

Kurdistan Region

- The Kurds are a people of Indo-European origin. They speak an Iranian language known as Kurdish, and comprise the majority of the population of the region – however, included therein are Arab, Armenian, Assyrian, Azerbaijani, Jewish, Ossetian, Persian, and Turkish communities. Most inhabitants are Muslim, but adherents to other religions are present as well – including Yarsanism, Yazidis, Alevis, Christians, and in the past, Jews, most of whom emigrated to Israel.



- **Kurdistan** (lit. "region of Kurds") or **Greater Kurdistan** is a roughly defined geo-cultural historical region wherein the Kurdish people form a prominent majority population and Kurdish culture, languages, and national identity have historically been based.
- Contemporary use of the term refers to the following areas: southeastern Turkey (Northern Kurdistan), northern Syria (Rojava or Western Kurdistan), northern Iraq (Southern Kurdistan), and northwestern Iran (Eastern Kurdistan). Some Kurdish nationalist organizations seek to create an independent nation state consisting of some or all of these areas with a Kurdish majority, while others campaign for greater autonomy within the existing national boundaries.

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How Powerful Is Kurdistan?

9 778 / 4 937

627 342 просмотра



9,7 тыс.



4,9 тыс.



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Iraq, Iran, Syria

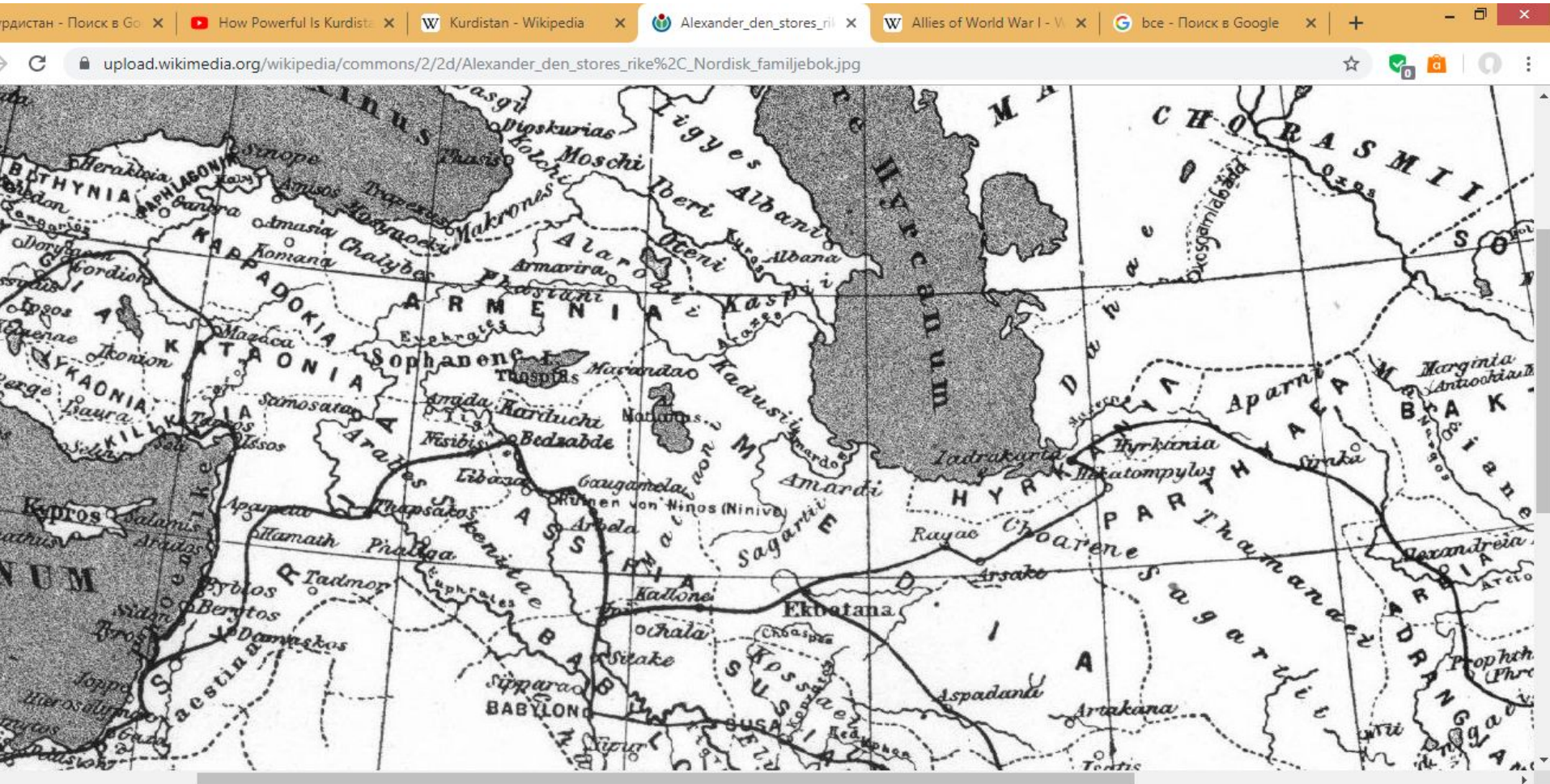
- Iraqi Kurdistan first gained autonomous status in a 1970 agreement with the Iraqi government, and its status was re-confirmed as an autonomous entity within the federal Iraqi republic in 2005.
- There is a province by the name *Kurdistan* in Iran; it is not self-ruled.
- Kurds fighting in the Syrian Civil War were able to take control of large sections of northern Syria as government forces, loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, withdrew to fight elsewhere. Having established their own government, they called for autonomy in a federal Syria after the war.

