

The Kurdistan Regional Government and the Rewriting of Kurdish History

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After the creation of the Kurdish region in northern Iraq in 1992, but more aggressively after 2003, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) began to send Kurdish students to various European and American universities to specialize in political science, history and archeology. The Kurdish leaders initiated a monumental campaign to rewrite the vague Kurdish history.

The KRG also hired certain obscured or wishy-washy professors to teach in the new universities that were opened in the Kurdish region and paid them handsomely to be part of the campaign effort to rewrite that Kurdish history.

If we carefully inspect the publications of most of these so-called professionals, we will see that they use vague language and expressions that can be interpreted in very different ways or use indefinite adjectives, like may be, few, many, perhaps, etc. in their effort to convince the readers with the new narrative they are providing.

Prof. Ferdinand Hennerbichler, who taught in Sulaimaniya University in northern Iraq Kurdish region, for example, published a book titled, *The History of the Kurds*. In it, he tried to get away from the previous theory that links the Kurds to the Medes. He rather pushed the alternative agenda that Kurds and ancient Sumerians were related. This new theory was used also by Soran Hamarash later where he said Kurds do not descend from the ancient Sumerians, rather it was the other way around, meaning, the ancient Sumerians descended from the Kurds.

Prof. Hennerbichler uses vague language in his book as he tries to sell the readers this new theory about ancient Sumerian-Kurds connection. He uses the term Ummān-manda in his wild attempt. Umman-Manda is an Akkadian term meaning '**the horde from who knows where**'. It was a term used in the early second and first millennia BC for a **poorly** known people in the Ancient Near East who have been **identified in different contexts** as Hurrians, Elamites, Medes, Cimmerians and Scythians. The homeland of Umman Manda **seems to be** somewhere from Central Anatolia to north or northeastern Babylonia, **possibly** in what later came to be known as Mitanni, Mannae or Media.

As we see, there are too many indefinite adjectives here. A theory that is built around a word, Umman Manda that is known to mean a group of people whose origin is **poorly known** as they **seem to be from somewhere** in this world, **identified in different context** and **possibly** in a specific location, is not a scholarly work. Hennerbichler is confusing and misleading his readers.

It is for this reason that the work of such professional is not substantiated by the scholarly world. It is no wonder that Hennerbichler published his aforementioned book in a print shop in Germany and Hamarash published his with a local publisher in Sulaimaniya, Iraq.