hope and inspiration to all peoples who have been deprived of their freedom and who have been made a victim of injustice, as have been the Armenian people.

It is the aim of this booklet to show to the world to what injustices and what wrongs the Armenian people have been subjected, what a gallant fight they have waged and what heroic sacrifices they have made for their freedom, what promises they have received and what rights they have won which still remain unfulfilled, and what are their hopes and expectations from the present war and the coming peace. Its object is to remind those who shall determine the world's fate that the Armenian Question still remains unsolved, and that Armenia anxiously awaits the justice which is due her.

In presenting the picture of the Armenian Question from its beginnings to the present, we have endeavored to be objective, basing our contentions on facts and documentary evidence. The subject is extensive, and, naturally, could not be covered in detail within this limited space, but we believe that the essential points of the question have been presented quite thoroughly. Additional details, if wanted, may be obtained by consulting the bibliography found at the end of this work. If, within these limits, the desired aim has been attained, the author shall feel content.

I also feel it my duty to express my warm thanks to my young friends, James G. Mandalian and H. James Tashjian, the former for his translation into English of the present work from the Armenian original, and the latter for assisting Mr. Mandalian in checking up the translation and in the reading of the proofs.

SIMON VRATZIAN

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