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**Armenian's "National"  
and the "State" Symbols**

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## An Introduction to ATINER's Conference Paper Series

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**Armenian's "National" and the "State" Symbols**

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There are many definitions for symbols. Symbol in Greek / sybolon/ means sign, philosophy category which includes all elements of human culture and do communication function [4,p1]. The symbol is expressed by way of sings, pictures, legends etc. [4, p 2]

According E. Kasseri the symbols are classified in five groups.

- The symbol- idea include the basics of political program publicity ads and slogans and neologism presented in the political leaders written and verbal speeches [4,p1]. The symbol- idea acts as a territorial function.
- Symbol-act- Symbol-act are meetings parades, culture events, party meetings, i.e. This symbols are considered unifying acts.
- Object- symbols are material symbols and they represent emblems, flags, buildings, monuments and etc. [4, p 3]:  
The object-symbols are considered identifying function and are present in different governmental circles, /the emblem and the flag in state level, Mount Ararat for Armenian national level, pomegranate, eagle, hammer, sickle, in party level/ [4,p 51].
- Symbol- person can be political leaders, party leaders, renowned persons, who support this or that power, also they can be simple people who sport any of the leaders. For that symbol- person is considered in image[4,p 2]. An organization or a person becomes a symbol only when he acquires image status.
- Sound- symbols are considered anthems, the parties or the leaders musical slogan[4,p2]. The sound symbols can be the national songs and musical creations, which in certain case and as a result have become symbols. Musical creations become symbols when they acquire additional meaning.

Color tones: Judging from our state and national symbol, it is clear that the basic colures are the tricolors [4, p 2].

The “national” and the “state” symbols concepts are very identified us one often. However there are many definitions of the “symbol”, but the “national” symbol concept has no lucid definition. Consequently, to begin with we have to go into the question whether “national” and “state” symbol concepts are the same by their form and contents, whether there is typology and what sacrament have the “national” and the “state” symbols of Republic of Armenia/ from now on RA/. There are some essential questions to be answered.

Any political culture has it's own sate symbols, which are implemented during political actions.

For Armenians the state symbol has in the narrow sense of the word, a more general unifying character which has grouped and united us. And what concerns the meaning of the national symbol, this is understood by each person in his own way.  
Ethnographer

The “state” symbols come out as with the realization of the political governance elements. The state flag, the emblem and the anthem of the state symbols of RA are affirmed by the 13-th article of the constitution of the Republic of Armenia. And the “national” symbols of RA are not affirmed by the law and haven’t lucid typology. So by the help of the sociological research we will find out what the “national” symbols of RA are, how to characterize them according to the form and the contents and we will describe the content of the “state” symbols of RA.

Respecting the state symbols means respecting state and national values.  
Political figure

Having the goal of studying the above-mentioned tasks, as the method of “expert has been adopted. In this case the experts included the views of sociologists, historians, politicians and ethnographers. Twelve expert interviews have been conducted.

By summarizing the results of expert interviews we came to the following conclusions: “state” symbols and the “national” symbols of RA has very high values for the majority of the Armenians.

The “state” symbols of RA have initially been the “national” symbols by their nature. But later they acquired a quality which differs from the other symbols and which were affirmed as “state” symbols. The “state” symbol concept has an international nature, it fulfills the function of unification and flows out from the national peculiarities of the given country, and the “national” symbols are adopted by the nation. As per expert’s opinion the “state” symbols are both national (the flag, the emblem, the anthem) and international.



The Flag of the Republic of Armenia is one of the state symbols. It is tri-color, red, blue and orange horizontal equal stripes from top to bottom. The red color symbolizes the blood of the Armenian people shed during the fight for there freedom. The blue color symbolizes the will of the Armenian people to live peacefully under a blue sky. The orange color symbolizes the creative talent and diligence of the Armenian people. The ratio of the width and length of the flag are 1:2. Foreseen by this present passage, by the preservation of the ratio of the flag of RA a smaller or larger flag can also be used [1,p 1].

- ✓ The Use of the flag of the Republic of Armenia
- The flag of RA is always on display on buildings of the RA
- Residence of the President of RA,
- National Assembly of t RA,
- Government of RA,
- Constitutional Court of RA,
- Courts of RA,
- Prosecutor’s Office of RA,
- Human Rights Defender,
- Central Bank of RA,
- Executive Bodies of RA,
- Other Bodies of the State Government,
- Constantly Functioning Bodies (services, councils, committees,) created by the Law of RA, Territorial Management and Local Self-Government Bodies (including the building of the Municipality of Yerevan) of RA [1,p 1].

