Kurds Are Committing a Cultural Crime

Fred Aprim April 22, 2024

Serious scholars and real archaeologists agree that the Kurds do not have deep ancient history. Profs. <u>Khazal Al-Majidi</u> (expert in civilizations), <u>Garnik Asatrian</u> (expert on Kurdish history) and many others assert that people known as Kurds appeared with the conquest of Islam in the 7th Century.

G. Asatrian / Iran and the Caucasus 13(2009) 00-00 82 The documented history of the term Kurd, as was shown above, starts from the 6th-7th centuries A.D. Before that period, there is little reliable evidence of its earlier forms. 3 Generally, the etymons and primary meanings of tribal names or thnonyms, as well as place names, are often irrecoverable; Kurd is also an obscurity. Its possible connection to Xenephon's καρδόυχοι must be considered now as obsolete (cf. Paulys Realencyclopädie, Bd X/2: 1933-1938, s.v.; Mackenzie 1963a: 164, fn. 4; Vil'čevskij 1961: 112). This view was thoroughly discussed and rejected by Th. Nöldeke just on the threshold of the 20th century (Nöldeke 1898; see also Hübschmann 1904: 334). And though some two decades later G. R. Driver (1921: 563 ff.; also idem 1923) had attempted to revive the Kurd/καρδόυχοι (Arm. Kordu-k') correlation, nonetheless, it was not accepted within iranological academic circles for phonetic and historical reasons.31

Linguists and historians have proven that the term Kurd originates from KWRT, a Persian meaning "tent-dweller". Therefore, the Kurds are nomad-Persians who inhabited the Zagros Mountains, western Iran. They have expanded into modern regions of eastern Turkiye (and later in northern Iraq and northeast Syria) after the 1514 battle of Chaldiran. The Sunni Kurds sided with the Sunni Ottomans against the Safavid Persians. The Ottomans won the battle and Sultan Selim I permitted them to settle in eastern Anatolia to be a buffer zone between the Sunni Ottomans and Shia Safavid Persians.

The Kurds have begun recently (and more extensively since the creation of the Kurdish region in northern Iraq in 1992) to construct a new Kurdish history by stealing from Assyrian, Babylonian, Sumerian and other indigenous Mesopotamian histories and claiming such history as Kurdish. These efforts were led by Kurdish nationalists and historians such as Fadhil Mirani, Mehrdad Izady, Diayako Narib and others. More recently, Kurdish Journalists, writers and others joined these plans as they littered the Internet with twisted and fabricated narratives of what they began to spread as Kurdish history.

Kurdish journalist Jîro Mîtani wrote recently in a post that a Kurdish Relief from 645-635 BC, shows a herd of gazelles. The Kurdish civilization, he said, was famous for raising gazelles and exporting them to neighboring states, which generated huge sums of income for the Kurdish state. This profitable commercial business attracted the greedy enemies of the Kurds who began to attack the Kurdish state. Repeated attacks led to the collapse of the Kurdish state and the end of the greatest civilization in Mesopotamia. Mîtani ended his post by stating that this treasured Kurdish Relief was discovered by Kurdiologist Hurmiz Rassam in 1854 in Nineveh, Iraq and that it is displayed in the British Museum in London.



The insolence of individuals like Mîtani does not surprise Assyrians and others, because this Kurdish campaign of falsifying history has been very aggressive and persistent.

A simple search in the British Museum archive would expose the lies of this journalist. A wall Relief in the British Museum under the title "*Gypsum wall panel relief*" shows that the piece claimed by Mîtani of being Kurdish is in fact the bottom section part of much larger piece of what is known as the scene of hunting gazelle. This large Relief which is part of a larger known Assyrian relief at the museum. The scene reflects a herd of gazelle disturbed by huntsmen; one looks round, tries to escape and is led into ambush; Ashurbanipal waits in a pit with a bow and shoots the leader down; also on the bottom row is a scene showing the hunting of wild asses; the king gallops forward, shooting at wild asses; one of the horsemen behind him has a supply of arrows while the other leads a spare mount; the asses are shot or pulled down by hounds; one is lassoed alive, probably for breeding.

Below is the Assyrian Relief at the British Museum. It shows very clearly that the so-called Kurdish Relief of Mr. Mîtani is in fact the lower left section of the 19th Century Assyrian Relief discovered by the worldly acclaimed Assyriologist Hormuzd (Hurmiz) Rassam, who is definitely not a Kurdiologist as Mr. Mîtani is claiming in his post.



Other Kurdish groups litter social media, such as Facebook, TikTok and other Internet pages with similar bogus material. In the below example we see a Kurdish group, called the Kurdish History and Civilization of Kurdistan, claims that the Sumerian ziggurats of Sumer, southern Iraq, were Kurdish.



World's cultural institutions must bring such individuals and groups, private or governmental, to justice, because they are committing an aspect of cultural crime where Kurdish majority in the Middle East are exploiting the Assyrian and other minorities through <u>cultural appropriation</u>.