

The Armenian Apostolic Church was established 1700 years ago. Armenia proudly can name itself first nation, which accept Christianity as the state-religion. However from the very beginning Armenia had to fight for its independent with Persians, Turks and Russians. In this context, the 20th century for Armenians had significant impact. In the 1915 took place Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Empire. Almost 1,5 billion of people died and structures of the Armenian Church in Turkey were demolished. Seat of Patriarch in Aghtamar was erased and Catholicos from Cilicia had to escape to Lebanon. Majority of Armenians had to run away, to Middle East, Europe, United States or Caucasus. That was not the end of persecution toward Armenians and Armenian Church. In 1920 Bolsheviks entered Armenia on the South Caucasus and the Armenian Church under the leadership Gevork V and Khoren I Muradbekian was forced to "collaborate" with soviet reign. The Catholicos of All Armenians (Khoren I) soon after had been killed in his residence. Despite repressions Armenians were able to protect their religion. Moreover, the Armenian nation itself underwent considerable internal, socio-political transformation in the 20th century.(anti-Church attitudes in the society, radicalization of national/political/ideological attitudes in the Diaspora, "Genocide" movement in the 1960's, de-Stalinization, terrorism, Karabakh movement in 1988).

In the result of Bolshevick's policy, secularism, economic mass migration to Russia, post-soviet atheisation of society, lack of significant reforms implemented by clergy, position of the Church in society is gradually getting weak. All of that allegedly in the name of "modernization". Understanding of the process and, tendencies typical for current Republic of Armenia and the Armenian Church seems possible only in the framework of detailed historical research

The scientific goal of the project is to prepare first monograph on the history of Armenian Apostolic Church in 20th century, which will contain elements of historical (archives) and anthropological (oral history recordings) methodology.