

### The Historiography of Artaxias I: A Comparative Approach to Greek and Armenian Sources



Map created by L. E. Patterson.

**Item 1:** “[Armenia] was divided by Artaxias and Zariadris, the generals of Antiochus the Great, who was at war with the Romans. They ruled because Antiochus had turned the country over to them. But after he was defeated by Rome, the generals *made an alliance* with the Romans, who installed them and declared them kings” (trans. L. E. Patterson).

εἶθ' ὑπὸ τῶν Ἀντιόχου τοῦ μεγάλου στρατηγῶν τοῦ πρὸς Ῥωμαίους πολεμήσαντος διηρέθη δίχα, Ἀρταξίου τε καὶ Ζαριάδριος· καὶ ἦρχον οὗτοι τοῦ βασιλέως ἐπιτρέψαντος· ἠττηθέντος δ' ἐκείνου προσθέμενοι Ῥωμαίοις καθ' αὐτοὺς ἐτάπτοντο βασιλεῖς προσαγορευθέντες (Strabo, *Geography* 11.14.15 C531).

**Item 2:** “After Ariarathes had restored Mithrobuzanes to his ancestral realm, Artaxias, the king of Armenia, retaining his old avarice, sent envoys to Ariarathes, exhorting him to see things his way: that they should each murder the young man who was in his protection and divide Sophene between them” (trans. L. E. Patterson).

Ὅτι τὸν Μιθροβουζάνην ἐπὶ τὴν πατρίαν ἀρχὴν καταγαγόντας Ἀριαράθου, Ἀρταξίας ὁ τῆς Ἀρμενίας βασιλεὺς οὐκ ἀφιστάμενος τῆς ἐξ ἀρχῆς πλεονεξίας πρέσβεις ἀπέστειλε πρὸς Ἀριαράθην, παρακαλῶν συμφρονῆσαι, καὶ τῶν νεανίσκων ἐκάτερον τὸν παρ' ἑαυτῷ διαχειρισάμενον διελέσθαι τὴν Σωφηνήν (Diodorus Siculus, *Library of History* 31.22).

**Item 3:** “But it is said that in the time of Artashēs there was no land unworked in Armenia, neither of mountain nor plain, on account of the *prosperity of the country*” (trans. R. W. Thomson).

Բայց ասի, ի ժամանակս Արտաշիսի ոչ գտանել երկիր անգործ յաշխարհիս Հայոց, ոչ լեռնային և ոչ դաշտային, յաղագս շինութեան երկրիս (Movses Khorenats‘i, *History of Armenia* 2.56).

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