



Preamble and Focus

Ethnic affinity, with all its related elements and characteristics, is an important component of an Armenian's identity. Sociologists may argue that a person's identity is dynamic; it is a feeling and a perception that can change through time and in different circumstances. However, they too admit that in the construct of a person's identity, ethnicity is rather fixed, or at least, more rigid and less susceptible to change. As a trend in the ongoing globalization of the modern world today, some have argued against ethnicity being a universal phenomenon, even "irrelevant in several situations."¹ Aside from the

¹ Algis Prazauskas, "Ethnic Identity, Historical Memory, and Nationalism in Post-Soviet States," Center for Studies of Social Change Working Paper (March 1995), *Columbia International Affairs Online*, <http://www.ciaonet.org>. Accessed August 30, 2006.