Our state flag as well as the other state symbols, the emblem and the hymen are our passports and the first document which we must be presented to the world and these are or lady created and can not to be changed.

Sociologist

The flag of RA, in compliance with the international rights and norms, diplomacy protocols and the traditions of the receiving states, shall constantly be hoisted in display on the buildings of Diplomatic Service Bodies (Embassies, representatives, consular institutions) in RA and on other state representative buildings of RA.

The flag of RA is hoisted during the opening ceremonies of official championships and lowered during the closing ceremonies.

The flag of RA is always located in the halls used for official, working and solemn

ceremonies, in the halls of the Residence of the President of RA, National Assembly of RA, Government of RA, in the court rooms of the judicial meetings of the courts of RA and the meeting halls of the Central Electoral Committee of RA.

The flag of RA is located in one of the halls or lobbies of the Residence of the President of RA, President of the National Assembly of RA, and other bodies of the National Assembly of RA, Prime Minister of RA, President of the Constitutional Court of RA, Head of the Staff of the President of RA, Head of the Staff of the Government of RA, Head of the Staff of the National Assembly of RA, Chairman of the Central Bank of RA, President of the Control Chamber of RA, Human Rights Defender, Republican Executive Bodies, authorities of other bodies of state governance, heads of the functioning bodies, created by law of RA (services, councils, committees,) judges, prosecutors of RA, authorities of the Territorial Management and Local Self-Government Bodies (including the building of the Municipality of Yerevan,) in the offices of the authorities of diplomatic service bodies of RA located in the territories of foreign states (representatives of Embassies, consulate institutions) and governing authorities in one of the halls or lobbies of the educational institutions.

The flag of RA, according to the state protocol ceremonies, can be attached on the vehicles of the President of RA, on the vehicles of the President of the National Assembly of RA, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Minister of Foreign Affairs of RA only during the visits of the foreign delegations, as well as according to the protocol of the receiving countries the flag of RA can be attached on the vehicles of the authorities of the official delegations and diplomatic bodies and regular representatives of RA.

During swearing a solemn of persons for constitutional posts, or other persons, defined by the law of RA is performed under the flag of RA.

✓ The Hoisting, Lowering and Transferring of the Flag of the Republic of Armenia  
The protocol of hoisting, lowering and transferring of the flag of RA is defined by the Government of RA. The flag of RA is lowered during officially declared mourning days or mourning ceremonies. The flag is lowered to the middle of the flagstaff. Black ribbon is attached above the flag, the length of which is equal with the length of the flag[1,p 3].

✓ The Use of the Flag of the Republic of Armenia during the Mourning Ceremonies  
In the cases defined by the Government of RA, during funeral services aiming to pay military tribute to a deceased citizen, the body and the coffin of the deceased are covered with the flag of RA. Before burial, the flag of RA is presented to the relatives of the dead[1,p 3].

✓ The Use of the Flag of the Republic of Armenia with the Flag of a Foreign State in the Territory of the Republic of Armenia

When it is necessary to hoist the flag of RA at the same time with the flag of a foreign State in the territory of RA, the flag of RA should be raised from the left side of the building (as viewed facing the building.) While at the same time some odd numbered flags are hoisted the flag of RA should be hoisted in the middle of them.

If even numbered flags (more than two) are raised, the flag of RA should be raised left from the middle.

In case the flag of RA is at the same time raised with the flags of the foreign countries the ratio of the flags of other countries should not be larger than the flag of RA [1,p 4].

✓ The Requirements of the Flag of the Republic of Armenia



The raised flag of RA should be a complete one, clean and not pale and the bottom of the flag should be raised from the ground not less than 2.5 meters.

The ratio of the length of the flag to the flag staff should not be less than 1: 1,7.

In case the flag of RA is hung perpendicularly it should be turned 90 degrees in counter clockwise so that when facing the flag, the sequence of colure of red, blue and orange is to be not broken from left to right.

By the defined order of this law the standing flag of RA should be illuminated at night after sunset [1,p 4].

