

## Brief History of Kurds and Kurdistan)

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### Chapter one: (Geography and Population)

#### First: (What is Kurdistan?)

It is the land of the Kurds, mostly mountainous area, located west the continent of Asia.

- . The land Geographically united, but politically was divided between **four countries**.
- . Kurdistan's land is located on the southeast of **Turkey**, west of **Iran**, north and northeast of **Iraq** and north of **Syria**.
- . Its land mass approximately **530,000** (Five hundred thirty thousand) square Kilometers.
- . The land is approximately the size of **France**. It is larger than the combined size of the states of **Virginia and California** (In the U.S.).
- . The shape of Kurdistan is like Sickle or Crescent.
- . In the ancient times, Kurdistan was called **Zagros, or Zagros Highland**.

#### Zagros:

It means beyond the Mountains.

- . During the first Millennium B.C. the Greek historians called the land of the Ancient Kurds as Zagros.
- . They called the people of the Zagros as Zagros people, Zagros nation or nations.

#### Zagros Highland:

It means the highland beyond the mountains.

- . Zagros Highlands is the original home of the Ancient Kurds.
- . Kurdistan lies within the Zagros Highlands.
- . It is called Highland because it is mostly higher than its surroundings.

#### Description of the chain Mountain System of Kurdistan:

The land of Kurdistan is made of **Parallel mountain chains**, which run generally from **northwest** of Kurdistan (east of the



Mediterranean Sea), to **southeast** of Kurdistan.

. These parallel mountain chains join together with the **isolated ridges** and **foothills** and they form the mountain system of Kurdistan (Zagros Highland).

Some parts of the chain Mountain system of Kurdistan are:

- 1) The Zagros Mountains in Kurdistan of Iran, which extend outside of Kurdistan into south of Iran.
- 2) The **Taurus** Mountains in Kurdistan of Iraq, which extend into Turkey.
- 3) The **Ararat** and **Taurus** Mountains in Kurdistan of Turkey, which extend outside of Kurdistan.

**Notice:** The land In Kurdistan of Syria is mostly composed of hills and plains.

. The Kurds live north of Syria in three separate locations, north of al-Jezirah, Euphrates entrance to Syria and near Halab (Aleppo) at Jabbal al-Akrad (Mountain of the Kurds).

### **Second: (Some cities of Kurdistan with large Kurdish population)**

**1) Kurdistan of Turkey:** Diyar Bakir, Mardin, Urfa, Jezirah (Cizre), Batman, Mush, Badlis (Bitlis),

Wan (Van), Malatya, Marash, Erzinjan (Erzincan) and Erzurum.

**2) Kurdistan of Iran:** Kurmanshah (Bakhtaran), Khorramabad, Ilam, Qasri-Shirin, Saqqiz, Senna (Sanandaj), Mahabad, Bukan, and Orumiyah.

**3) Kurdistan of Iraq:** Kirkuk, Sulaimaniyah, Arbil (Hawler), Duhok, Sinjar, Halabja, Khanaqin and Mandali.

**4) Kurdistan of Syria:** Qamishly, Hasakah, Dayrik, A'muda, Darbasiya, Ayn Diwar and Afrin.

### **Third: (Natural Resources of Kurdistan)**

Though Kurdistan is rich in mineral and oil resources; it is the least developed region of Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Consequently, the Kurds derive their primarily living from farming and shepherding.

#### **1) The Weather:**

Kurdistan has a Mediterranean climate, which is rainy and cold in the winter, hot, dry and no rain in the summer.

. The weather in the mountainous regions is severe and snow falls heavily which slows down communications during the winter season.

#### **2) Agriculture and Farming:**

Kurdistan's economy is based mainly on agriculture and livestock (sheep, goat, cow, and poultry).

. The tribe communities combine agriculture with the raising of farm animals, because of the suitable climate and sufficient amounts of rainfall.

. The Farm animals including Poultry are one of the important sources of income in Kurdistan.

. Kurdistan highland is the natural habitat for grain and cereal.

. The summer crops such as rice, corn, cotton, beets and sugar beets are produced in large quantities by means of irrigation.

- . The Kurdish Tobacco is considered of good quality, and is sold throughout the Middle East or delivered to cigarette factories.
- . The Fruits and vegetables are produced in large quantity.
- . The Thick forest now exists on the rugged mountain slopes and in accessible valleys.
- . The Woodland covers most of the mountainous and hilly countryside.

### 3) Water Resources in Kurdistan:

Kurdistan's soil is fertile and rainfall is abundant and there are many rivers and high mountains, where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers originate.

. Kurdistan has a tremendous quantity of water resources, it has been described as the heart of the region because almost all of the water supply for the area comes from Kurdistan.

These are some of the Rivers in Kurdistan and most them end up outside of Kurdistan:

- 1) The Euphrates River
- 2) The Tigris
- 3) The Great Zab
- 4) The Lesser Zab
- 5) The Khabur
- 6) Sirwan and Diyala
- 7) Aras
- 8) Dizful
- 9) Alwand (Halwan)
- 10) Kerkha
- 11) Kizil Uzan (Safid – Rud)

### 4) Mineral Resources:

Kurdistan is considered to be rich in mineral resources and these are some of them:

- 1) Iron
- 2) Coal
- 3) Copper
- 4) Lead
- 5) Magnesium
- 6) Zinc and tin
- 7) Uranium
- 8) gold and Silver
- 9) Gypsum
- 10) Chrome

### 5) Oil Resources:

Kurdistan is very rich in oil resources. The oil fields in Kurdistan include the following:

#### 1- Kurdistan of Iraq:

There are four working oil fields, which are located in **Ain Zala, Kirkuk, Zanboor and Khanaqin.**

. Also there are fourteen other fields are known to contain rich oil deposits.

