A Borderland Forged: The History of the Meydan Region (Kurd Dagh) to 2010

Introduction

The Meydan region of northern Syria, centered on the border village of Meydan Ekbis, represents a quintessential borderland community—a place whose history has been profoundly shaped by its geography, the ambitions of empires, and the drawing of modern national frontiers. This report provides an exhaustive historical analysis of this specific region, situated within the broader context of the Afrin District, historically known as Kurd Dagh (Mountain of the Kurds). The narrative traces the region's evolution from antiquity through the end of 2009, a period that predates the transformative upheavals of the Syrian Civil War. The central thesis of this analysis is that Meydan Ekbis is not a settlement of ancient origin but a uniquely modern creation, born from the confluence of late Ottoman imperial decay, early 20th-century European technological ambition in the form of the Baghdad Railway, the profound humanitarian crisis of the Armenian Genocide, and the subsequent, and often violent, imposition of the Syrian-Turkish border. This report will meticulously document the region's journey from a fluid, cross-border tribal territory within the Ottoman Empire to a sharply defined, and frequently marginalized, frontier district within the modern Syrian state. It is a micro-history that illuminates the macro-historical forces that forged the modern Middle East, demonstrating how lines on a map can fundamentally re-engineer the social, political, and economic realities of a people and their landscape.

Section 1: The Ancient and Medieval Foundations of Kurd Dagh

Long before the modern identity of the Afrin District was forged by 20th-century geopolitics, the highland region known as Kurd Dagh was a populated and strategically significant area. Its history is layered, revealing a landscape that was integrated into the major civilizations of the ancient Near East and served as a critical frontier zone for successive empires. Understanding these deep historical foundations is essential to appreciating the context in which a distinct Kurdish identity later consolidated and the reasons why the region remained a focal point for external powers.

1.1 From Syro-Hittites to the Roman Frontier

Human settlement in the Afrin region dates back to at least the early Neolithic period, indicating a long and continuous history of habitation.[1] Tangible evidence of its importance in antiquity is found approximately 8 kilometers south of the modern town of Afrin at the site of Ain Dara, a significant Syro-Hittite (or Neo-Hittite) settlement.[2] The temple at Ain Dara, which was in existence from roughly 1300 BC to 740 BC, stands as a testament to the area's integration into the political and cultural world of the Late Bronze and Iron Ages.[3] Further solidifying this connection, a Luwian stele dating to the 9th or 8th century BC was discovered in a field northwest of Afrin town. Though only a fragment survives, its relief depicts a fringed kilt characteristic of Teshub, the Hittite storm god, linking the area directly to the religious and artistic traditions of the era.[2] Following the Hittite period, the region fell under the dominion of a succession of major empires, including the Neo-Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian, Achaemenid, and Seleucid empires, each of which left its mark on the administrative and cultural landscape.[2]

During Classical Antiquity, the region's strategic value became even more pronounced. It was administratively part of several Hellenistic and Roman provinces, including Cyrrhestica, centered on the city of Cyrrhus (modern Nabi Huri), which directly overlooks the Afrin River valley.[1] Under the Roman Empire, Cyrrhus was developed into a crucial military base, serving as a staging point for campaigns against the Armenian Empire to the north.[2] This role cemented the region's long-standing function as a strategic frontier zone. By the 4th century AD, Cyrrhus had also become an important center for Christianity, with its own bishop.[2] The Afrin valley itself was known as
Oinoparas (Οινοπα΄ρας) during the Seleucid era, a name that evolved to *Ufrenus* under the Romans. It is from this Latin name that the later Arabic vernacular ʿ*Afrīn* and the Kurdish *Efrîn* are derived, providing a direct linguistic link to its classical past.[2] The characterization of the Afrin region as "homogeneously Kurdish" is a relatively modern simplification that obscures a more complex and layered past.[1] The deep history of the area reveals a landscape inhabited and controlled by a succession of major civilizations. The clear evidence of significant Syro-Hittite settlements and Roman military installations demonstrates that the region was a contested and strategically vital corridor long before a Kurdish identity became dominant.[2] The later Kurdish ascendancy was not a story of isolated ethnogenesis but rather a gradual demographic and political consolidation within a region whose importance was already well-established.

1.2 The Consolidation of a Kurdish Presence

While the region was an integral part of successive empires, a distinct Kurdish presence began to form and solidify over many centuries. The earliest suggestions of Kurdish

settlement date to the Seleucid era, when, according to historian Stefan Sperl, Kurds may have served as mercenaries and mounted archers along the vital strategic route leading to the great city of Antioch.[1] This places the first identifiable Kurdish presence in the area within a functional, military context, serving the needs of an existing imperial system rather than as the sole, primordial inhabitants.

Following the Muslim conquest of the Levant in the 7th century, the region was incorporated into the Islamic caliphates and administered as part of Jund Qinnasrin under the Rashidun and Umayyad dynasties.[1] The area was briefly conquered by Crusaders from the Principality of Antioch in the 11th and 12th centuries before returning to Muslim rule.[2] By the 16th and 17th centuries, the Kurdish presence in the mountains of the Kurd Dagh was well-established and noted by outside observers. In a 1599 account, the British traveler William Biddulph recorded the presence of a people he called "Coords" living in the mountains between İskenderun (Alexandretta) and Aleppo.[2] His description of them as people who "Worship the Devil" is widely interpreted as a reference to the Yezidi Kurds, who were historically and erroneously accused of devil-worship by outsiders.[2] This account provides invaluable external verification of a significant and religiously distinct Kurdish community inhabiting the region centuries before the creation of modern states. This long-standing pattern of settlement demonstrates a deep-rooted connection to the land that predates the Ottoman administrative system and the subsequent drawing of international borders.

Section 2: Governance and Society in the Ottoman Era (c. 1516-1918)

For four centuries, the Kurd Dagh region was an integral part of the Ottoman Empire. During this long period, its administrative structure, social organization, and economic life were oriented northward toward Anatolia, a reality that would be violently disrupted in the 20th century. Life was defined not by nascent national identities but by the authority of the Ottoman state, mediated through a complex and powerful mosaic of local Kurdish tribal confederations.