- Various groups, among them the Guti, Hurrians, Mannai (Mannaeans), and Armenians, lived in this region in antiquity. The original Mannaeian homeland was situated east and south of the Lake Urmia, roughly centered around modern-day Mahabad. The region came under Persian rule during the reign of Cyrus the Great and Darius I.

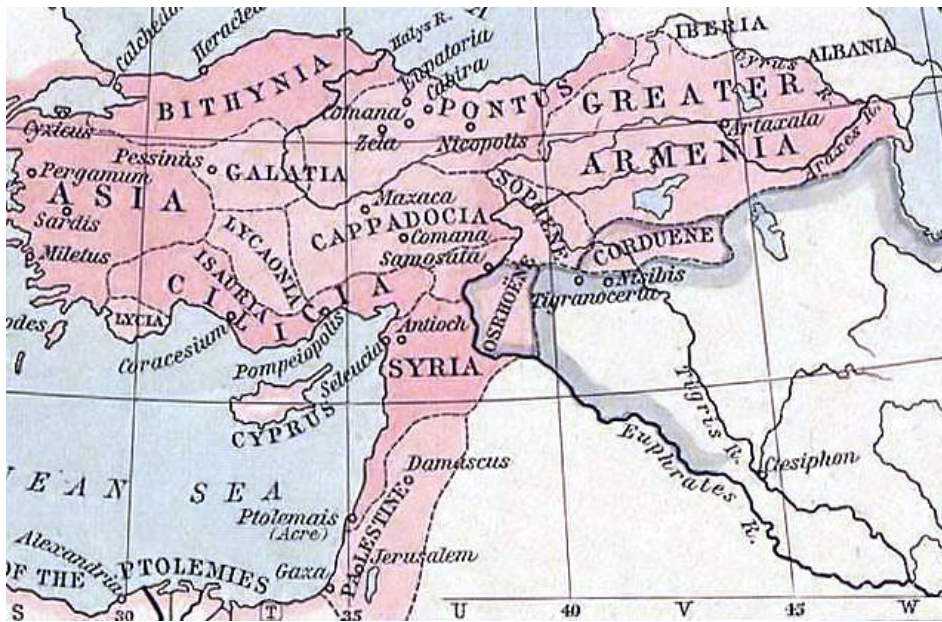
Ancient Kurdistan as Kard-uchi, during Alexander the Great's Empire, 4th century BCE