#### 2- Kurdistan of Iran:

The oil fields located near the city of kurmanshah.

#### 3- Kurdistan of Turkey:

Turkey's only oil fields are located in the district of Van.

#### 4- Kurdistan of Syria:

Its oil fields are located in the district of Jezirah near the Iraq-Turkey border.

Fourth: (The Kurdish Population in the world)

In May of 1990, the Institute for strategic studies at George Town University, Washington D.C. in the U.S. estimated the total Kurdish population in the World to about 39.260 million Kurds as follow:

- 1) Turkey: **19.4** million Kurds.
- 2) Iran: **11** million Kurds.
- 3) Iraq: **4.750** million Kurds.
- 4) Syria: **1.5** million Kurds
- 5) 1.6 Million Kurds in the following four countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Lebanon.
- 6) 1.1 million Kurds in Europe and other places

Notice: Today the Kurdish population in the World in the year 2003 according to the above statistics is more than forty-five millions.

The Kurdish population in Europe in 2003:

There are more than one million Kurds in Europe. They are there, as refugees or immigrants.

. They live primarily in the countries of Germany, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Italy, Greece and Britain.

The Kurdish Population in Canada in 2003:

There are approximately 10,000 (ten thousand) Kurds living in Canada, especially in the cities of Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener, London and some other cities.

(The Kurdish population in the United States)

### **First: The early or First Kurdish Immigrants in the United States:**

In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, thousands of Kurds migrated to the U.S. from Kurdistan of Turkey, and they settled mainly in the cities of Detroit and Chicago, also some of them settled in the state of New Jersey. There is little recorded information about them today.

Second: In the year 2003:

There are approximately 25,000 (twenty-five thousands) Kurds live in the United States, and more than 80% of them are from Kurdistan of Iraq. They arrived in the U.S. mostly as refugees.

. The following numbers are approximate, the Kurds living in the United States are mostly concentrated in Nashville-Tennessee **6000** Kurds, Dallas-Texas **3000** Kurds, San Diego - California **3000** Kurds, and Virginia **2000** Kurds. The Kurds also live in several other U.S. cities.

. Also there is thousands of other unknown number of Kurds in the U.S. who migrated from different parts of Kurdistan.

## Chapter Two: (THE KURDISH HISTORY)

First: (Who are the Kurds?)

. The Kurdish people belong to the Indo-European family of nations.

- . The Kurds have been living in Kurdistan for more than 5000 years.
- . The Kurds are the third largest ethnic groups in the Middle East after the Arabs and the Turks.
- . They are the largest minority in Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.
- . The Kurds are considered as one of the largest ethnic minorities in the World without a country of their own.

#### **The meaning of some terms:**

- . Kurds: It means the people.
- . Kurdish: It means the people. Also it means the language.
- . Kurdistan: It means the land of the Kurds.

Kurdistan is two parts word: Part one is the word Kurd and Part two is Istan, which means the land.

#### **Kurdistan is considered as the cradle of Humanity after the Great Flood:**

According to many Muslim scholars, after the **Great Flood**, the prophet **Noah's Ark** or ship settled on Mount **Judi**, which is Located South of present day Kurdistan of Turkey (Near the Iraqi-Syrian borders).

- . The ground on Mount Judi has been shaped like a Ship or a Boat. The term Mount Judi was mentioned in the Muslim holy book of the Koran (Qur'an).
- . But according to Christian scholars, Noah's Ark was settled on the highest Mountain in the Ararat region called Mount **Ararat**, east of present day Kurdistan of Turkey.
- . From the new discoveries in the black sea area, the Scientists believe that, the Great flood happened around 5500 B.C. (7500 years ago).
- . Also the resent discoveries in several areas of Kurdistan of Iraq, proves that there were people living in Kurdistan before and after the Great Flood.
- . So, according to the above information, **Noah** and his three sons **Sam, Ham and Yafeth (Jafeth)** started their new life from the above location and later the people spread around the world from there.

**Notice:** Some scholars believe that the term **Judi** has been originated from the term Guti (the First documented Ancient Kurdish Nation), because in the Arabic language the letter K or J is used instead of the letter G.

#### **Second: (The Kurdish Origin)**

##### **The Ancient Kurds (3100-1000 B.C.)**

#### **The Migration of the Caucasian and Indo-European Groups of Nations to the Zagros Highlands:**

The Ancient Kurds are of Caucasian and Indo-European origin. They migrated to the Zagros Highlands before 3100 B.C. and through 1000 B.C.

. There were many groups of nations of the Ancient Kurds that lived in the Zagros Highlands between 3100-1000 B.C, but the existence of at least nine nations have been documented.

. Most Historians believe that the following eight Nations are of Caucasian origin and that they migrated to the Zagros from the Caucasus region north of the Zagros highlands, and they spoke different Dialects of the Caucasian language:

They are the nations of **Guti, Subari, Lullu, Kassite, Mitanni, Mani, Urartu and Nairi.**

. But some Historians believe that the three nations of Guti, Kassite and Mitanni are of Indo European origin.

- . **The Mede:** They are the last of the nine groups that migrated to the Zagros. They are of Indo European origin.

#### Kurdish Roots: (Historical Overview of the Nine Kurdish Nations)

##### 1) Guti Nation:

Also it is called Gutu.

- . The Guti nation founded the Gutium Kingdom within the Zagros and their Kingdom was documented around 3100 B.C.
- . This nation occupied most of the present day Kurdistan of Iraq, from the rivers Sirwan and Diyala to the Great Zab River.
- . Later some of the Guties lived in other parts of Kurdistan (In present day Kurdistan of Iran and Turkey).
- . This Nation controlled Sumer and Akad in the years 2237-2112 B.C.
- . Their Capital was the city of Arapkho (In or around the city of Kirkuk). Their other well-known city was the city of Arbilum (Arbil or Hawler).
- . This nation lasted until the first Millennium B.C.
- . The Guti was assimilated later into the Subari and Lullu Nations.
- . The Guti nation is considered as the Kurds' most ancient ancestors.