2.1 Administrative Framework: The Kaza of Kurd Dagh

Under the Ottomans, the broader region was part of the Vilayet of Aleppo, one of the empire's major provinces.[1] The specific area that would later become the Afrin District was known as the
kaza (district or sub-province) of Kurd Dagh.[7] This district was administratively attached to the *sancak* (province) of Kilis, a city that now lies within the borders of modern Turkey.[2] This administrative linkage is of paramount historical importance. Kilis served as the undisputed administrative, judicial, and economic center for the people of Kurd Dagh. Official records,

including legal documents, property deeds, and population registers for the inhabitants of the entire region, were maintained in the archives of Kilis.[9] The connection was so integral that Ottoman documents from the 18th century referred to the area simply as the "Sancak of the Kurds," underscoring the fusion of its administrative and ethnic identity in the eyes of the imperial government.[2] The pre-20th-century identity of the region was therefore fundamentally cross-border and oriented northward. The subsequent creation of the Syrian-Turkish border was not merely the drawing of a line on a map; it was a profound act of political and social amputation that severed the Kurd Dagh from its historical heartland, destroying an organic and long-standing socio-economic geography. This act of separation is arguably the single most important event in the modern history of the entire Afrin region.

2.2 The Tribal Mosaic and Social Structure

The social and political landscape of Ottoman Kurd Dagh was dominated by a number of powerful Kurdish tribal confederations, which often wielded significant local autonomy.[1] The largest and most influential of these were the Reshwan and Milli confederations. The Reshwan were initially based in Adıyaman Province but spread throughout the region, while the Milli confederation grew to dominate the northern Syrian steppe in the 18th century.[1] Other prominent tribes that inhabited the Afrin region and its environs included the Sheikhan, Amka, Shikak, Rubari, and Biyan.[10] The power of these tribes was not confined to the mountainous Kurd Dagh; their territories and populations often extended across the plains into Anatolia, reflecting a world where tribal affiliation transcended geographical and, later, national boundaries.[1]

The influence of Kurdish notables was such that at times it extended to the highest levels of provincial government. The Janbulad family, a powerful Kurdish dynasty, ruled the entire region of Aleppo as Ottoman governors from 1591 to 1607, demonstrating the capacity of local Kurdish elites to be integrated into the imperial power structure.[1] Demographically, the population of the Kurd Dagh was overwhelmingly Kurdish. The majority were Sunni Muslims following the Hanafi school of jurisprudence, a characteristic that distinguished them from many other Syrian Kurds, who are predominantly of the Shafi'i school.[7] Alongside the Sunni majority, there was also a notable and long-standing Yezidi community, as evidenced by early European travelers.[2]

2.3 Economic Life and Land Tenure

The economy of the Kurd Dagh during the Ottoman period was primarily agrarian and pastoral, deeply tied to the region's fertile valleys and mountainous terrain. The most defining feature of its agricultural economy was the cultivation of olives, a practice that has shaped the landscape and the livelihoods of its people for millennia.[1] The region was a major producer

of olive oil, which was a vital commodity supplied to the renowned soap-making factories of Aleppo, linking the rural economy of the mountains to the urban industrial centers of the province.[4]

Land ownership patterns likely reflected the complex systems prevalent throughout the Ottoman Empire. This would have included a mix of tribal communal lands, large estates owned by powerful *aghas* (tribal chieftains), and smaller, hereditary family holdings.[15] This system, which combined customary tribal law with Ottoman imperial regulations, would be significantly altered and formalized under the subsequent French Mandate. The society was overwhelmingly rural and village-based. The modern town of Afrin, which would later become the district's administrative center, was only founded as a small market (*souk*) in the 19th century, underscoring the decentralized, agrarian nature of the region before the transformative changes of the 20th century.[2]

Section 3: The Railway and the Border: The Creation of Meydan Ekbis (c. 1911-1923)

The village of Meydan Ekbis is not a product of ancient settlement or gradual agrarian development. Its origins are uniquely modern, directly tied to the intersection of late-imperial engineering, the catastrophic collapse of the Ottoman social order, and the arrival of a new colonial power. The story of its founding is a microcosm of the violent and transformative forces that reshaped the entire region in the early 20th century.

3.1 The Baghdad Railway: A Project of Empire

At the turn of the 20th century, the German Empire embarked on one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects of the era: the Baghdad Railway. Financed by German banks and engineered by German firms, the railway was designed to create a continuous rail link from Berlin to the Persian Gulf, traversing the entirety of the Ottoman Empire.[19] This project was a tool of German imperial ambition, intended to project economic and political power deep into the Ottoman sphere and challenge British dominance in the Middle East. The chosen route for this monumental undertaking passed directly through the northern edge of the Kurd Dagh region.[19] Construction in this area, which began in the early 1900s, was a significant enterprise, requiring the excavation of tunnels through the mountains, the erection of bridges over rivers and valleys, and the establishment of stations at regular intervals. This massive construction effort attracted laborers from across the region, including local Kurdish villagers. One such local figure, the late Abdurrahman Olayki, is remembered for his role in building the distinctive stone arches for the railway bridges, a physical legacy of the project that became part of the region's architectural heritage.[19]

3.2 The Founding of "Stasoon": Meydan Ekbis Station (c. 1911)

The train station at Meydan Ekbis was constructed by German engineers around the year 1911 as a key stop on the Baghdad Railway line.[19] Built in a distinctively German architectural style, it was a substantial and impressive structure, considered one of the largest and most important stations on the line after the central station in Aleppo, a status it owed to its strategic location near what would soon become an international border.[21]

The village of Meydan Ekbis did not exist before the railway; it grew up directly around this station. Its very identity is rooted in the railway's presence. The village's common Kurdish name, "Stasoon" (meaning "The Station"), is a direct and unambiguous reflection of its origin.[21] The official name, Meydan Ekbis, is believed to be derived from the nearby Turkish town of Akbez, located just across the future border, further highlighting its identity as a place of transit and connection between two distinct areas.[21] This dual naming captures the essence of the settlement's early character: a modern point of transit superimposed upon an ancient landscape.

3.3 An Armenian Genesis: A Village Born of Genocide

A crucial and defining element of Meydan Ekbis's history is that its first permanent inhabitants were not the local Kurdish population, but rather Armenian refugees.[21] These Armenian families were fleeing the systematic persecution and mass killings perpetrated by Ottoman forces during the Armenian Genocide, which began around 1915.[24] As they sought safety, they found a degree of protection with the French military forces that were beginning to assert control over the region following the collapse of Ottoman authority at the end of World War I.[21] The newly built railway station, a point of transit and a symbol of modernity, became the nucleus of a sanctuary.

