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Word Count: 758

Directly Involving the Diaspora with Armenia

Whether it is a war for religion or land, war has consistently left a lasting impact on Armenia across centuries. Armenia, a small country landlocked by Turkey, Iran, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, was recently defending Artsakh against attacks from Azerbaijan and Turkey. In the autumn of 2020, thousands of Armenians in Artsakh were fighting for both their homes and lives. Lives were destroyed as droves of people were left without jobs and homes, and until they receive focused attention, these Armenians will remain in this crisis. Therefore, the only hope to rebuild Armenia is to directly involve the diaspora in Armenia through education, investment, and repatriation.

The most prevalent language in the world is English, so most people living in foreign countries speak or understand the language, even if it is not their native one. If English becomes the second official language of Armenia, Armenians will be more likely to participate in world trade and will be able to communicate easier with the western nations. English is the dominant language in the United States, so Armenian-Americans are in an excellent position to teach English to Armenians in the Republic of Armenia. For example, there is a new program through the Hidden Road Initiative (HRI) that allows people who are fluent in English and living in the diaspora to virtually teach English to students living in small villages in Armenia. These HRI volunteers live all around the world, from the United States to Australia, France, and Lebanon. This program is in the beginning stages, but has the capability to grow so that there is more participation between Armenian children in Armenia as well as its program volunteers from around the world. To grow the HRI English tutoring initiative, Armenian schools in the diaspora

can expand this program by incorporating it into their school's curriculum. With more people in Armenia fluent in English, all Armenians will be able to engage in world affairs. This would build a stronger relationship between Armenia and the US, providing a stronger platform for educating the world about Armenia.

The diaspora investing in Armenia's growing technology industry will help create jobs, and therefore, contribute to strengthening the economy. For instance, Armenian company Zark is involving the diaspora with Armenia. Using the credit card the company provides will allow the user to automatically donate five or ten percent of their purchase to Stand with Armenia, another tech organization that encourages research and development in the country. With such investments, the tech job industry will expand the tech sector, which has grown by 20.6% (Kocharyan. 9, 2021). By diversifying the economy, the country will create economic stability by making the economy less dependent on other sectors. This growth of the economy will gradually strengthen Armenia. By allowing the diaspora to directly contribute to Armenia through similar investment programs, the country can rebuild at a faster rate than if there was no foreign involvement.

By encouraging repatriation, Armenians from the diaspora can bring their expertise to Armenia and train the citizens there. For example, if a physician from the diaspora moves to Armenia, they can train the existing professionals in the country to become more skilled in their field. Repatriation will also contribute to the economy by expanding the population that utilizes the services the country provides. For instance, if a person moves to a new country, they will have to buy clothes that may not have been purchased if they were not living there. Therefore, Armenia's economy will strengthen as people support local businesses and bring their knowledge abroad. Furthermore, the diaspora needs to contribute to many sectors in which they

have expertise, as this can be seen in organizations such as Eternal Nation. Eternal Nation provides a space for diasporans to work in clinics and help injured Armenians. In addition to donating money, diasporans should donate their time. They can physically support organizations such as Eternal Nation. Clearly, diasporans can strengthen the economy in many ways. They can bring their expertise with them, fund local businesses, and volunteer for organizations.

The diaspora's involvement with Armenia is crucial in helping rebuild the country by teaching the Armenian citizens English, creating economic stability, and contributing to the economy through repatriation. Teaching the citizens English will grow the country because Armenians will have the opportunity to participate in worldwide events. Investing in the tech industry will further create economic stability by making the economy less dependent on other industries. Lastly, repatriation will force people to buy local products while sharing and bringing their knowledge and skills to the country.

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