##### 2) Subari Nation:

The western region of the Subari was referred to as the Hurrian nation.

- . The Subari nation was founded within the Zagros Highlands as of 3000 BC.
- . They lived in present day Kurdistan of Iraq, Syria and Turkey.
- . The Subari also is called Subartu or Subaru.
- . The Subari lasted until the 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

##### 3) Lullu Nation:

The Lullu nation also called Lullubum.

- . They lived primarily in the Shehrazor region in Sulaimaniyah.
- . The Lullu nation had Kingdom in the Zagros around 2800 BC.
- . The Assyrian called the Lullu nation as Zamwa.
- . Also some of the Lullu nation lived in Syria and Iran.
- . Their Capital was called Arak-di (Arbat). Their Kingdom ended in 700 B.C.

##### 4) Kassite Nation:

Also the Kassite is written as Cassite, and in the Bible it is called Kushu.

- . The Kassite nation is a mix of the Guti, Subari and Lullu nations.
- . They lived south of Kurdistan. Their original homeland was located in the present day Kurmanshah and Luristan regions south Kurdistan of Iran.

- . The Kassites first controlled the Lullu, Gutu and Subari nations of the Zagros Highlands, then conquered Babylonia about 1600 B.C. and created Empire for nearly 400 years, Circa 1600-1200 BC.
- . Their Empire extended to the Caucasian region and the Caspian Sea.
- . Their capital city was known as Dur Kurigalzu (Agar Quf) about 30 Kilometers west of Baghdad.
- . The Kassites lost their Empire in 1200 B.C., but their Kingdom in the Kurmanshah and Luristan regions lasted until the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. and the Kassite nation was existed until the first century A.D, then the name Luristan appeared in the region.

#### 5) Mitanni Nation:

The Mitanni nation was also called Hurrian Nation.

- . Most Historians believe that the Mitanni nation is a branch of the Subari nation.
- . The Mitanni or Hurrian nation founded kingdom and Empire called Hurri-Mitanni, which lasted for more than 600 years (1500-880 BC.) until its final defeat on the hands of the Assyrians about 880 B.C.
- . The heartland of the Mitanni Nation was west of Kurdistan of Iraq (near the Syrian border), South Kurdistan of Turkey and Northeast of Syria.
- . Their Capital was Washshukanni which was located around the Khabur River (In Kurdistan of Turkey, south of Diyar Bakir), later they moved their Capital to the city of Arapkho (Kirkuk), after they controlled it.
- . At their widest extent, they controlled the land from the Mediterranean Sea (Including the Gulf of Iskenderon) to Azerbaijan, also including Syria and Palestine. They were at constant war with the Hittite Empire in Anatolia between 1500-1200 B.C., and at constant wars with the Assyrians between 1300-880 B.C. (Notice: The Assyrian power lasted from 1300-612 B.C.)

#### 6) Mani Nation:

The Mani nation controlled the area in Kurdistan of Iran south of lake Orumiyah.

- . Their Capital was called **Izirtu**, which was located 50 kilometers from the present day city of **Saqqez**.
- . Their Kingdom existed during the period of 900-625 B.C.

#### 7) Urartu Nation:

The Urartu nation also was called as Khaldi nation.

- . The Urartu nation had Kingdom in the northern portion of Kurdistan, during the period of 880-585 BC. . The Mountains of Ararat was named after the name of Urartu.
- . They controlled the region of Van, Orumiyah, south of the Caucasus region, and at their widest extent they reached the Euphrates River and Rawanduz area.
- . Their capital was the city of Van (Tospas), which they built in 840 B.C.
- . The Urartu nation is a branch of the Subari (Hurrian) nation.
- . The Urartu and Nairi nations, sometimes dominated each other.
- . In the middle of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. the Armenian nation who where living west of Urartu nation, advanced into this Kingdom and controlled the northern part of Urartu Kingdom, which later became known as Armenia.
- . The Armenians are Indo European nation, Migrated to west of Urartu Nation in 1000 B.C.

. In 606 B.C. the Median Empire controlled the southern part of the Urartu Kingdom, and the Urartu Kingdom was disappeared in 585 B.C.

#### 8) Nairi Nation:

The Nairi nation also was called as Nahri nation.

. The **Nairi** nation lived in central Kurdistan (Southeast of present day Kurdistan of Turkey), in the Hakkari Mountains, south of Lake Van and the upper Great Zab River, also their Kingdom was extended to the areas of Darsim, Badlis, Diyar Bakir and the upper part of the Tigres and Euphrates rivers.

. Their main area was the Valley of Butan (between the city of Julamerge (Hakkari) to the city of Mardin) near the Iraq and Syrian border.

. The Nairi nation were mostly independent during the periods of foreign powers control of Kurdistan, even during the Median Empire control of the Zagros Highlands, they had some kind of Independence.

. The Nairi nation was mentioned first by the Assyrians in the 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

. The Medes became the Nairi Nation neighbor and slowly moved into their land when the Nairi's Kingdom was weak and they controlled their Kingdom.

. This Nation was powerful and rivaled the Assyrian Empire.

. They had many wars with the Assyrians. Also they helped the Medes in defeating the Assyrians. The Nairi land is the same land that the Greek Historian Xenophone and his Army passed through in 401 B.C. and called the people there as Kurdok (Kurdokh).

. After Xenophone, in the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C., the Historians, began calling the Nairi land as Kurdoin

. Today some of their ancient ruins are located in the Shamdinan area in Kurdistan of Turkey in the Hakkari region.

. This nation was formed from the remnants of the nations of Subari and Guti.

#### 9) The Mede Nation:

The origin of the Mede nation is Indo-European descent.