This fact makes the founding of Meydan Ekbis a direct and poignant consequence of the genocide. The village was established at a point of transit, a place of hope for a persecuted minority under the security umbrella of an emerging colonial power. The creation of Meydan Ekbis thus represents a microcosm of the violent transition from the Ottoman Empire to the new Mandate system. It was simultaneously a product of late-imperial modernization in the form of the German railway, a direct result of the horrors of imperial collapse embodied by the Armenian Genocide, and a settlement whose existence was guaranteed by the arrival of a new imperial power, France. Meydan Ekbis is not just a village; it is a historical artifact. Its unique demographic origin, born of tragedy and displacement, sets it apart from the surrounding, centuries-old Kurdish villages and tells a powerful story of survival and the creation of new communities in the crucible of 20th-century conflict.

Section 4: Life Under the French Mandate (1923-1946)

The period of the French Mandate marked a fundamental and irreversible turning point for the Meydan region and the entire Kurd Dagh. The imposition of a new international border and the establishment of a new colonial administration fundamentally reoriented the region's political, economic, and social life. This era was defined by a profound rupture with the past, creating a new reality as a borderland and setting the stage for the complex dynamics of the post-independence period.

4.1 The Frontier Drawn: The Severing of Kurd Dagh

The modern Syrian-Turkish border was the outcome of a series of post-World War I treaties that dismantled the Ottoman Empire and redrew the map of the Middle East. The initial Treaty of Sèvres (1920), which was never ratified, had included provisions for a potential autonomous Kurdish state, but this prospect was nullified by the success of the Turkish War of Independence.[27] The new border was instead established primarily by the Franco-Turkish Treaty of Ankara in 1921 and finalized by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923.[27]

This new frontier was drawn directly through the heart of the historical Kurd Dagh region. It was an artificial line that paid little heed to the existing social and economic realities, separating villages from their traditional agricultural lands and pastures, dividing families and tribes, and, most critically, severing the entire district from its long-standing administrative and commercial center in Kilis.[2] In an instant, Meydan Ekbis was transformed from an internal transit point into a major frontier crossing, the primary railroad checkpoint between the new entities of Mandatory Syria and the Republic of Turkey.[20]

The precise alignment of the boundary in the vicinity of Meydan Ekbis was meticulously detailed in the Franco-Turkish convention of May 30, 1926. This protocol, part of a series of agreements to finalize the border, used local landmarks, geographical features, and, significantly, the new railway infrastructure itself to demarcate the line. For example, the protocol specified that for a certain stretch, "the axis of the old Hadjilar Meidan-Ekbez railway track... [forms] the frontier line".[30] This act of formal delimitation cemented the political separation and began the long process of transforming a fluid, integrated region into a hard, securitized border.

4.2 A New Administrative Reality

With the border established, the Kurd Dagh region was administratively detached from Kilis and integrated into the new French Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon. Initially, it was incorporated into the short-lived State of Aleppo (1920-1925), one of several statelets created by the French as part of a strategy to divide and rule the mandated territory.[1] After the State

of Aleppo was merged with the State of Damascus in 1925, the region became part of the unified State of Syria and, subsequently, the Syrian Republic (1930-1946).[2]
To manage the newly defined district, the French developed the small market town of Afrin into a new administrative center, effectively replacing the now-inaccessible Kilis.[2] This was a deliberate act of state-building, part of a broader French colonial policy of creating new administrative structures and encouraging localized identities to weaken the appeal of pan-Syrian nationalist movements.[32] The French administration also invested in infrastructure, building new roads and improving urban amenities, which helped to physically and economically orient the region southward and integrate it into the new Syrian entity.[34]
However, real political power remained firmly in the hands of French officials. Local authorities were granted very little autonomy, and their decisions could be easily overruled, ensuring that the mandate's primary purpose—the maintenance of French control—was upheld.[32]

4.3 Social Dynamics and Resistance

The French presence in the Kurd Dagh created a complex and often contradictory social dynamic. While the French were seen as protectors by some minority groups, they were viewed as occupiers by a significant portion of the majority Kurdish population. This tension is evident from the very beginning of the mandate period. The first armed resistance against French forces in Syria erupted in the Afrin region, led by local Kurdish figures such as Maho Ibo Shasho. His uprising, centered in the mountains north of Jandairis, lasted for more than five years (1918-1923) and involved numerous clashes with French troops.[9] This resistance demonstrates a deep-seated resentment against the new colonial power and the political fragmentation it imposed.
At the same time, the region continued to serve as a place of refuge. The French administration, consistent with its policy of protecting minority communities, allowed new groups of refugees to settle. In the 1930s, a significant number of Kurdish Alevis, fleeing the brutal persecution of the Turkish military during the Dersim Massacre, found sanctuary in the Maabatli area of the Afrin district.[4] This added another layer to the region's diverse demographic and religious tapestry. This duality highlights a fundamental contradiction of the Mandate period. The French colonial project, through its creation of the border, fractured the world of the majority Kurdish population and fueled armed resistance. Simultaneously, the French presence provided a security umbrella that enabled the survival and settlement of persecuted minorities, such as the founding Armenian community of Meydan Ekbis and the later Alevi refugees from Dersim. The French were thus both patrons and antagonists, and this complex role created deep-seated social tensions within the Afrin region, where one group's protector was another's occupier—a dynamic that would continue to shape local politics for decades.

Section 5: The Post-Independence Era (1946-2009)

Following Syria's independence in 1946, the Meydan region, along with the entire Afrin District, was fully integrated into the modern Syrian state. This period, spanning over six decades until the eve of the Syrian Civil War, was characterized by the policies of a centralized, nationalist government in Damascus, the persistence of a traditional agrarian economy, and the quiet resilience of a distinct local Kurdish identity.

5.1 Integration and Arabization Policies

After the departure of the French, the Afrin region was formally established as a district (*mantiqah*) within the Aleppo Governorate.[4] The post-colonial Syrian state, particularly after the Ba'ath Party came to power in 1963, embarked on a nation-building project rooted in the ideology of Arab nationalism. A central pillar of this project was a policy of Arabization, which sought to promote a singular Arab identity and suppress or erase the public expression of non-Arab cultures and languages.[4]

For the Afrin region, the most direct and symbolic manifestation of this policy was the official renaming of its historical heartland. In 1977, the Syrian government issued Decree 15801, which banned the use of non-Arabic, and specifically Kurdish, place names. Under this decree, the ancient name Kurd Dagh (Jabal al-Akrad, or "Mountain of the Kurds") was officially changed to Jabal al-`Uruba ("Mountain of Arabism").[7] This was a deliberate and explicit attempt by the state to erase the region's deep-rooted Kurdish identity from the official maps and national discourse of Syria. While this policy was enforced in official documents and state institutions, it failed to fundamentally alter the lived reality and cultural identity of the region's inhabitants. The region remained culturally Kurdish, existing in a state of passive resistance and political marginalization within the broader Syrian national framework. The state's official narrative and the identity of the people on the ground existed in a state of perpetual, unresolved tension.