Ancient Kurdistan as Kard-uchi, during Alexander the Great's Empire, 4th century BCE



19th-century map showing the location of the Kingdom of Corduene in 60 BCE



- The Kingdom of Corduene, which emerged from the declining Seleucid Empire, was located to the south and south-east of Lake Van between Persia and Mesopotamia and ruled northern Mesopotamia and southeastern Anatolia from 189 BC to AD 384 as vassals of the warring Parthian and Roman empires. Corduene became a vassal state of the Roman Republic in 66 BC and remained allied with the Romans until AD 384. After 66 BC, it passed another 5 times between Rome and Persia. Corduene was situated to the east of Tigranocerta, that is, to the east and south of present-day Diyarbakır in south-eastern Turkey.

Some historians have correlated a connection between Corduene with the modern names of Kurds and Kurdistan; *T. A. Sinclair* dismissed this identification as false, while a common association is asserted in the *Columbia Encyclopedia*.

- One of the earliest records of the phrase *land of the Kurds* is found in an Assyrian Christian document of late antiquity, describing the stories of Assyrian saints of the Middle East, such as Abdisho. When the Sasanian Marzban asked Mar Abdisho about his place of origin, he replied that according to his parents, they were originally from *Hazza*, a village in Assyria. However, they were later driven out of Hazza by pagans, and settled in *Tamanon*, which according to Abdisho was in the *land of the Kurds*. Tamanon lies just north of the modern Iraq-Turkey border, while Hazza is 12 km southwest of modern Erbil. In another passage in the same document, the region of the Khabur River is also identified as *land of the Kurds*. According to Al-Muqaddasi and Yaqut al-Hamawi, Tamanon was located on the south-western or southern slopes of Mount Judi and south of Cizre. Other geographical references to the Kurds in Syriac sources appear in Zuqnin chronicle, writings of Michael the Syrian and Bar hebraeus. They mention the mountains of Qardu, city of Qardu and country of Qardawaye.