. The modern Kurdish people consider themselves as the descendents of the Medes.

. They migrated to the Zagros Highland (present day Kurdistan) from Central Asia (northeast of the Caspian Sea) around 1000 BC.

. They settled first between lake Orumiyah and the Caspian Sea (present day northwest of Iran).

. They founded the city of Akbatan (Hamadan), which became their Capital.

. The Medes ruled between 708-550 B.C.

. They established their monarchy in the year 708 B.C., which they ruled from 708 – 612 BC.

. They also established an empire (called Media or Median Empire), after they helped in defeating the Assyrians, and ruled from 612 – 550 BC.

. Also they controlled the Persian nation who was of Indo European Origin, and were living to the south of their land.

. During the 158 years of the Medes Rule, only four Mede Kings ruled:

The first King who founded the Median Kingdom in 708 B.C. was called Diyako, he ruled for 53 years (708-655 B.C.).

. The Medes conquered some parts of the Assyrian Empire through many years of wars and battles with the help of the Ancient Kurds and the Babylonian Kingdom (Chaldean) under the Babylonian king Nabopolassar.

. Korush (Cyrus) king of Persia revolted against the Medes and controlled their Empire about 550 BC, then he founded the Achaemenid Empire which lasted from 550 BC – 331 BC

. Cyrus united the Medes and the Persians and they shared the government together and formed a great empire in Asia and the Near East.

. He also introduced the Zaradasht (Zoroastrianism) religion to his empire.

. The Greek Army under the command of Alexander of Macedon invaded the Achaemenid Empire and conquered it in 331 B.C.

The Ancient Kurdish Languages assimilation into the Mede Language:

In the first Millennium B.C. the Ancient Kurdish Languages were assimilated into the Mede language, which is an Indo-European language between the 7<sup>th</sup> –4<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

. And this Mede language became the origin or basis of the current Kurdish language.

### **Third: (Indo-European)**

First: The Indo-European Languages and people:

The Indo-European languages originated in Anatolia (part of present day Turkey) around 5000 B.C, and spread to Europe, the Caucasus region, and to Central Asia.

. Some of the Indo-European languages are Kurdish, Baluchi, Pashtu, Persian, Hindi, Urdu, English, French, Italian, Spanish, German, Scandinavians, Russian, Slav and Greek.

Second: The reason for calling it Indo-European Language:

. Some of the languages from India to Europe are **basically common** in some of their **vocabulary words** and the **grammar**.

. So, it means that these languages are originally from one common language and one common group of people 7000 (seven thousand) years ago.

Fourth: (The origin of the Terms Kurd and Kurdistan)

Notice: The term Kurd has been evolved from several different forms in several different languages, as follow:

First: Karda, Garda and Kardak

1) In the third millennium B.C. the ancient **Sumerian** people living south of present day Iraq, called the land of the Ancient Kurds as the **land of Karda**, and they called the people **Guti**.

2) In the Second Millennium B.C. the Babylonians called the ancient Kurds as Garda, which means brave.

3) Also in the second and first Millennium B.C., the Assyrians called the Ancient Kurds as Kardak, which means brave.

Second: Kurdok (Kurdokh) (401 B.C.)

In 401 B.C. the **Greek** Historian **Xenophon** referred to the Ancient Kurds as Kurdok in his writings. He wrote of the Kurdok following his return to Greek with the ten thousand soldiers, who had passed through north of the Zagros Highlands (north of present day Kurdistan) following their expedition in Mesopotamia.

Third: Kurdoin (4<sup>th</sup> century B.C.)

Starting in the Fourth Century B.C. the Greek and later the Roman Historians began writing the name “Kurdoin” when referring to the land of the north Zagros Highland.

. Before the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C., the Armenians called their neighbor, the Ancient Kurds, as Kurdoin.

Fourth: Gurd:

The Persians called the Ancient Kurds as Gurd, which means brave.

Fifth: Kurd (7<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.)

In the seventh Century A.D. during the first century of Islam, the Arab writers called the Zagros Highland people as Kurd, for the first time in their writings. In the Arabic language, the letter K is used instead of the letter G.

Sixth: Kurdistan (12<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.)

The word Kurdistan was first used by the Saljuk Turk rulers, who ruled the Abbasid Empire and most of the Zagros Highlands (Kurdistan) in the twelve century, A.D. Because they used the suffix “-istan” to mean “the land” they came to refer to other nations in the same way (e.g., the land of the Arabs was referred to as “Arabistan.” So they called the land of the Kurds as “Kurdistan”.

. They called the Kurdish region in Iran, south of Orumiyah as Kurdistan.

Fifth: (Kurdistan between 550 B.C. and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.)

Between 550 B.C. (from the fall of the Median Empire) until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century A.D, the Kurds had many revolts and also many Independent Emarats (Emirates) or states, large and small throughout Kurdistan, sometimes there have been many Emirates at the same time.

(**Notice:** In the Gregorian calendar, **B.C.** means the time before the birth of the prophet Isa (Jesus Christ), and **A.D.** means the time after the birth of Jesus Christ).

**Some regions of Kurdistan Between 550 B.C. and the 20<sup>th</sup> century A.D., became under the control of the following foreign powers in the following orders:**

- 1) In **550 B.C.**, the **Achaemenide** Empire controlled most of Kurdistan.
- 2) In **330 B.C.**, the **Greeks** controlled most of Kurdistan.
- 3) In **175 B.C.**, the **Armenians** controlled north of Kurdistan.
- 4) In **69 B.C.**, the **Romans** controlled north of Kurdistan.
- 5) The **Parthians** Dynasty in Persia (Iran), which Controlled south and sometimes north of Kurdistan and Armenia.
- 6) Then back and forth between the Parthians, the Romans and the Armenians.
- 7) In **228 A.D.**, the **Sasanian** Dynasty in Persia (Iran) controlled most of Kurdistan during most of the time, while the Romans fought the Sasanians during four Centuries of wars for the control of north Kurdistan and Armenia, until 640 A.D.
- 8) In **640 A.D.**, then **Islam** arrived during the rule of the Khalifah (Caliph) Omar.

