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THE POWER OF THE PRESS: THE TRANSGENERATIONAL IMPACT OF THE FRENCH-ARMENIAN NEWSPAPER HARATCH (1925-2009)

Kulcsszavak: Newspaper, Media, Haratch, Diaspora, Armenians

Media play a crucial role in maintaining the cultural identity and political engagement of diaspora communities. Through the dissemination of news, cultural content, and political discourse, media help bridge the geographical divide, providing a platform for diasporic groups to stay connected with their homeland and each other.

The Armenian diaspora in France is one of the most influential diaspora communities in Europe. The French Armenian community has existed for a long time in France, maintaining Armenian culture and political engagement through various means. Among these factors one is the Armenian newspaper Haratch (1925-2009), which stands as an important platform which preserving Armenian heritage and identity. It preserves Armenian culture, connects with political discussions, and serves as an educational platform. The thesis examines how newspapers impact Diasporas, focusing on a case study of the Armenian diaspora in France through the newspaper Haratch. It is important to acknowledge that there are numerous scholarly books examining the influence of newspapers on societies, research on their effect in diaspora contexts remains limited. The research focuses on understanding these dynamics, particularly through a case study of the Armenian diaspora. Therefore my research question how the diaspora newspaper Haratch preserved Armenian community in France that has not assimilated as other Armenian communities in Europe and what was its role. To this end, the thesis analyzes how the newspaper has supported the preservation of the Armenian language, traditions, and heritage in France. I argue that many factors have played a role in Armenians maintaining their identity, and one of the factors is the newspaper Haratch, which has an 84-year history in France and experienced exceptional longevity. There is a lot of evidence that Haratch was popular among Armenians, one of which is the number and the frequency of publication. Haratch was a daily newspaper, publishing more than 22,000 pages. Given these numbers and frequencies, it is quite obvious that the newspaper was very popular among Armenians