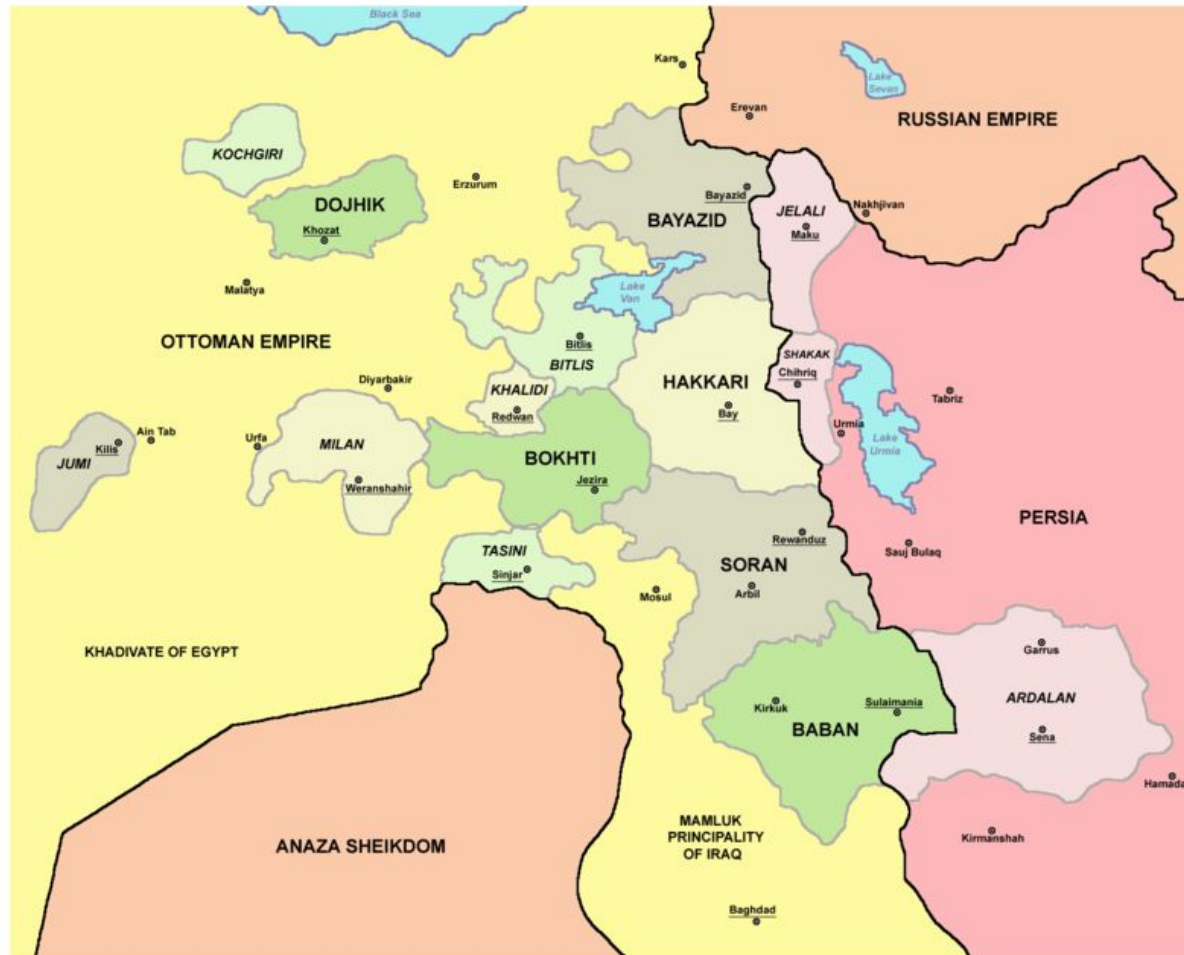
- Map by Mahmud al-Kashgari (1074), showing *Arḍ al-Akrād* Arabic for *land of Kurds* located between *Arḍ al-Šām* (Syria), and *Arḍ al-ʿIrāqayn* (Iraq).

Post-classical history

- In the tenth and eleventh centuries, several Kurdish principalities emerged in the region.
- Kurdistan in the Middle Ages was a collection of semi-independent and independent states called emirates.
- The earliest medieval attestation of the toponym *Kurdistan* is found in a 12th-century Armenian historical text by Matteos Urhayeci. He described a battle near Amid and Siverek in 1062 as to have taken place in *Kurdistan*.

- The ***Sharafnama*** ([Kurdish](#)
[h](#): شهره‌نامه Şerefname,
"The Book of
Honor", [Persian](#):
Sharafname, شرف‌نامه) is the
famous book of [Sharaf](#)
[al-Din Bitlisi](#)) is the
famous book of Sharaf
al-Din Bitlisi (a
medieval [Kurdish](#)) is the
famous book of Sharaf
al-Din Bitlisi (a
medieval Kurdish historia
n and poet) (1543–1599),
which he wrote in 1597,
in [Persian](#)) is the famous
book of Sharaf al-Din
Bitlisi (a

Kurdish independent kingdoms and autonomous principalities circa 1835



Kurdish Kingdoms and Autonomous Principalities circa 1835
(according to Dr Michael Izady)

BABAN - Independent kingdom or principality and its approximate domain

ARDALAN - Autonomous vassal principality or khanate

Rewanduz - Capital

Arbil - Major city

— - International boundaries

— - Boundaries of Kurdish kingdoms and principalities

- In the 16th century, after prolonged wars, Kurdish-inhabited areas were split between the Safavid and Ottoman empires. A major division of Kurdistan occurred in the aftermath of the Battle of Chaldiran in 1514, and was formalized in the 1639 Treaty of Zuhab. From then until the aftermath of World War I, Kurdish areas (including most of Mesopotamia, eastern Anatolia, and traditionally Kurdish northeastern Syria) were generally under Ottoman rule

