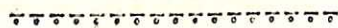


K U R D I S T A N



Kurdistan, which means "the country of the Kurds," is a vast country with an expanse of some 500,000 sq. km., a country that is united and geographically continuous, but divided by political frontiers, mainly between Turkey, Iran and Iraq. A part of Kurdistan is also included within the present Syrian frontiers.

With the end of the First World War, the Allies divided up the spoils of war. It was generally held that a Kurdish State would be set up along with others in the Middle East. In 1920 the Treaty of Sevres was signed and recognized in the Articles 62, 63, and 64 the rights of the Kurdish people to an independent and united state, but the Turks led by Kemal Attatürk refused to abide by this Treaty which was supplanted by the Lausanne Treaty in 1923 which disregarded the right of the Kurdish people to a national state.

Kurdistan is, mainly, a mountainous country with green valleys and internal plains that are cultivated. Oaks, Walnut trees, poplars mulbergs trees and birches are the most commonly found trees in the Kurdish countryside. The climate is severe, very cold in winter, with heavy snow and fairly hot and dry in summer, except in the mountains. Water is abundant in Kurdistan. Kurdistan is rich in mineral resources especially oil. Nearly ninety per cent of Iraqi oil, a part of Iranian oil and the little oil explioted so far in Turkey flow from Kurdish regions. The other resources of Kurdistan, including large iron deposit are still generally untouched. Kurdistan supplies Iraq, Iran and Turkey with it's wool, tobacco, cereals and fruits, water and herds of live-stock, The Kurdish regions in Syria are the breadbasket of the Syrians.

The Kurdish people, numbering 12 million, have inhabited the region which bears their name since the dawn of history. There are now six m. Kurds in Kurdistan of Turkey, 3.5 in Kurdistan of Iran, 2 million in Iraqi Kurdistan, and 500,000 Kurds in Syria. there are also 150,000, Kurds living in USSR. (Armenia, Azerbaidzhan and Georgia).

The Kurds are deprived of all their just and human rights. The rich land of Kurdistan is being explioted By imperialists and reactionary ruling class of Turks, Persians and Arabs. The share of the people of Kurdistan has only been opression, deprival and misery.

The Kurdish people have never tolerated their condition and the country has seen many heroic uprisings against the reactionary ruling class and their imperialist masters. In Turkey, the Kurds rose in 1925 and 1927-31 and again in 1937, all of these major revolts were drowned in blood.

In Iran Kurdish National Revolts took place in 1910-24, in 1930 and 1945-46, when they actually established a Kurdish Republic, but was unfortunately crushed a year later by the Iranian forces with the help of American imperialism. In Iraq the Kurds rose in 1919, 1923, 1930, 1943 and 1945; there is now a revolution in process in Iraqi Kurdistan since September 1961.

The Revolution of July, 1958 in Iraq was hailed by both Kurds and Arabs and the Provisional Constitution, despite some shortcomings regarding the rights of the Kurdish nation, was regarded a great step forward. But only a year later General Qassem chose the way of personal dictatorship and deviated from the principle of July Revolution. ~~While the Iraqi prisons were flooded with the fate of the people.~~ When Kassem's air and ground forces attacked Kurdistan, the Kurdish people resisted heroically. A dirty war in Kurdistan continued, with a brief cease-fire period in 1963, till February 10, 1964. During this war Kassem's forces and then the fascist Ba'athists murdered hundreds of old men, women and children, thousands were left homeless.

From the very beginning of the 1961 Revolution the Kurds, guided by the Kurdistan Democratic Party and Mustafa Barazani, put forward demands which were: DEMOCRACY FOR IRAQ AND AUTONOMY FOR KURDISTAN:

A cease-fire agreement came into effect on February 10, 1964 between the Kurds and Aref regime. This was hoped to be a step towards a just solution peacefully of the Kurdish Question, but now a period of more than nine months has elapsed with no hope of a solution in sight. Aref's propaganda machines have stubbornly regarded this cease-fire agreement as a final "solution". It was, however, clear that President Aref, who shared the Ba'athists in murdering thousands of both Kurds and Arabs in Iraq, and who never believed in democracy and rights of the people, was not to be expected to give any logical consideration to the solution of the Kurdish Question. Nevertheless the Kurds agreed to a cease-fire at a time when 80% of Iraqi Kurdistan was under their direct control. By doing this, the Kurds showed and proved their good-will and are united in hoping for a peaceful solution. So there is NO question of having within the Kurdish national movement a "faction" who "deliberately wishes the resumption of war...." The Kurds know very well that the war brings first and foremost death and destruction upon Kurdistan. But it must also be borne in mind that the Kurds are willing to pay any price and sacrifice in order to re-gain their lawful rights. Autonomy for Kurdistan within the framework of Iraqi Republic remains the minimum demands of the Kurdish revolution.

Events of the last nine months have proved that the Baghdad regime of Aref has not a slightest intention of solving the Kurdish problem. In May last a provisional constitution which denied the Kurds their very existence, let alone their national rights. Thousands of Iraqi democrats, Arabs and Kurds, are still in overcrowded prisons. Aref is now going ahead with his plans of imposing a single " Arab Socialist Union " Party upon the bi-national Iraqi people. There are in Iraq many national democratic forces who have a long history of struggle against reactionaries and imperialism, and according to Aref's plan these forces must be denied all democratic rights.

The Kurds have lately submitted a memorandum to the Iraqi government stating explicitly their plans and demands, but Baghdad remains indifferent. So they (Kurds) have now established councils to supervise the welfare of the people of Kurdistan. What will be the reaction of the Aref's regime, it remains to be seen.

KURDISH STUDENT'S SOCIETY IN EUROPE

November 1964

KURDISH STUDENTS SOCIETY IN
EUROPE

founded 1956

BASIC AIMS,

- = Strengthen the relationship of Kurdish students in Europe and provide assistance in their academic problems .
- = Facilitate mutual aid between Kurdish students in Europe .
- = Promote the Kurdish National Culture, and work towards the good of the Kurdish people and its National Question .
- = Enlighten the world on the culture, country and condition of the Kurdish people and its National Question .
- = Strengthen the spirit of co-operation and friendship between the Kurdish students and the students of other countries, and contact student and non-student organization, both national and international, and co-operate within the scope of our mutual aims and interests.
- = Contribute in the struggle of our people, and support all peoples in the struggle against imperialism, reactionaries and dictatorial regimes, for world peace, democracy, national liberation and self-determination.

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