5.2 The Pre-2010 Economy: Olives and Border Trade

Throughout the post-independence era, the economy of the Meydan region and the Afrin District as a whole remained overwhelmingly agricultural. The cultivation of the olive tree, an ancient practice, continued to be the dominant economic activity and the bedrock of local society.[1] The region was renowned throughout Syria for its vast olive groves and the high quality of its olive oil.[1] By the mid-20th century, the area around Meydan Ekbis was covered with thousands of hectares of olive trees, which had become the primary economic staple for many families.[22]

In addition to olives, other agricultural activities were important to the local economy of

Meydan Ekbis. These included the rain-fed cultivation of grains and legumes on the surrounding plains, as well as irrigated farming of crops like sugar beet and cotton, which utilized water pumped from the nearby Black River (Nahr al-Aswad).[21] As a formal border town with a major railway crossing, Meydan Ekbis also sustained a small local economy based on trade and official services. The village was home to a customs office and a police post, reflecting its status as an official point of entry into Syria.[20] However, the volume and nature of both legal and illegal cross-border trade were heavily dependent on the fluctuating state of political relations between Syria and Turkey. During periods of tension, the border was heavily securitized, stifling economic activity, while periods of rapprochement allowed for greater flow of goods and people.[38]

5.3 Demographic and Administrative Profile (c. 2004)

By the end of the period under review, Meydan Ekbis was an established village and a recognized administrative point on Syria's northwestern frontier. The last official Syrian census, conducted in 2004, provides a valuable demographic snapshot of the region before the profound changes of the following decade. According to this census, the village of Meydan Ekbis had a population of 1,302 residents.[20]
Administratively, Meydan Ekbis was part of the Rajo *nahiyah* (sub-district). The Rajo sub-district, one of several within the Afrin District, had a total population of 21,955 in 2004.[12] The entire Afrin District, in turn, recorded a population of 172,095 in the same census.[4] While the Syrian census did not collect data on ethnicity, it was widely acknowledged by scholars, residents, and observers that the district's population was overwhelmingly ethnic Kurdish, with some estimates suggesting a Kurdish majority of up to 97% prior to 2011.[4] By 2004, Meydan Ekbis was a functioning community with its own municipality, primary and preparatory schools, and basic services such as electricity, water, and telephone lines. It was connected to the sub-district center of Rajo by a paved, albeit winding, road.[21]

Administrative & Demographic Profile	Details (c. 2004)
Governorate	Aleppo
District	Afrin
Sub-district (Nahiyah)	Rajo
Population of Meydan Ekbis	1,302 [23]
Population of Rajo Sub-district	21,955 [12]
Population of Afrin District	172,095 [12]
Primary Language	Kurdish (Kurmanji dialect) [7]
Primary Economic Activities	Olive farming, agriculture (grains, legumes), border-related services [21]

This data provides a crucial, quantitative snapshot of the Meydan region at the end of the historical period in question. It grounds the narrative in official census figures, offering a

concrete baseline before the massive demographic shifts of the post-2011 era. By showing the population figures at three administrative levels—village, sub-district, and district—it effectively contextualizes the small community of Meydan Ekbis within its larger regional setting. This table serves as a concise summary of the region's status quo in 2004, encapsulating its administrative identity, population size, and economic foundation, which were the culmination of the long and complex historical processes detailed in this report.

Conclusion

The history of the Meydan region of Afrin before 2010 is a compelling and multi-layered narrative of transformation, rupture, and resilience. It is the story of an ancient landscape, the Kurd Dagh, which for centuries existed as an integrated and organic part of a broader Anatolian socio-political world, a world defined by the authority of Kurdish tribal confederations under the overarching suzerainty of the Ottoman Empire. This long-standing reality was irrevocably shattered in the crucible of the early 20th century. The village of Meydan Ekbis stands as a unique and powerful monument to this violent transition. It was a settlement born not from the slow accretion of agrarian life, but from the steel tracks of the German-engineered Baghdad Railway. Its first community was formed not by local inhabitants, but by Armenian refugees fleeing genocide, a poignant testament to the horrors that accompanied the collapse of the old imperial order.

The subsequent drawing of the Syrian-Turkish border by French and Turkish negotiators cemented a new and permanent reality. This act of cartographic and political force transformed Meydan Ekbis into a frontier outpost and severed the entire Afrin region from its historical hinterland in Kilis and the Anatolian plains. Under the French Mandate and, later, the independent Syrian state, the region was administratively reoriented southward, while its distinct Kurdish cultural and linguistic identity was subjected to decades of assimilationist policies by a central government committed to an ideology of Arab nationalism.

Yet, through these profound and often traumatic shifts, the people of the Meydan region demonstrated remarkable resilience. They maintained their cultural identity, their language, and their deep connection to the land. This connection was most powerfully expressed through the cultivation of the olive tree, which remained the immutable bedrock of their economy and a central symbol of their heritage. By 2010, the Meydan region was a place defined by its layered and complex past: a Kurdish heartland with a unique history of providing refuge to other persecuted peoples; a classic borderland shaped by the enduring legacy of international treaties; and a community whose deep-rooted identity had persisted, quietly and steadfastly, despite decades of state-led pressure to erase it.

Works Cited

1. [1] Wikipedia. "Afrin Region".