During the **Abbasid** Islamic Empire, which ruled for 508 years between 750 A.D, and 1258 A.D, the Rulers lost control of many lands including parts of Kurdistan, which led to the creation of Kurdish Emirates in different parts of Kurdistan during the centuries.

**9) In 1258 A.D. the Mongol controlled most of Kurdistan, after defeating the Abbasid.**

**10) The Ottoman Empire and the Safavid Empire:**

In **1514 A.D**, the Ottoman Empire and the newly established Safavid Dynasty in Iran fought each other for the control of the region of Kurdistan and Iraq.

**11) The 1639 A.D. agreement to divide Kurdistan:**

In 1639 as a result of the wars between the Ottoman Empire and the Safavid, both sides made border agreement, which divided Kurdistan between them, as follow:

**1-**Most north and west of Kurdistan (Present day Kurdistan of Turkey, Iraq and Syria) fell in the hands of the Ottoman Empire for nearly three Centuries until the end of World War I in 1918 A.D.

**2-**And the eastern part of Kurdistan (Present day Kurdistan of Iran) became under the control of Safavid Rulers of Iran and other Iranian Rulers that followed them until today.

**12) Kurdistan after the fall of the Ottoman Empire in 1918:**

**1-**The northern part of Kurdistan became under the control of Turkey.

**2-**The southern part of Kurdistan became under the control of Iraq.

**3-**The southwest part of north Kurdistan became under the control of Syria.

### **Sixth: (Kurdish Emarats or States)**

**The word Emarat is called Emirate in the English language.**

The following is eleven independent Emarats (Emirates) of historical Kurdistan out of many others in Kurdistan:

**1) Emarat (Emirate) Orumiyah: Circa 727-828 A.D.**

The capitol of this Emirate was the city of Orumiyah, north Kurdistan of Iran.

**2) Emarat of Heth'bani: 906-1113 A.D.**

This Emirate controlled the cities of Arbil (Hawler), Orumiyah and some parts around Mosul.

**3) Emarat al-Ayyubiyah (Emirate of Ayyubid): 1260-1492 A.D.**

This Emarat started in Diyar Bakir after the Mongols ended the Ayyubid dynasty in Syria in 1260.

. The great leader (Sultan) Salahaddin or Saladin al-Ayyubi (1137-1193 A.D.), whose name was Yousif son of Ayyub, founded and ruled the Ayyubid Empire in 1174 A.D., which was extended from Tunisia in North Africa to Diyar bakir in Kurdistan of Turkey and some parts of the Arabian Peninsula. He ruled in the years 1174 –1193 AD.

**4) Emarat Badlis: Circa 1182-1596 A.D.**

Its Capital was the city of Badlis (Bitlis) in Kurdistan of Turkey.

**5) Emarat Hakkari: C. 1387-1596 A.D.**

Its Capital was the city of Van, east Kurdistan of Turkey.

**6) Emarat Bahdinan: 1376-1843 A.D.**

Lasted for 467 years.

. Its Capital was the city of Amadiya, west Kurdistan of Iraq.

. This Emirate was named Bahdinan after the name of Bahaa'uddin, who was the father of the founder of this Emirate. The Region of Bahdinan (Badinan), which is located west Kurdistan of Iraq, was named after this Emirate. Also the Kurdish dialect (Northern Kermanji), which is commonly known in Iraqi Kurdistan as Bahdini, was named after this Emirate.

**7) Emarat Baban: 1649-1850 A.D.**

In 1784 A.D. this Emirate founded the city of Sulaimaniyah in Kurdistan of Iraq and it became its Capital.

**8) Emarat Soran: 1399-1883 A.D.**

Lasted for 484 years. Its Capital was the city of Rawanduz, north Kurdistan of Iraq.

. The Kurdish dialect (Southern Kermanji), which is commonly known in Iraqi Kurdistan as Sorani, was named after this Emirate. . The word Soran means Red.

**9) Emarat Ardalan: 1169-1900 A.D.**

Lasted for 731 years.

. Its Capital was the city of Senna (Sanandaj) in Kurdistan of Iran.

**10) Emarat Butan: 1812-1908 A.D.**

Its Capital was the city of Jezirah (Cizre), south Kurdistan of Turkey. The Bader khan Family ruled this Emirate.

**11) Emarat Hawraman: 1002-1943 A.D.**

Lasted for 941 years.

. It was founded in the Mountainous area east the city of Sulaimaniyah in Kurdistan of Iraq and Iran.

**Seventh: (The Kurdish Language Dialects)**

### **1) Northern Kermanji:**

It is spoken in Kurdistan of Turkey, Syria, North Kurdistan of Iran, and West Kurdistan of Iraq.

. The Northern Kermanji also is commonly known as Bahdini in Iraqi Kurdistan.

### **2) Southern Kermanji:**

It is spoken in East and South Kurdistan of Iraq, and in the mid region of Kurdistan of Iran.

. The Southern Kermanji also is commonly known as Sorani in Iraqi Kurdistan.

### **3) Kermanshahi (including Faili):**

It is spoken in South Kurdistan of Iraq, and South Kurdistan of Iran.

### **4) Hawramani and Gorani:**

It is spoken in the middle part of eastern Kurdistan of Iraq and the middle part of western Kurdistan of Iran. Also the Gorani is spoken in one part of West Kurdistan of Iraq.

### **5) Zaza:**

It is spoken in Northwest Kurdistan of Turkey.