- After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the Allies contrived to split Kurdistan (as detailed in the ultimately unratified Treaty of Sèvres) among several countries, including Kurdistan, Armenia and others. However, the reconquest of these areas by the forces of Kemal Atatürk (and other pressing issues) caused the Allies to accept the renegotiated Treaty of Lausanne (1923) and the borders of the modern Republic of Turkey, leaving the Kurds without a self-ruled region. Other Kurdish areas were assigned to the new British and French mandated states of Iraq and Syria.

Kurdistan (shaded area) as suggested by the Treaty of Sèvres



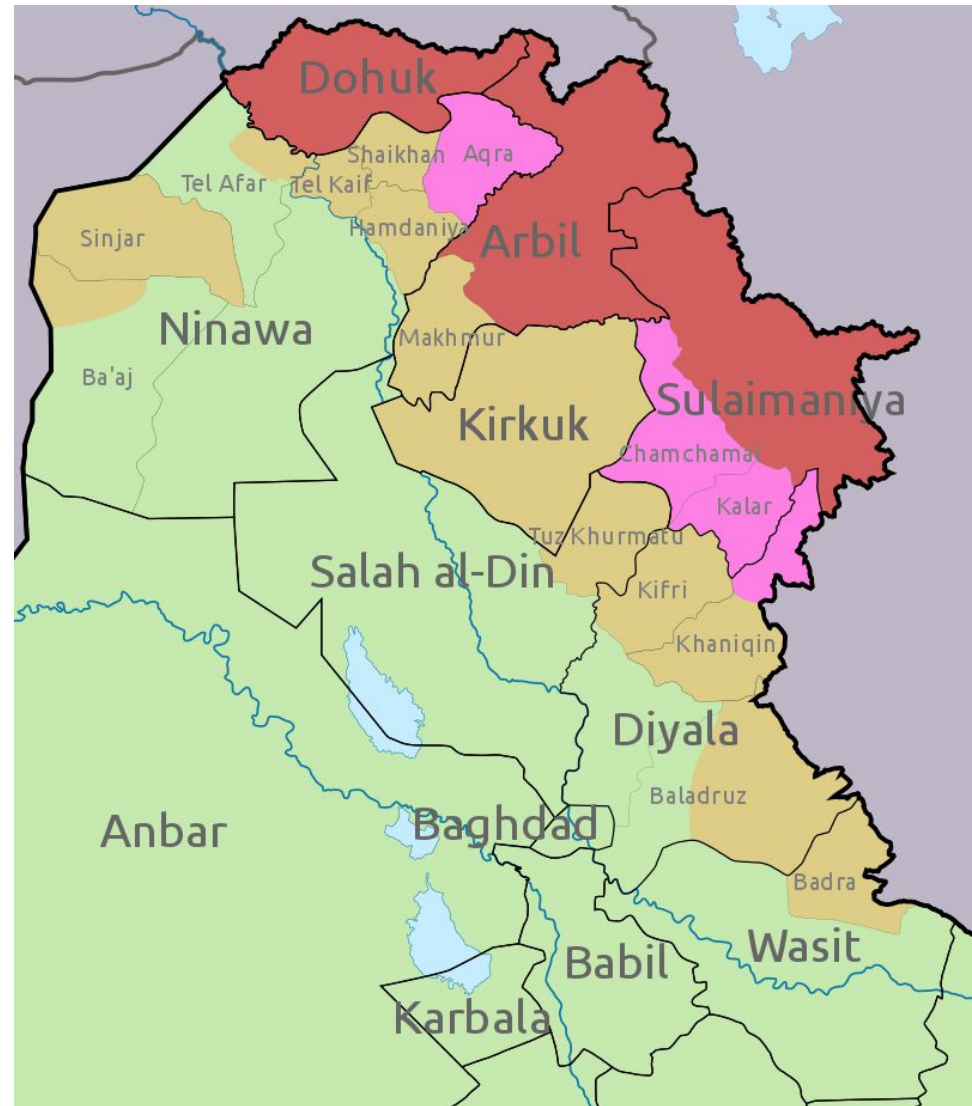
FIGURE 11. TURKEY IN 1920

Compiled by
Col. Lawrence Martin

At the San Francisco Peace Conference of •
1945, the Kurdish delegation proposed
consideration of territory claimed by the
Kurds, which encompassed an area
extending from the Mediterranean shores
near **Adana (Turkey)** to the shores of
the Persian Gulf near **Bushehr (Iran)**, and
included the **Lur (Iran)** inhabited areas of
.southern **Zagros (Iraq, Iran, Turkey)**

- At the end of the First Gulf War, the Allies established a safe haven in northern Iraq. Amid the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from three northern provinces, Iraqi Kurdistan emerged in 1992 as an autonomous entity inside Iraq with its own local government and parliament.