2. [5] The Kurdish Project. "Afrin Syria".
3. [4] Wikipedia. "Afrin District".
4. [39] Hawar News Agency. "More than 50 bases and headquarters of the Turkish occupation...".
5. [40] European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights. "Crimes in Syria: The neglected atrocities of Afrin".
6. [13] Democratic Center for Kurdish Studies. "Withering Branch: The Story of Afrin...".
7. [22] Welat TV. "ميدان اكبس وسط سهل واسع...".
8. [20] Wikipedia. "Meidan Ekbis".
9. [21] Kurdipedia. "قرية كردية من غرب كوردستان...".
10. [19] YouTube. "محطة قطار الشرق...".
11. [41] YouTube. "مناظر من النهر الأسود...".
12. [42] Yek-Dem. "178) عفرين تحت الاحتلال)...".
13. [43] Wikipedia (Egyptian Arabic). "ميدان اكبس".
14. [23] Wikipedia (Arabic). "ميدان أكبس".
15. [44] Welat TV. "عفرين.. 'ميدان اكبس'.. قرية المحطة...".
16. [45] Kurd Online. "بيع بقايا سكة الحديد في ميدان اكبس...".
17. [46] Wikipedia. "Afrin Region".
18. [47] PalQuest. "Ottoman Territorial Reorganization (1840-1917)".
19. [48] Stand with Afrin. "Afrin Before The War".
20. [49] Mesopotamia Cooperative. "Afrin (Afrîn / Efrîn)".
21. [6] Reddit. "/r/AskHistorians - What were the Ottoman administrative divisions in...".
22. [50] Peace in Kurdistan Campaign. "Turkish occupation of Afrin six years on".
23. [31] Saylor Academy. "French Mandate of Syria and Lebanon".
24. [34] Britannica. "Syria - The French mandate".
25. [33] University of Central Arkansas. "French Syria (1919-1946)".
26. [51] DergiPark. "France's Imperial Dreams...".
27. [52] Britannica. "Lebanon - French mandate".
28. [32] Wikipedia. "Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon".
29. [18] Wikipedia. "Afrin, Syria".
30. [2] Wikipedia. "Afrin, Syria".
31. [14] Youth For Nature. "A Tale of Afrin".
32. [53] Kurdish Peace Institute. "In the New Syria, Afrin's Kurds Feel Forgotten".
33. [36] Middle East Forum. "Turkey's Demographic Engineering in Syria's Afrin Region...".
34. [54] Syrian Democratic Times. "Afrin: Between Past and Present".
35. [35] Wikipedia. "Kurd Mountain".
36. [55] Democratic Center for Kurdish Studies. "Kurds".
37. [56] The Kurdish Project. "Kurdistan Genocide".
38. [57] Archéologie Culture. "Qara Dagh".

39. [7] Wikipedia. "Kurd Mountain".
40. [2] Wikipedia. "Afrin, Syria".
41. [21] Kurdipedia. "Meydan Ekbis".
42. [22] Welat TV. "History of the establishment of Meydan Ekbis...".
43. [7] Wikipedia. "Kurd Mountain".
44. [32] Wikipedia. "Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon".
45. [2] Wikipedia. "Afrin, Syria".
46. [58] Liveuamap. "Syria Live Map".
47. [59] Iranica Online. "Kurdish Tribes".
48. [60] Wikipedia. "Kurdish tribes".
49. [61] Institut Kurde de Paris. "Who are the Kurds?".
50. [55] Democratic Center for Kurdish Studies. "Kurds".
51. [62] PMC NCBI. "Genetic evidence for an origin of the Armenians from Bronze Age mixing...".
52. [24] United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "The Armenian Genocide (1915-16): Overview".
53. [5] The Kurdish Project. "Afrin Syria".
54. [25] University of Minnesota. "Armenia - Holocaust and Genocide Education".
55. [1] Wikipedia. "Afrin Region".
56. [63] Dubai Culture. "Our Traditions".
57. [64] UAE Government Portal. "The UAE's Heritage".
58. [65] Wikipedia. "Culture of the United Arab Emirates".
59. [66] WUNC. "Greetings from the Negev desert...".
60. [20] Wikipedia. "Meidan Ekbis".
61. [27] Wikipedia. "Syria–Turkey border".
62. [67] NLKA. "The Blurred Syrian-Turkish Borders in Upper Jazira (1920-1929)".
63. [30] Florida State University College of Law. "Limits in the Seas No. 163".
64. [34] Britannica. "Syria - The French mandate".
65. [68] UC San Diego History. "French Mandate counterinsurgency...".
66. [32] Wikipedia. "Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon".
67. [2] Wikipedia. "Afrin, Syria".
68. [8] Brill. "Syria and Bilad al-Sham under Ottoman Rule".
69. [69] Noon Post. "العشائر الكردية في شرق الفرات".
70. [70] Bazen Mitan. "لمحة عن بعض العشائر الكردية في سورية".
71. [10] Syria TV. "عفرين بالأرقام...".
72. [11] Al-Awset. "منطقة عفرين اجتماعياً وتاريخياً".
73. [71] North Pulse. "ما حقيقة مجلس 'العشائر' الذي شكلته تركيا في عفرين؟".
74. [72] Al Arabiya. "تاريخ الأرمن في سوريا...".
75. [26] YouTube. "تاريخ الأرمن".

76. [73] YouTube. "الأرمن في لبنان".
77. [74] Wikipedia (Arabic). "الفتح الإسلامي لأرمينية".
78. [75] Hawar News Agency. "بناء مستوطنة ببلدة ميدان اكبس...".
79. [76] Hawar News Agency. "في ميدان أكبس جيش الاحتلال التركي...".
80. [37] eSyria. "ميدان أكبس.. اسم ارتبط بقطار الشرق".
81. [77] Bazen Mitan. "عفرين.. مستوطنان يعتديان بالضرب...".
82. [78] Al-Masry Al-Youm. "تأثير معاهدة لوزان...".
83. [28] The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "الوقوف عند الذكرى المئوية الأولى لمعاهدة لوزان...".
84. [79] NLKA. "الميثاق الملي وحرب الاستقلال...".
85. [29] Majalla. "معاهدة لوزان ظالمة...".
86. [21] Kurdipedia. "Meydan Ekbis".
87. [10] Syria TV. "Biyan and Sheikhan tribes in the Afrin region".
88. [30] Florida State University College of Law. "Limits in the Seas No. 163".
89. [21] Kurdipedia. "Meydan Ekbis".
90. [80] The Kurdish Project. "Syria (Rojava or Western Kurdistan)".
91. [81] Wikipedia. "Kurds in Syria".
92. [82] Britannica. "Kurd".
93. [83] Native Hope. "History and Culture of the Ojibwe Chippewa Tribe".
94. [84] Minnesota Historical Society. "The Ojibwe People".
95. [85] Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. "Bani Yas Tribe".
96. [2] Wikipedia. "Afrin, Syria".
97. [3] Armenian Weekly. "Turkish Shelling Continues in Afrin".
98. [86] Anadolu Agency. "Turkish army, FSA liberate 12 more villages in Afrin".
99. [87] Wikipedia (Simple English). "Armenians in Syria".
100. [88] Wikipedia. "Armenians in Syria".
101. [89] AGBU. "Leaving Syria: Armenians in Syria".
102. [90] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. "The history of colonialism and neocolonialism".
103. [91] POMEPS. "Politique des races...".
104. [92] REMMM. "The Syrianization of Refugees...".
105. [93] Hawar News Agency. "Occupation of Afrin affects Aleppo's markets".
106. [38] Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Border Nation: The Reshaping of the Syrian-Turkish Borderlands".
107. [94] Marketplace. "As Syrian refugees return home, Turkey's economy changes".
108. [15] Wikipedia. "Land reforms by country".
109. [16] University of California, Riverside. "Land Reform: A Long-Term Perspective".
110. [17] Wikipedia. "Land reform".
111. [95] Kurdistan24. "Syrian Transitional President Visits Afrin".
112. [96] Another Travel. "Syria Culture".