## **Eighth: (Religion)**

The current major Religions in Kurdistan:

1) Islam: The Kurds are predominantly Muslims, the majority are Sunni, and the Minority is Shi'a.

2) Christians: They live in different parts of Kurdistan.

3) The Yazidis: They are Kurds, who live mostly west Kurdistan of Iraq in the districts of Sinjar and Shaykhan. Also they live in some other parts of Kurdistan and outside of Kurdistan.

Chapter Three: (The Kurdish Struggle)

### **First: (The Kurdish Legitimate Rights)**

#### **1) Do the Kurds form a Nation?**

The Kurds form the third largest ethnic group in the Middle East after the Arabs and the Turks and they have their own homeland – Kurdistan.

- . With Geographically united homeland, common language, culture and aspiration, the Kurdish people exhibit all the outward manifestations of Nationhood.
- . Although they do not possess their own state, legally and theoretically Iraq has recognized the Kurds as a Nation.
- . The right of Self-Determination has become a universally recognized principle and has brought an end to colonialism
- . The Kurds were promised a state of their own by the **1920 Sevres Peace Treaty** in France, following World War I. Instead, the Kurds, together with their homeland, were divided amongst Turkey, Iraq and Syria.
- . The Sevres Peace Treaty was about what to do with the Lands that Britain, France and the U.S. conquered from their defeated adversary, the Ottoman Empire in World War I.
- . One of the Sevres Treaty decisions was giving Independence to Kurdistan (except Kurdistan of Iran, because Iran was not involved in World War I).
- . Britain and France changed their mind about giving Independence to Kurdistan, and one of the main reasons for that was the discovery of oil in Kurdistan of Iraq.

## 2) The reason for the Kurdish struggle

Since the end of World War I, the Kurds have revolted several times against the governments of Turkey, Iran and Iraq, these revolts have occurred because the ruling regimes in each of these countries have systematically attempted to destroy the Kurds' political, cultural, economic and linguistic identity.

- . These Governments have utilized a variety of methods against the Kurds to achieve their goals, ranging from military and police actions, to official government discriminatory policies and regulations restricting the Kurdish people's right of free association, speech, movement, as well as the choice of jobs and residence.
- . The Kurds justly believe that they, like all other nations (many of them less numerous and less educated) are entitled to Self-Determination right, however, because of economic ties existing between each part of Kurdistan and the country it is today a part of, and also because of a long fraternal association between the Kurds and other people they have shared the country with, today most Kurds in each of the foregoing countries **seek Autonomy or Federalism instead of Independence.**
- . Since dictatorial regimes tend to centralize power and to deprive even the country's majority of its rights, So, the Kurds who form a minority in Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria cannot expect to achieve their goal without the establishment of a Democratic, truly representative form of government in these countries
- . So the Kurdish struggle, for their national rights must be accompanied by a joint struggle with other native democratic forces in each country for the **establishment of Democratic rule for all, and Autonomy or Federalism for Kurdistan.**

## Second: (Revolts)

The following are some of the modern Kurdish revolts, and the dates of the revolts that have been waged in defense of the Kurdish cultural, political, economic, social and linguistic rights:

### 1) Bader Khan: 1843-1848 A.D.

Bader Khan Pasha (1794-1868 A.D.) started the modern struggle for the Kurdish people's Legitimate Rights. His struggle began in 1812. Then he ruled from 1815-1848 in the Emarat (Emirate) of Butan, and its Capital the city of Jezirah in Kurdistan of Turkey.

- . In 1843, Bader Khan revolted against the Ottoman Empire and declared Independence in the Emirate of Butan and then he controlled some parts of Kurdistan of Iraq and Iran.

. Bader Khan called all other Kurdish Emirates to unite under larger united Kurdish state, which led to several years of war with the Ottoman Empire that ended Bader Khan's rule in 1848, and they put him into exile. He passed away in 1868.

**2) Izaddin Yazdanshir: 1853-1855**

His revolt occurred in Kurdistan of Turkey within the Emarat of Butan and spread to Kurdistan of Iraq. His rule lasted until 1864.

**3) Sheikh (Sheik) Obeidullah al-Nahri: 1878-1881**

His Revolt occurred in Kurdistan of Turkey and spread to Kurdistan of Iran.

. He passed a way in 1892 in Exile at the city of Medinah in the Hijaz region north of Mecca.

**4) Abdulsalam Barzani 1907 – 1914**

He was the first revolutionary Kurdish leader from the Barzan Region.

. Also he was the spiritual leader of the Barzan region. .

. Abdulsalam is the brother of Sheikh Ahmed and Mustafa Barzani.

. He contacted various Kurdish Leaders in Kurdistan to coordinate and struggle together for the Kurdish legitimate Rights. In 1914, the Ottoman Rulers hanged him in the city of Mosul.

**5) Sheikh Mahmoud al-Hafeed: 1919-1924**

He was the leader of the Revolution, which occurred in Sulaimaniyah, in Kurdistan of Iraq.

. In 1923, he declared himself as King of Kurdistan of Iraq.

. He passed a way in 1955.

**6) Simko Agha Shikak: 1918-1925**

His revolt occurred in north Kurdistan of Iran, and spread to Kurdistan of Turkey.

. He was killed in 1930 during a meeting with the Government of Shah Reza concerning the Kurdish rights after he was promised by the Shah to discuss the Kurdish legitimate Rights.

**7) Sheikh Saeed Piran: 1925**

He started a major revolt in Kurdistan of Turkey in Diyar Bakir in 1925, which then spread to other parts of Kurdistan of Turkey. He and other leaders of the revolt were hanged after the collapse of the revolt.

**8) Darsim: 1927**

The Darsim Revolt was led by Sayyed Reza, and started in the city of Darsim (Tunceli) and spread to the Darsim region between the cities of Erzinjan (Erzincan) and Elazig in Kurdistan of Turkey.

