

## The Treaty of Westphalia

*The Treaty, dated Oct. 24, 1648, brought an end to Europe's Thirty Years' War. Here are excerpts.*

Peace Treaty between the Holy Roman Emperor and the King of France and their respective Allies.

In the name of the most holy and individual Trinity:  
Be it known to all. . . .

I. That there shall be a Christian and Universal Peace, and a perpetual, true, and sincere Amity, between his Sacred Imperial Majesty, and his most Christian Majesty; as also, between all and each of the Allies, and Adherents of his said Imperial Majesty, the House of Austria, and its Heirs, and Successors; but chiefly between the Electors, Princes, and States of the Empire on the one side; and all and each of the Allies of his said Christian Majesty, and all their Heirs and Successors, chiefly between the most Serene Queen and Kingdom of Swedeland, the Electors respectively, the Princes and States of the Empire, on the

other part. That this Peace and Amity be observ'd and cultivated with such a Sincerity and Zeal, that each Party shall endeavour to procure the Benefit, Honour and Advantage of the other; that thus on all sides they may see this Peace and Friendship in the Roman Empire, and the Kingdom of France flourish, by entertaining a good and faithful Neighbourhood.

II. That there shall be on the one side and the other a perpetual Oblivion, Amnesty, or Pardon of all that has been committed since the beginning of these Troubles, in what place, or what manner soever the Hostilities have been practis'd, in such a manner, that no body, under any pretext whatsoever, shall practice any Acts of Hostility, entertain any Enmity, or cause any Trouble to each other. . . . That they shall not act, or permit to be acted, any wrong or injury to any whatsoever; but that all that has pass'd on the one side, and the other, as well before as during the War, in Words, Writings, and Outrageous Actions, in Violences, Hostilities, Damages and Expences, without any respect to Persons or Things, shall be entirely abolish'd in such a manner that all that might be demanded of, or pretended to, by each other on that behalf, shall be bury'd in eternal Oblivion. . . .

### Peace Through Joint Economic Development

How can a Peace of Westphalia approach be applied to the current situation in the region?

As the historical record is being set straight by competent historians on both sides, direct negotiations should seek to establish normal relations, through lifting the embargo, and settling remaining border disputes. Trade between Turkey and Armenia is vital for both, and for the region. As Armenian Social Security Minister Aghvan Vartanian put it in July 2003: "We must normalize our relations with Turkey, Azerbaijan, and all our neighbors. This is a necessity because no country in the region can develop itself isolated from [its neighbors]. We are convinced that there is no alternative to regional cooperation."

Armenia, as a landlocked country, needs trade routes through Turkey. The Turkish-Armenian Business Development Council (TABDC), a non-governmental organization, has reckoned that, if only the Gyumri (formerly Leninakan) border is opened, trade between the two could double. Turkey would benefit from trade through Armenia, by gaining access

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Armenian claims of genocide, has endorsed the idea of an international effort. Prof. Yusuf Halacoglu, of the Society, stated in January 2005 that a commission should be set up including scholars from Turkey, Armenia, the United States, Britain, and France. In 2004, scholars from the Society met with the Armenian Academy of Sciences and the Genocide Museum in Yerevan, to found that Vienna Armenian-Turkish Historians' Platform (VAT). They started exchanging documentary material, but further meetings were for some reason cancelled.

to markets in the former Soviet Union. If the border to Azerbaijan were also opened, Armenia's GDP would increase by one-fourth, according to Nicolas Tavitian, of the TABDC in Brussels. Tavitian noted: "The reason why Armenia is so important for Turkey is that all [main] existing [export] infrastructures are going through that country. All that existed under the Soviet Union—be it roads or railways—was going through Armenia."<sup>6</sup>

The solution to the problem, is to revive and expand these road and railway routes. As part of the Eurasian Land-Bridge (**Figure 2**) which links Asia to Europe, there are several routes to be developed.

### Iran Has an Important Role To Play

Work on these grand railway projects is under way, and the most important regional role is being played by Iran. Since the independence of the former Soviet republics in 1991, Iran has based its foreign policy on rapid rail infrastructure, forging cooperative agreements with all its neighbors. Iran has become the gateway for the Central Asian republics to the Persian Gulf, and has consciously promoted this role, including in relations with Armenia. Relations between the two countries have been improving over recent years, reaching a peak in September 2004, when Iranian President Mohammad Khatami visited the Armenian capital of Yerevan. In addition

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6. Eurasianet.org, July 26, 2003.