113. [97] Britannica. "Syria - Daily life and social customs".
114. [98] Wikipedia. "Culture of Syria".
115. [20] Wikipedia. "Meidan Ekbis".
116. [99] Harvard Library. "Iranian Oral History Project".
117. [100] Library of Congress. "Tibetan Oral History Project".
118. [69] Noon Post. "العشائر الكردية في ناحية راجو".
119. [12] Wikipedia (Arabic). "جبل الأكراد".
120. [21] Kurdipedia. "تاريخ الأرمن في قرية ميدان أكبس".
121. [26] YouTube. "تاريخ الأرمن".
122. [101] Al Jazeera. "كيف أثر النزوح على التركيبة السكانية...".
123. [9] Ronahi. "الحياة الاجتماعية في عفرين خلال الانتداب الفرنسي".
124. [102] Al-Awset. "عفرين.. حكاية أرض وشعب".
125. [103] ASO Network. "الأثر الاقتصادي للحدود السورية التركية على قرى عفرين".
126. [104] Rojava Information Center. "تفسير عفرين، 5 سنوات تحت الاحتلال التركي".
127. [105] Jusoor for Studies. "السيطرة التركية على عفرين...".
128. [19] YouTube. "شخصيات بارزة من ميدان أكبس".
129. [37] eSyria. "الراحل 'إسماعيل العُجيلي'...".
130. [88] Wikipedia. "Armenians in Syria".
131. [9] Ronahi. "Social and political situation in the Afrin region during the French Mandate".
132. [21] Kurdipedia. "History of the Armenian population in Meydan Ekbis".
133. [11] Al-Awset. "Tribes or families associated with Meydan Ekbis".
134. [19] YouTube. "Abdurrahman Olayki".
135. [88] Wikipedia. "Armenians in Syria".

Works cited

1. Afrin Region - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin_Region
2. Afrin, Syria - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin,_Syria
3. Turkish Shelling Destroys 3,000-Year-Old Temple in Afrin; Armenian Possibly Killed as Offensive Continues, accessed August 31, 2025, https://armenianweekly.com/2018/01/29/turkish-shelling-continues-in-afrin/
4. Afrin District - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin_District
5. Afrin Syria - The Kurdish Project, accessed August 31, 2025, https://thekurdishproject.org/kurdistan-map/syrian-kurdistan/afrin-syria/
6. What were the Ottoman administrative divisions in the area where Syria and Iraq are today? : r/AskHistorians - Reddit, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/3toj07/what_were_the_ottoman_administrative_divisions_in/

7. Kurd Mountain - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurd_Mountain
8. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS - Brill, accessed August 31, 2025, https://brill.com/downloadpdf/book/edcoll/9789004188471/Bej.9789004185456.i-618_015.pdf
9. لمحة تاريخية عن مدينة كرداغ "عفرين" ومقاومتها ضد الانتداب الفرنسي ..., accessed August 31, 2025, https://ronahi.net/?p=192932
10. عفرين بالأرقام .. حقائق التاريخ والديموغرافية - تلفزيون سوريا, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.syria.tv/%D8%B9%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B1%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%AD%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AE-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%88%D8%BA%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%A9
11. منطقة عفرين: اجتماعياً وتاريخياً – الشرق الأوسط الديمقراطي, accessed August 31, 2025, https://alawset.net/2018/03/14/%D9%85%D9%86%D8%B7%D9%82%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%8B-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AE%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%8B/
12. جبل الأكراد - ويكيبيديا, accessed August 31, 2025, https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%AC%D8%A8%D9%84_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AF
13. Withering Branch: The Story of Afrin and its Peoples, Pre & Post “Operation Olive Branch" | Washington Kurdish Institute, accessed August 31, 2025, https://dckurd.org/2022/03/09/withering-branch-the-story-of-afrin-and-its-peoples-pre-post-operation-olive-branch/
14. A Tale of Afrin - Youth4Nature, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.youth4nature.org/stories/tale-afrin
15. Land reforms by country - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_reforms_by_country
16. Poverty and the Distribution of Land By Keith Griffin, Azizur Rahman Khan and Amy Ickowitz Department of Economics, University, accessed August 31, 2025, https://economics.ucr.edu/papers/papers00/00-09.pdf
17. Land reform - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_reform
18. en.wikipedia.org, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin,_Syria#:~:text=The%20town%20of%20Afrin%20was,the%20French%20mandate%20of%20Syria.
19. ميدان اكبس.. على مقاعد الانتظار - من محطة لقطار الشرق.. إلى مركز اعتقال ..., accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Pg_1fmNYEs
20. Meidan Ekbis - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meidan_Ekbis
21. ميدان أكبس - Kurdipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.kurdipedia.org/default.aspx?q=20180129112827144487&lng=24
22. عفرين.. "ميدان اكبس".. قرية المحطة التي نبتت من سكة الحديد وتظللها ..., accessed August 31, 2025, https://welattv.com/ar/node/16619