**9) Ararat: 1927-1930**

The Ararat Revolt was led by Ihsan Nuri Pasha, and started in the Ararat Mountains, then spread to other regions of Kurdistan of Turkey.

**10) Sheikh Ahmed 1931 – 1932**

He was the spiritual leader of Barzan, also he was revolutionary Kurdish leader, who like his brother Abdulsalam, struggled for the Kurdish legitimate Rights. He passed away in 1968.

### **11) Mohammed Qazi and the Republic of Mahabad: 1945-1946**

The Republic of Mahabad was the first Kurdish Republic, which was established in Kurdistan of Iran on December 15, 1945 and lasted for one year until December 7 of 1946.

- . Its leader was Qazi Mohammed, who became the first President of the Republic on January 22, 1946.
- . He was hanged by the Shah regime after the collapse of the Republic.

### **12) Mustafa Barzani 1943 – 1945**

He is the founding father of the modern Kurdish struggle.

#### **(Some of the recent Revolutions in Kurdistan of Iraq for Autonomy or Federalism)**

First: The September of 1961 Revolution in Kurdistan of Iraq

Mustafa Barzani led this revolution.

- . This revolution was halted in 1975 after the border agreement between the government of Saddam in Iraq and the Shah in Iran.
- . The banner of this Revolution was Autonomy for Kurdistan and Democracy for Iraq.

Second: The May 26<sup>th</sup> of 1976 Revolution in Kurdistan of Iraq, which ended in 1991.

This Revolution, was also led by Mustafa Barzani and after the 1979 KDP Congress, Masoud Barzani assumed the leadership of the KDP and the May revolution for the Kurdish rights.

. After the Kurdish uprising in Kurdistan of Iraq in 1991 after the Gulf War, the Kurdish national Assembly was established and adopted Federalism for Kurdistan of Iraq.

#### **Notice:**

Also there have been several different other Revolts for the Kurdish legitimate Rights that occurred in different parts of Kurdistan between the 1970's and the 1990's.

Third: (The Kurdish Flag)

The Kurdish flag has four colors:

**1) Red 2) White 3) Green 4) Yellow or Golden**

The Kurdish flag is made up of three Rectangular colors, the Red color is on top, the white color is in the middle, the green color at the bottom and the yellow or golden sun is in the middle of the white color, with its 21 rays shining through the red and green colors.

- . The 21 rays of the Sun mean the March 21 of Nawrooz Feast and the beginning of the Kurdish calendar year.

**Red:** It means the struggle for freedom and Rights.

**White:** It means peaceful people.

**Green:** It means the land of Kurdistan with its natural greenery and agriculture.

**Yellow or Golden:** The yellow color comes from the color of the Sun.

. The sun was the symbol of the ancient Kurds of the Zagros Highlands, as the symbol of life or light.

### **History of the Flag:**

The Kurdish national Flag was made for the first time by a Kurdish party called the Khoyboun party or the Independence party, in Kurdistan of Turkey during World War I.

. In 1920 they presented this Flag to the International peace conference in Paris, which devised a plan for the Kurdish independence as part of the Treaty of Sevres with the Ottoman Empire.

. They also used this Flag during the Kurdish Revolts in Kurdistan of Turkey between 1927-1932.

. In 1946 the Republic of Mahabad adopted this Flag.

. Also the Kurdish Flag have been adopted by various Kurdish parties in Kurdistan, including the Kurdish national assembly, in May of 1992 in Iraqi Kurdistan.

### **Fourth: (Nawrooz Feast)**

Nawrooz (or “Newroz”) means “**new day**”, which the Kurds recognize as occurring on the first day of spring on **March 21** of every year, and is considered as the first day of the Kurdish calendar year, and this calendar date back to 700 B.C., to the beginning of the Media kingdom.

. The year 2004 AD is equal to 2704 in the Kurdish Calendar.

. The reason for using 700 B.C. as a beginning for the Kurdish calendar because the modern Kurdish people consider themselves as the descendants of the Medes and the Kurdish language was originated from the Mede language.

. The Kurds and some other nations in the area have been celebrating the Feast of Nawrooz.

. The Nawrooz feast started in the ancient times after the people of the Zagros Highland Revolted against their tyrant king called “Al Zahak.”

. The leader of the revolt against the tyrant king was a Blacksmith named “Kawa.”

. The people of the Zagros who revolted against the tyrant King used the Fire on top of the high hills and mountains as a secret signal to each other to coordinate the timing of the revolt together at the same time against the tyrant King.

. Then the people began celebrating Nawrooz every year by lighting Fire on top of the hills and Mountains as a sign of victory and freedom on this occasion.

### **Fifth: (Kurdish Literature)**

**Sharaf-Khan Badlisi: 1542-1602 A.D.**

He was considered as the first person to write a book about the history of the Kurdish people.

. His famous book was called **Sharaf-Naama**, which he wrote it in 1596 A.D.

. He was Amir (prince) of Badlis in Kurdistan of Turkey.

. He tried very hard to unite the Kurdish Emarats (Emirates) or Independent states and the small districts together in a Large and strong United Kurdish State in Kurdistan.

**Ahmedi Khaney: 1651-1707 A.D.**

He is the most famous Kurdish Poet and Literary, he wrote the most famous story in the Kurdish Literature called “ the story of **Mem-o-Zin**”, which is a love story equal to “Romeo and Juliet” story in the west or “Majnoon and Layla” story in the Arabic Literature.

. In the story, **Mem** is the man and **Zin** is the Girl.

. Also he wrote **Kurdish-Arabic dictionary called Nubahar**, and wrote Poems in the Kurdish, Arabic, Turkish and Persian Languages. He lived in Kurdistan of Turkey.

. In his Literature he called for the Kurdish unity in a larger united Kurdistan.