- A 2010 US report, written before the instability in Syria and Iraq that exists as of 2014, attested that "Kurdistan may exist by 2030".
- The weakening of the Iraqi state following the 2014 Northern Iraq offensive by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has also presented an opportunity for independence for Iraqi Kurdistan, augmented by Turkey's move towards acceptance of such a state although it opposes moves toward Kurdish autonomy in Turkey and Syria.

- **Iraqi Kurdistan** or **Southern Kurdistan** is the Kurdish-populated region incorporated into Iraq and considered by Kurds as one of four parts of Greater Kurdistan. Much of the geographical and cultural region of Iraqi Kurdistan is governed by the **Kurdistan Region (KRI)** which is an autonomous region recognized by the Iraqi constitution.
- Rose - Disputed areas in Iraq prior to the 2014 Northern Iraq offensive. Disputed and part of the Kurdish Regional Government since 1991.
- Brown - Disputed and under the control of central government.

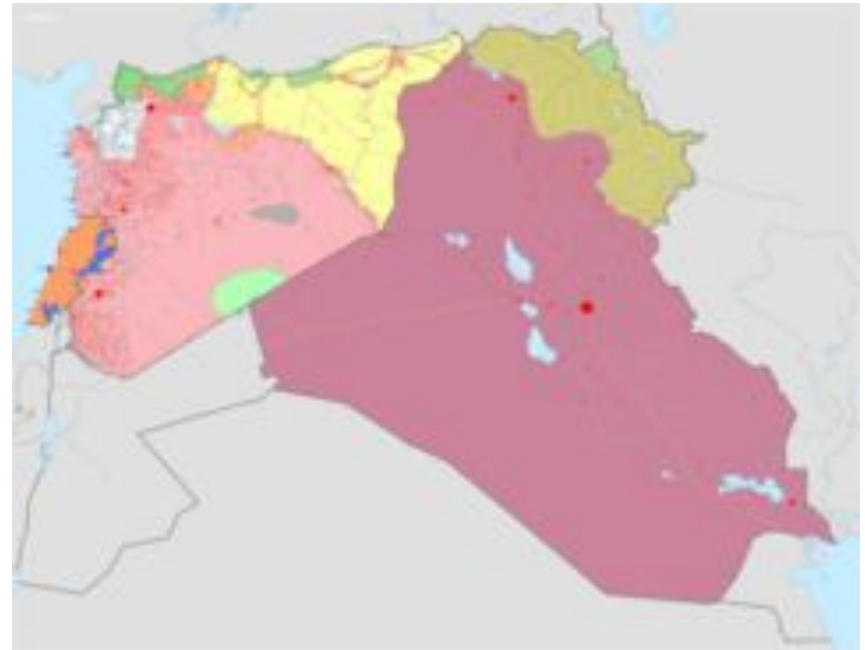


The incorporation into Turkey of the Kurdish-inhabited regions of eastern Anatolia

- Koçgiri rebellion of 1920 under the Ottomans, then successive insurrections under the Turkish state, including the 1924 Sheikh Said rebellion, the Republic of Ararat in 1927, and the 1937 Dersim rebellion. All were forcefully put down by the authorities. The region was declared a closed military area from which foreigners were banned between 1925 and 1965.