23. ميدان أكبس - ويكيبيديا, accessed August 31, 2025, https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86_%D8%A3%D9%83%D8%A8%D8%B3
24. The Armenian Genocide (1915-16): Overview | Holocaust Encyclopedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-armenian-genocide-1915-16-overview
25. Armenia | Holocaust and Genocide Studies | College of Liberal Arts, accessed August 31, 2025, https://cla.umn.edu/chgs/holocaust-genocide-education/resource-guides/armenia
26. تعرّف على تاريخ الأرمن في أقل من 3 دقائق - YouTube, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb8BA5fCmgc
27. Syria–Turkey border - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syria%E2%80%93Turkey_border
28. الوقوف عند الذكرى المئوية الأولى لمعاهدة لوزان: الكفاح الكردي والصمود الراسخ, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/ar/policy-analysis/alwqwf-nd-aldhkry-almywyt-alawly-lmahdt-lwzan-alkfah-alkrdy-walsmwd-alraskh
29. معاهدة لوزان ظالمة... وتفاهماتها سارية - مجلة المجلة, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.majalla.com/node/295966/%D9%88%D8%AB%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%82-%D9%88%D9%85%D8%B0%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AA/%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B2%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%87%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%A7-%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9
30. No. 163 – March 7, 1978 - Syria – Turkey Boundary, accessed August 31, 2025, https://library.law.fsu.edu/Digital-Collections/LimitsinSeas/pdf/ibs163.pdf
31. French Mandate of Syria and Lebanon, accessed August 31, 2025, https://resources.saylor.org/wwwresources/archived/site/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/French-Mandate-of-Syria-and-Lebanon.pdf
32. Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandate_for_Syria_and_the_Lebanon
33. 11. French Syria (1919-1946) - University of Central Arkansas, accessed August 31, 2025, https://uca.edu/politicalscience/home/research-projects/dadm-project/middle-eastnorth-africapersian-gulf-region/french-syria-1919-1946/
34. Syria - French Mandate, Middle East, Conflict - Britannica, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.britannica.com/place/Syria/The-French-mandate
35. en.wikipedia.org, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurd_Mountain#:~:text=As%20the%20Kurd%20Dagh%20was,Dersim%20Massacre%2C%20settled%20in%20Mabeta.
36. Turkey's Demographic Engineering in Syria's Afrin Region: A Closer Look, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.meforum.org/meq/turkeys-demographic-engineering-in-syrias-afrin

-region-a-closer-look
37. "ميدان أكبس".. اسم ارتبط بقطار الشرق" - eSyria, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.esyria.sy/2014/09/%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%83%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%85-%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA%D8%A8%D8%B7-%D8%A8%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%82
38. Border Nation: The Reshaping of the Syrian-Turkish Borderlands | Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, accessed August 31, 2025, https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2022/03/border-nation-the-reshaping-of-the-syrian-turkish-borderlands?lang=en
39. 5 years since occupation of Afrin - ANHA, accessed August 31, 2025, https://hawarnews.com/en/167384508034749
40. Crimes in Syria: The neglected atrocities of Afrin - ECCHR, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.ecchr.eu/en/case/crimes-in-syria-the-neglected-atrocities-of-afrin/
41. مناظر من النهر الأسود في قرية ميدان أكبس - ناحية راجو في عفرين بكوردستان سوريا. - YouTube, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvXlTucj2sM
42. عفرين تحت الاحتلال (178): بلدة "ميدان أكبس" – تغيير ديمغرافي واسع واستيلاء على الممتلكات، منع الاحتفاء برأس السنة، شهادات عن جرائم "أبو عمشة", accessed August 31, 2025, https://yek-dem.net/ar/?p=12792
43. ميدان اكبس - ويكيبيديا, accessed August 31, 2025, https://arz.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86_%D8%A7%D9%83%D8%A8%D8%B3
44. ميدان اكبس | Welat TV, accessed August 31, 2025, https://welattv.com/ar/posts/16965
45. بيع بقايا سكة الحديد في ميدان اكبس .. وانتهاكات أخرى من قبل عناصر "الجيش الوطني" في ريف عفرين - | Kurd Online |, accessed August 31, 2025, https://kurd-online.com/%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%B9-%D8%A8%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%83%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%86/
46. en.wikipedia.org, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin_Region#:~:text=The%20region%20previously%20had%20two,districts%20subordinate%20to%20it)%2C%20as
47. palquest | ottoman territorial reorganization, 1840-1917 - interactive encyclopedia of the palestine question, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.palquest.org/en/highlight/155/ottoman-territorial-reorganization-1840-1917
48. Afrin Before The War, accessed August 31, 2025, https://standwithafrin.com/before-the-war/
49. Afrin (Afrîn / Efrîn) - Co-operation in Mesopotamia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://mesopotamia.coop/cities/afrin/
50. Turkish occupation of Afrin six years on - Peace in Kurdistan, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.peaceinkurdistancampaign.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Turkish-occupation-of-Afrin-six-years-on.pdf

51. FRANCE'S IMPERIAL AMBITIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRENCH MANDATE IN SYRIA - DergiPark, accessed August 31, 2025, https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/516829
52. French Mandate, Mediterranean, Phoenicians - Lebanon - Britannica, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.britannica.com/place/Lebanon/French-mandate
53. In the New Syria, Afrin's Kurds Are Forgotten - Kurdish Peace Institute, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.kurdishpeace.org/research/kpi-qamishlo/in-the-new-syria-afrins-kurds-feel-forgotten/
54. Afrin: Between Past And Present - Syrian Democratic Times, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.syriandemocratictimes.com/2020/04/29/afrin-between-past-and-present/
55. KURDS | Washington Kurdish Institute, accessed August 31, 2025, https://dckurd.org/kurds/
56. Learn About the Kurdish Genocide, accessed August 31, 2025, https://thekurdishproject.org/history-and-culture/kurdish-history/kurdistan-genocide/
57. Qara Dagh | Heritage of the Middle East - Ministère de la Culture, accessed August 31, 2025, https://archeologie.culture.gouv.fr/proche-orient/en/qara-dagh
58. Day of news on the map - Veljača, 24 2018 - Karta neprijateljstava u, accessed August 31, 2025, https://syria.liveuamap.com/hr/time/24.02.2018
59. KURDISH TRIBES - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kurdish-tribes/
60. Kurdish tribes - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdish_tribes
61. Who are the Kurds ?, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.institutkurde.org/en/info/who-are-the-kurds-s-1232550927
62. Genetic evidence for an origin of the Armenians from Bronze Age mixing of multiple populations - PMC - PubMed Central, accessed August 31, 2025, https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4820045/
63. Discover Our Heritage - Dubai Culture, accessed August 31, 2025, https://dubaiculture.gov.ae/en/about-us/Discover-Our-Heritage
64. The UAE's Heritage | The Official Portal of the UAE Government, accessed August 31, 2025, https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/culture/arab-and-islamic-heritage
65. Culture of the United Arab Emirates - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_the_United_Arab_Emirates
66. Greetings from the Negev desert, where traces remain of a vanished ancient civilization, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.wunc.org/2025-08-27/greetings-from-the-negev-desert-where-traces-remain-of-a-vanished-ancient-civilization
67. The Blurred Syrian-Turkish Borders in "Upper Jazira" (1920-1929) - The Kurdish Center for Studies, accessed August 31, 2025, https://nlka.net/eng/the-blurred-syrian-turkish-borders-in-upper-jazira-1920-1929/