**Sixth: (Brief biography of Mustafa Barzani’s struggle)**

Also he was known as **Mulla Mustafa al-Barzani**.

. Mustafa Barzani (**1903-1979** A.D.) was considered as the great leader and founding father of the modern struggle for the Kurdish people’s freedom and legitimate Rights.

. He struggled for over fifty years.

. He was very talented leader.

. His father was Sheikh Mohammed, who was the spiritual leader of Barzan between 1872-1903.

**Mustafa Barzani’s struggle as follow:**

1) In **1919** his brother Sheikh Ahmed sent him to Sulaimaniyah as a leader of a group of Freedom Fighters to help Sheikh Mahmoud al-Hafeed’s Revolution in Kurdistan of Iraq for the Kurdish Freedom and legitimate Rights.

**Notice:** Since 1961, the freedom Fighters’ name, were changed to Pesh Mergas, which means those who face death.

2) In **1931-1932** during the first major Barzan Revolt in Kurdistan of Iraq for the Kurdish Rights, his brother Sheikh Ahmed was the leader, and he was the commander of the Freedom Fighters against the government of Iraq (King Faisal I) and the British.

3) In **1943-1945**, he led the second major Barzan Revolt in Kurdistan of Iraq.

**4) In 1945-1946 at the Republic of Mahabad:**

Mustafa Barzani brought several thousands Iraqi Kurds from Kurdistan of Iraq, to help defend the new Kurdish Republic in Kurdistan of Iran, then he joined the Republic of Mahabad under the leadership of Qazi Mohammed, and was appointed as the chief commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic, also he was one of four people given the rank of General.

- . Mustafa Barzani helped in defending the republic by defeating the Shah regime's Army during several battles in 1946.
- . On December 1946, the Republic of Mahabad collapsed after have been attacked by the Iranian Army during the Shah Rule.

## 5) Mustafa Barzani's legend march to the Soviet Union in 1947:

### The Story in summery as follow:

**In December of 1946**, after the collapse of Republic of Mahabad, the Kurds of Iraq (who were helping the Republic of Mahabad at that time) became under the attack of the Iranian army, and the threat of more attacks if they do not surrender to the Shah government of Iran or go back to Iraq where the Iraqi Army was waiting for them.

### The March decision:

In **1947** after months of negotiations, Mustafa Barzani refused to surrender to either Iran or Iraq.

. He gathered the Freedom Fighters and told them that the future is uncertain under these circumstances, and that he decided to march to the Soviet Union.

. He also told them that he is not certain about what is going to happen to him or to any body who wants to come with him when they reach the Soviet Union, and he does not know how long they are going to stay in the Soviet Union.

. Also Mustafa Barzani said that **his main purpose** of going to the Soviet Union is **to keep the hope alive for the Kurdish future, for their Legitimate Rights.**

. He also told them that they might face many armies on their way to the Soviet Union.

. Then **560** of the best freedom fighters joined him.

. There was **several thousands** Kurds from Iraq **including women and children**, also it was winter season and snow and they were around the border area and under the threat of attack from the Iranian Army. Under these conditions, Shaikh Ahmed (brother of Mustafa Barzani) decided to take back all the Iraqi Kurds who did not join Mustafa Barzani (including women and children) to Iraq and surrender to the Iraqi government.

. The **560** of the best freedom fighters who joined Mustafa Barzani in his march to the uncertain future, marched toward the Soviet Union from May 27-June 10 of 1947.

. At the beginning of the March, the British Royal Air Force bombed their positions and the Iraqi Army tried to surround them from three sides and they worked with the Armies of Turkey and Iran to prevent them from going to the Soviet Union, but Mustafa Barzani and his fighters managed to cross the borders and march through the Armies of Iraq, Turkey and Iran, and they fought the Iranian Army to cross the border to the Soviet Union, and this March became **Legend.**

. The distance of the March was **355 Kilometers** from the border of Iraq, and they finished it in 14 days.

. Then they entered the Soviet Union and stayed there for about 11 years and 4 months.

. In **July of 1958**, a new government (Abdul- Karim Qasim's government) was established in Iraq and the Monarchy was overthrown, then on October 16, 1958 Mustafa Barzani returned to Iraq, and on April 7<sup>th</sup> of 1959 about 755 people, including the former freedom fighters, their wives and children, returned back to Iraq.

## 6) Leading the September1961 Revolution:

During this Revolution there have been several cease fires including the four years peace treaty for Autonomy from March 11,1970 to March 11, 1974.which was called the Declaration of March (Bayan Adar).

- 7) In May 26, 1976 Mustafa Barzani led another Revolution in Kurdistan of Iraq.
- 8) In summer of 1976, he traveled to the U.S. from Iran for the treatment of cancer.
- 9) On March 1, 1979, Mulla Mustafa al-Barzani passed away at George Town University hospital, Washington D.C. in the U.S.A. and he was buried in the region of Sheno in Kurdistan of Iran, then after the uprising in 1991 and the establishment of Federalism in Kurdistan of Iraq, his remains were moved to his hometown Barzan and was buried there.

### **Masoud Barzani:**

He was born on August 16, 1946 at the city of Mahabad in Kurdistan of Iran.

. He is the son of Mustafa Barzani

. In 1979, he was elected at the 9<sup>th</sup> congress of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Iraq, as the new president of the KDP of Iraq.

. He also continued leading the May 26 Revolution from 1979 until the Kurdish uprising in March of 1991 after the Iraqi government invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war that followed it.

. In 1991, he helped establish Autonomous and Federated Kurdish government in Kurdistan of Iraq after the Kurdish uprising, under the protection of the Allies (The U.S., Britain and France) and the U.N. in the no fly zone.

. In May of 1992, he received the majority of the vote during the first free election in Kurdistan of Iraq for electing the leader of the Kurdistan liberation movement.