- Following the military coup of 1980, the Kurdish language was officially prohibited in public and private life.
- Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, political parties that represented Kurdish interests were banned
- A guerrilla war took place through the 1980s and 1990s in which much of the countryside was evacuated, thousands of Kurdish-populated villages were destroyed by the government, and numerous summary executions were carried out by both sides. Many villages were set on fire. Food embargoes were placed on Kurdish villages and towns. More than 20,000 Kurds were killed in the violence and hundreds of thousands more were forced to leave their homes.

- The successful 2014 Northern Iraq offensive by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, with the resultant weakening of the ability of the Iraqi state to project power, also presented a "golden opportunity" for the Kurds to increase their independence and possibly declare an independent Kurdish state.



Military situation on August 27, 2019:

Brown - Controlled by Syrian Kurds

Green - Controlled by Iraqi Kurds

Grey - Controlled by the Islamic State
in Iraq and Syria (ISIL, ISIS, IS)



Курды считают, что заплатили за независимость кровью - Россия 24

82 180 просмотров • 17 сент. 2017 г.

650 156 ПОДЕЛИТЬСЯ СОХРАНИТЬ

US withdrawal from Syria, sanctions

- https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/i-cant-even-look-at-the-atrocities-us-troops-say-trumps-syria-withdrawal-betrayed-an-ally/2019/10/15/4e79b600-ee-ca-11e9-b648-76bcf86eb67e_story.html



- 4:52 p.m. ET, October 22, 2019**What's in the deal Turkey and Russia agreed to today**
- Analysis from CNN's Nathan Hodge
- Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met in the southern Russian resort city of Sochi today with a shared agenda of shaping the endgame in Syria's eight-year civil war. The two leaders unveiled a 10-point memorandum of understanding.
- **Here's [what's in the agreement:](#)**
- **The concerns it addresses:** Russia and Turkey announced a wide-ranging agreement that addresses a major Turkish concern — the presence of Kurdish YPG forces near their border. But it also acknowledges a major fear of the Kurds — that Turkish-backed Syrian rebel groups might unleash a campaign of ethnic cleansing against them and other minority groups.
- **The conditions:** Under the deal, Russian military police and Syrian border guards will enter the Syrian side of the Syrian-Turkish border from noon tomorrow. Over the next 150 hours, they are to remove the YPG and their weapons, back to 30 km (about 18 miles) from the border. From 6 p.m. local time next Tuesday, the Russian military police and Turkish military will begin patrols along that line to a depth of 32 km (about 20 miles).
- **The exceptions:** The town of Qamishli will not be included in that 10 km zone, and it was not clear if the agreement applies the entire length of the Turkey-Syrian border, or just the areas where the Syrian Kurds exercised control.
- **And remember:** The deal also acknowledges some facts on the ground: Turkey will keep control of the areas it has taken in their recent military offensive into northern Syria.
- <https://edition.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/turkey-syria-10-22-2019/index.html>

A fighter from the Syrian Democratic Forces SDF stands guard as a US military vehicle pulling out of a US forces base in the Northern Syrian town of Tal Tamr drives by.



1. *Kurds in Syria Were Sold Out by President Trump, 2020 Democrats Say*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/15/us/politics/turkey-syria-democratic-debate.html>

2. How powerful is Kurdistan?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg8ALNVkNnE>

3. Russian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8x747Zlyok>