✓ Imitation of the Flag of the Republic of Armenia

The flags of the NGOs and institutions of RA should differ from the flag of the RA.

✓ The Use of the Flag of the Republic of Armenia by the Armed Forces and Other Troops

The flag of RA is raised at the locations of the state government body, affirmed by the Government of RA, military units, Armed Forces of RA and separate subdivisions of other troops, as well as locations of other troops during ceremonies and official events, i.e. military parade, oath of allegiance, holiday events and other special events [1,p 4].

According to the statutes of the armed forces of RA, in the foreseen cases, while taking out the fighting flag of the military, unit the flag of RA is also taken out.

The order for taking out and locating the flag of RA at the same time with the fighting flag of the military unit is defined by the Government of RA.



The next “state” symbols of RA is the Coat of Arms. The law “For the State Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia” was adopted on April 19, 1992, by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia. It is a reestablishment of the Coat of Arms of the First Armenian Republic (1918-1920), which was designed by the member of the Russian Academy of Fine Arts, Architect Alexander Tasmanian and artist Jacob Conjoin [2,p1].

Following the constitutional reform of November 27, 2005, a new Republic of Armenia law for the State Coat of Arms of RA was adopted on June 15, 2006. The Coat of Arms of RA is a national emblem of RA. The Coat of Arms of RA is as follows: On a shield, positioned in the center, Mount Ararat is represented with Noah's Arch and the coats of arms of the four royal dynasties of the historical Armenia: from top to left - that of the Bargratunides, from top to right - that of the Arshakounides, from bottom to left - that of Artashesides, from bottom to right - that of the Rubenides. The shield is upheld by an eagle (on the left) and lion (on the right). There is a sword, as well as a branch of a tree, a bundle of spikes /fertility of our Motherland/, a chain /chain of slavery, which the Armenian people have since broken it / and a ribbon pictured below the shield. Golden is the main color of the Coat of Arms of RA. The colors of the kingdoms of the historical Armenia are as follows: from top to left -red, from top to right- blue, from bottom to left-blue, from bottom to right- ed, with orange-painted Mount Ararat positioned in the center on a shield. The foregoing colors emblemize the colors of the national flag of RA [2,p 1].

✓ The Imitation of the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia

The coats of arms of the NGOs of RA, the symbols of the organizations as well as other symbols and coats of arms should differ from the coat of arms of RA [2,p 1].

✓ The Use of the Image of the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia

The colored image of the RA is used according the laws of RA, on the decrees and orders of the President of RA, on the decisions of the National Assembly of RA,

Government of RA, Prime Minister of RA, Constitutional Court of RA, on the decisions, decrees and judgments of the courts of RA, on the official accounts of RA, on the formal papers of the President of RA, National Assembly of RA, Government of RA, Prime Minister of RA, republican executive bodies, courts of RA, Prosecutor's Office bodies, Central Bank of RA, Control Center of RA, State Government other bodies, Defender of Human Rights, Territorial management and Local self Government bodies (also Yerevan Municipality,) and the standing bodies (services, councils, committees) set up by a law of RA [2,p 2].

A single color image of the coat of arms of RA is used on the passports of the citizens of RA or on other identification documents, on the seals and formal papers of state government and local self government other bodies of RA. The right of using the image of the coat of arms of RA is reserved by the legislation of RA [2,p 2].

✓ Location of the Image of the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia

The image of the coat of arms of RA is always located in the offices of the President of RA, President of the National Assembly of RA, Prime Minister RA, President of the Constitutional Court of RA, Head of the Staff of the President of RA, Head of the Staff of the National Assembly of RA, Head of the Staff of the Government of RA, Chairman of the Central Bank of RA, President of the Control Chamber of RA, Human Rights Defender, Republican Executive Bodies, authorities of other bodies of state governance, authorities of standing bodies (services, councils, committees,) established by the law of RA, judges and Prosecutors of RA, authorities (also Yerevan Mayor) of territorial government and local self government bodies, in the sitting hall of the National Assembly of RA, in the sitting hall of the Government of RA, in the court-rooms of the courts of RA, in the halls and on the buildings of state civil registration offices, on the buildings of the residence of the President of RA, the National Assembly of RA, the Constitutional Court of RA, the Government of RA, the prosecutor bodies of RA, the Central Bank of RA, the Human Rights Defender, the republican executive bodies, other bodies of state government, Territorial management and local self government bodies of RA (also Yerevan mayor,) and on the building of the notaries, on the buildings and in the offices of the authorities of diplomatic service bodies (representative embassies, consulate institutions,) on the buildings of other official representative offices of RA in the territory of foreign countries and in the offices of their authorities, in the halls or one of the parlours of the educational institutions and in the official internet sites of RA [2,p 3].

