

Houri Berberian. *In Roving Revolutionaries: Armenians and the Connected Revolutions in the Russian, Iranian and Ottoman Worlds*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2019. Pp. 320. Paper. \$34.95.

Middle East historian and Chair of Armenian Studies at the University of California, Irvine, Professor Berberian uses a transnational approach to examine the Russian Revolution (1905), the Iranian Revolution (1908) and the Ottoman (Young Turk) Revolution (1905-11), and focuses on the role of Armenian revolutionaries in connecting these revolutionary upheavals and histories. Berberian shows how Armenians simultaneously participated in all three revolutions due to its geographical location perched between Russia, Iran and Ottoman Anatolia. Specifically, she shows how Armenian intellectuals and revolutionaries utilized modern technology to facilitate the spread of information, revolutionary literature, ideologies, and weapons within the empires, while revolutionizing their own ethnic community. Moreover, these revolutionaries were linked to a global network of Armenian diaspora, using steam ships, telegraphs and an increased access to printing technology, which profoundly contributed to the movements and migration of revolutionaries in Iran, Russia and the Ottoman Empire.

Berberian first isolates the revolutions as separate entities then connects them through Armenian revolutionaries and intellectuals. She shows how these uprisings were connected through the systemic circulation of ideologies, Armenian activities, objects, arms, and print. In the early twentieth century, Armenians were a small minority population within all three empires, yet their political impact was profound. Global philosophies and ideologies of the nineteenth century, such as liberalism and socialism, were reaching the Middle East and the Southern Caucasus. Berberian argues Armenians were at the forefront of these new ideologies, which allowed a modern revolutionary movement of their own.

The book highlights the global transformation that paved the road towards an age of revolutions. Berberian explores the ways in which the triangulated Russian, Ottoman and Iranian regions underwent revolutionizing innovations. Railways and steamships

and innovations such as those allowed the circulation and acceleration of revolutionary information, intellectuals, ideas, weapons and objects.

Berberian uses a top-down approach to discuss Armenian federations and organizations and their participation in the revolutions. Stepan Zorian (1867-1919) the cofounder of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), one of the most transnational revolutionaries participating in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution and attempted to bring motorboats to Iran. Simon Zavarian, another cofounder of ARF, also circulated revolutionary ideas through traveling on steamships or writing letters which circulated faster with steamships. ARF was a socialist and leftist organization which allowed Armenians to create a modern national identity while living in these three empires. The Social Democrat Hunchakian Party (SDHP) also another significant organization that contributed to the revolutionary movements.

Significantly, Berberian includes Armenian women's participation in revolutionary activities. Iranian and Ottoman Armenian women were instrumental in the spread of education in the second half of the nineteenth century. Revolutionary Armenian women expanded Armenian activism and brought attention to women's issues. Prominent female writers were Srpouhi Dussap, Sibyl (Zabel Asatur), and Zabel Yesayan whose writings promoted education for young girls, social justice and equality for women. These women pioneered the discourse for Armenian feminism that has been widely ignored in the Armenian historiography. These ideas have resurfaced in recent years, inspiring the new wave of Armenian Feminism in the motherland and within the Diaspora. Berberian's book provides new information to discuss in future academic scholarship that helps in filling the gap left by the lack of information on Armenian female writers, activists and feminists.

Berberian approaches interconnectedness by allowing her readers to understand the revolutions *through* Armenians rather than understanding their overall connections. This book contributes to Armenian historiography comparative history and provides continuity for Armenian feminist discourse. According to Berberian, Armenian revolutionaries became the vessels that

connected the revolutions to each other in hopes to portray the larger story of regions' histories. Historians related to the field and students of history would find her book intriguing with an emphasis in rethinking histories as *connected*. This book is valuable because it allows readers to further their understanding of secular Armenians and the ideological differences amongst the community. Readers of her book would also recognize the significance of studying geography and its importance in history and revolutions.

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