68. French Mandate counterinsurgency - UCSD Department of History, accessed August 31, 2025, https://history.ucsd.edu/_files/faculty/provence/2-schayegh-ed.-mandate-counterinsurgency.pdf
69. العشائر الكردية في شرق الفرات - نون بوست, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.noonpost.com/34757/
70. لمحة عن بعض العشائر الكردية في سورية - منظمة صقور الميتان, accessed August 31, 2025, https://bazenmitan.org/%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%B6-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9/
71. ما حقيقة مجلس "العشائر" الذي شكلته تركيا في عفرين؟ - شبكة نبض الشمال, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.north-pulse.net/?p=35115
72. الأرمن العرب نجوم متألقة... من الفن إلى الترشيح للرئاسة - Al Arabiya, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2005%2F07%2F18%2F15030
73. الأرمن في لبنان يحافظون على تراثهم وتاريخهم ولغتهم - YouTube, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPMOHa26As0
74. الفتح الإسلامي لأرمينية - ويكيبيديا, accessed August 31, 2025, https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%AA%D8%AD_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A_%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B1%D9%85%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9
75. خروقات تركية للقانون الدولي في المناطق السورية المحتلة - وكالة هاوار للأنباء, accessed August 31, 2025, https://hawarnews.com/ar/163192176055723
76. في ميدان أكبس جيش الاحتلال التركي ومرتزقته يحولون الأماكن المدنية إلى سجون - وكالة هاوار, accessed August 31, 2025, https://hawarnews.com/ar/15238749601397
77. عفرين.. مستوطنان يعتديان بالضرب على سيدة كردية وسط سوق بلدة "ميدان إكبس", accessed August 31, 2025, https://bazenmitan.org/%D8%B9%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%8A%D8%B9%D8%AA%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B6%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%AF/
78. الحرب على باب عفرين.. «غصن الزيتون» تقضي على حلم الدولة الكردية (تقرير) - المصري اليوم, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.almasryalyoum.com/news/details/1249735
79. «الميثاق الملي» وقبعات مصطفى كمال في عفرين | المركز الكردي للدراسات, accessed August 31, 2025, https://nlka.net/archives/11946
80. Syrian Kurdistan | The Kurdish Project, accessed August 31, 2025, https://thekurdishproject.org/kurdistan-map/syrian-kurdistan/
81. Kurds in Syria - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurds_in_Syria
82. Kurd | Syria, Language, Map, Women, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, History, & Culture | Britannica, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Kurd
83. The History and Culture of the Ojibwe (Chippewa) Tribe - Native Hope Blog, accessed August 31, 2025, https://blog.nativehope.org/history-and-culture-of-the-ojibwe-chippewa-tribe
84. The Ojibwe People | Minnesota Historical Society, accessed August 31, 2025,

https://www.mnhs.org/fortsnelling/learn/native-americans/ojibwe-people
85. The Bani Yas Tribes of United Arab Emirates, accessed August 31, 2025, https://sheikhmohammed.ae/en-us/baniyastribe
86. Turkish army, FSA liberate 12 more villages in Afrin - Anadolu Ajansı, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkish-army-fsa-liberate-12-more-villages-in-afrin/1091568
87. Armenians in Syria - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenians_in_Syria
88. Armenians in Syria - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenians_in_Syria
89. Armenians in Syria | AGBU, accessed August 31, 2025, https://agbu.org/leaving-syria/armenians-syria
90. France's colonial policy in Africa - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, accessed August 31, 2025, https://mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/historical_materials/1957980/
91. Politique des races: The Racialization of Lebanese Syrian Migrants in French West Africa - Project on Middle East Political Science, accessed August 31, 2025, https://pomeps.org/politique-des-races-the-racialization-of-lebanese-syrian-migrants-in-french-west-africa
92. Refugees, Labour and Sectarianism in Syria under the French mandate (1921-1950), accessed August 31, 2025, https://journals.openedition.org/remmm/21593
93. Economice stiuation in Aleppo city affected by occupation of Afrin - ANHA, accessed August 31, 2025, https://hawarnews.com/en/15248135401020
94. As Syrian refugees return home, Turkey's economy changes - Marketplace.org, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.marketplace.org/story/2025/08/05/as-syrian-refugees-return-home-turkeys-economy-changes
95. Syrian Transitional President Visits Afrin - Kurdistan24, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/825100/syrian-transitional-president-visits-afrin
96. Syrian Culture | Customs | Traditions | Etiquette | anothertravel.com, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.anothertravel.com/middle-east/syria/culture/
97. Syria - Culture, Traditions, Cuisine | Britannica, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.britannica.com/place/Syria/Daily-life-and-social-customs
98. Culture of Syria - Wikipedia, accessed August 31, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Syria
99. Iranian Oral History Project | Harvard Library, accessed August 31, 2025, https://library.harvard.edu/collections/iranian-oral-history-project
100. About this Collection | Tibetan Oral History Archive Project - The Library of Congress, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.loc.gov/collections/tibetan-oral-history-project/about-this-collection/
101. كيف أثر النزوح على التركيبة السكانية في عفرين السورية؟ | سياسة - الجزيرة نت, accessed August 31,

2025, https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/1/21/%D9%83%D9%8A%D9%81-%D8%A3%D8%AB%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%B2%D9%88%D8%AD-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9

102. عفرين ....حكاية أرض وشعب - الشرق الأوسط الديمقراطي, accessed August 31, 2025, https://alawset.net/2018/03/14/%D8%B9%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%AD%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D8%B1%D8%B6-%D9%88%D8%B4%D8%B9%D8%A8/

103. تردي الوضع الاقتصادي والمعيشي في عفرين المحتلة مع انهيار الليرة التركية - شبكة آسو الاخبارية, accessed August 31, 2025, https://aso-network.com/archives/28162

104. عفرين 5 سنوات تحت الاحتلال التركي: تفسير - Rojava Information Center, accessed August 31, 2025, https://rojavainformationcenter.org/ar/2023/01/%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%8C-5-%D8%B3%D9%86%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83/

105. السيطرة التركية على عفرين الأثر على الفاعلين والخطوة التالية - جسور للدراسات, accessed August 31, 2025, https://www.jusoor.co/ar/details/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%B9%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AB%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%B7%D9%88%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9