The image of the coat of arms of RA is also located on the main border signs, as well as in the pass control points of RA.

Besides the cases, foreseen by this law, the cases of the usage of the image of the coat of arms of RA is defined by the Government of RA.

✓ The Use of the Image of the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia in the Territory of the Republic of Armenia with a Coat of Arms of a Foreign Country

In case the coat of arms of RA is at the same time located with the coat of arms of the foreign countries in the territory of RA, the ratio of the state coats of arms of other countries should not be larger than the coat of arms of RA.

In case the coat of arms of RA is at the same time located with the coat of arms of the foreign countries, the coat of arms of RA should not be located lower than the coat of arms of the foreign country.

When it is necessary to display the coat of arms of RA at the same time with the coat of arms of a foreign State in the territory of RA coat of arms of RA should be located from the left side of the building (as viewed facing the building.) While at the

same time some odd numbered coat of arms are displayed together, the coat of arms of RA should be located in the middle of them. If even numbered flags (more than two) are displayed, the coat of arms of RA should be located left from the middle [2,p 4].

✓ The Use of the Image of the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia by the Armed Forces and other Troops of the Republic of Armenia

The coat of arms of RA may be displayed on the flags of the armed forces of RA, border troops of the national security service, adjunct to the Government of RA, on the distinguishing badges of police troops of RA, criminal executive servants of the Ministry of Justice of RA, militaries and the ranks and authority staff of the police of RA [2,p 4].

✓ The Use of the Image of the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia on the Monetary Units, Orders and Medals

The image of the coat of arms of RA may be displayed on the monetary units, orders and medals of RA [2,p 5].

The anthem is one of the state symbols of the Republic of Armenia. It is named “Our motherland. The law for the State Anthem of RA was adopted on July 1, 1991 by the Supreme Council of RA. The words of it are written by Mikhail Nalbandyan and the music by Barsegh Kanachyan [3,p 1].

“Our Fatherland” we are plantar deep in our hearts, having a new and understanding since the declaration of RA
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Historian

✓ The Anthem of the Republic of Armenia

- The anthem of RA is solemn music, which is performed with the defined order by this law.
- The anthem of RA may be performed as vocal, instrumental, band, chorus and band-chorus versions.
- The anthem of RA should be performed as set out in the appendix of this law, approved by the edited musical version and with compliance to the text [3,p 1].

We have inherited from our grandfathers and it unites all the Armenians.
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Historian

✓ The Performance of the Anthem of the Republic of Armenia

It is obligatory to perform the anthem of R A

- a) During the swearing in ceremony of the President of RA and during the inauguration of the President of RA.
- b) During the official and solemn events participated in by the President of RA, President of the National Assembly of RA and the Prime Minister of RA.
- c) At the Moment of the convocation of the first sitting of the newly elected National Assembly of RA, as well as at the opening and closing ceremony of the regular sessions.
- d) During official events in the territory of RA when the flag of RA is raised.
- e) During state and official visits to RA of the Presidents of foreign countries, heads of legislators, Prime Ministers, official representatives and heads of inter state and inter-governmental organizations, according to the state protocol provisions of RA .
- f) During military parades in the territory of RA, in the military units of the armed forces and military units of other troops of RA in the morning while hoisting the flag of RA and in the evening while lowering the flag of RA as well as in other cases, foreseen by the military rule books and statutes.

g) In higher educational institutions in the territory of RA, while announcing the start and the end of the educational year, regardless of ownership of the institution.

h) In all general schools in the territory of RA, regardless of ownership, every Monday, before lessons start.

The Anthem of the Republic of Armenia may be Performed

a) During solemn ceremonies and events conducted by the State Government, local Self Governing bodies of RA, as well as during solemn ceremonies and events conducted by NGOs and other bodies.

b) During the State holidays, solemn sessions and meetings dedicated to historical events.

c) During the solemn ceremonies of opening memorials, memorial stones and memorial boards.

d) In the cases defined by this article the order of the performance of the anthem is defined by the Government of RA [3,p 1].

“ I perform it every day like a prayer. This is not only a patriotic act, but it is the history of the Armenian people, character, fate, soul, spirit and wisdom”.

Culturist

✓ The Use of the Anthem of the Republic of Armenia by the TV and Radio Companies

1. The anthem of RA is broadcasted every day by all the TV and Radio stations, functioning in the territory of RA, regardless of the form of ownership

a) Before and during the end of broadcasting.

b) At 6,00 am and 12 am, in case of 24 hours of broadcasting

c) On New Year's eve, after the clock of the Republic Square of Yerevan beats 12:00 midnight.

2. The performances of the anthem of RA may be recorded and transmitted by audio and video recordings for the broadcast media [3,p 2].

✓ The Use of the Anthem of the Republic of Armenia in the Territory of the RA during the Sports Events

The anthem of RA is performed during the opening and closing ceremonies of pan state sport official events of international official competitions and tournaments taking place in the territory of RA, and when the competitions and tournaments are taking place out of the territory of RA the anthem is performed according to the legislation of the relevant country [3,p 3].

✓ The Use of the Music of the Anthem of the Republic of Armenia

Besides the cases of the usage of the music of the anthem of RA are defined by the Government of RA [3,p 3].

✓ The Use of the Anthem of the Republic of Armenia During the Events Taking Place in the Territory of Foreign Countries

By the participation of state or other official delegation of RA during the official and solemn ceremonies and events, the anthem of RA is performed according to the protocol provisions of RA and the legislation of the relevant foreign country [3,p 3].

✓ Protocols During the Performance of the Anthem of the Republic of Armenia

1. During the performance of the anthem of RA all should stand up; if there is flag, they should face it and during the official ceremonies according to the state protocol provisions of RA, men should be without a hat.

2. Demands to the armed forces and military servants of other troops during the performance of the anthem of RA are defined by the military book of rules and statutes.
3. Deep respect towards the anthem of RA is the solemn duty of each citizen[3,p 3].

## STATE ANTHEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

“Our Fatherland”

(Lyrics by Mikhail Nalbandyan)

Our Fatherland, free, independent, That has lived for centuries, Is now summoning its sons To the free, independent Armenia.

Here is a flag for you my brother, That I have sewed Over the sleepless nights, And bathed in my tears.

Look at it, tri- colored, A valuable symbol for us. Let it shine against the enemy. Let Armenia be glorious forever.

Death is the same everywhere, A man dies but once, Blessed is the one that dies For the freedom of his nation[3,p 4]

The “national” symbols of Republic of Armenia are:



1. Lavash(Armenian bread)- symbolizes cleanness, fertility \during wedding ceremonies Mather of the groom puts a Lavash on the bride’s shoulder as a sign for fertility, longevity of life\. Lavash is made from wheat groom in the Armenian farms.



2. An apricot- It has been proved that the origin of this fruit is Armenia, symbolizes the Armenian people’s balsam and the heat of the sun rays of Armenia,



3. Duduk- is a wind instrument made from apricot wood. It has been said, it’s music soothes the soul. It is among the oldest Armenian instrument. It fully expresses the emotions of the Armenian people. You may have heard about our famous dudukist Jivan Gasparyan.



4. The mountain Ararat- symbolizes the symbol of the peace of Armenian people.

5. Lake Sevan- symbolizes simplicity of Armenian people, because it's water is clear as blue as the color of sky



6. Mount Aragatz- with its four peaks symbolizes unity of Armenian people

7. Church- symbolizes glory of God and faith. Armenia is the first country in the world which adopted Christianity, as official religion in 301.



8. Khachkar /commemorative cross stone /- symbolizes Christ's glorious resurrection, which is only made by Armenians.

The ethnographers think that RA national symbols must be:

- accessible and easily understood
- meaningful
- represent the nation and its national culture
- symbolize the nation's passed path.

1. The law “For the Flag of the Republic of Armenia” was adopted on June 15, 2006,
2. The law “For the State Coat of Arms of the Republic of Armenia” was adopted on June 15, 2006,
3. The law “For the State Anthem of the Republic of Armenia” was adopted on June 15, 2006,
4. Political ritual as a social-psychological phenomenon [in Russian], M., 1994.