

საქართველოს ურთიერთობა აღმოსავლეთ ევროპასთან ანტიკური ხანიდან დღემდე

ბერაძე თამაზ
საქართველოს უნივერსიტეტი

საქართველო აღმოსავლეთ ევროპას ძირითადად შავი ზღვით ესაზღვრება, რომელიც მას საუკუნეთა მანძილზე აღმოსავლეთ ევროპის ქვეყნებთან უფრო აახლოებდა ვიდრე გამოყოფდა.

საქართველო აღმოსავლეთ ევროპას თავდაპირველად შავი-ზღვისპირეთის ბერძნული კოლონიების შემდეგ კი რომაული ქალაქების მეშვეობით უკავშირდებოდა. VI-XII საუკუნეებში საქართველოს გზა აღმოსავლეთ ევროპისაკენ ძირითადად ბიზანტიის იმპერიაზე გადიოდა. VIII-XII საუკუნეებში საქართველო აღმოსავლეთ ევროპის ქვეყნებს “ვარიაგებიდან საბერძნეთამდე” სავაჭრო გზითაც უკავშირდებოდა.

XV-XVIII საუკუნეებში საქართველოს აღმოსავლეთ ევროპის ქვეყნებიდან ყველაზე მჭიდრო ურთიერთობა რუმინეთთან, უნგრეთთან და პოლონეთთან ჰქონდა.

XIX საუკუნიდან საქართველოს ურთიერთობა აღმოსავლეთ ევროპის ქვეყნებთან კიდევ უფრო გაცხოველდა. განსაკუთრებით, საბჭოთა კავშირისა და სოციალისტური ბანაკის დაშლის შემდეგ. სამწუხაროდ, აღმოსავლეთ ევროპის ქვეყნების ევროკავშირში გაერთიანებამ თავისებური ხავერდოვანი ფარდა ჩამოუშვა საქართველოსა და აღმოსავლეთ ევროპის ქვეყნებს შორის.

Georgia-East Europe Relations since Ancient Times until Now

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Georgia borders with Eastern Europe via Black Sea, thus connecting these two regions rather than separating them. It's not surprising that Georgia has at least forty centuries history of relations with Eastern Europe.

According to archaeological materials, on the merger of II-I millennia BC, Georgia was crossed by commercial transit road which connected Eastern European tribes with Egypt and Syria through the Northern Caucasus (Лордкиფანიძე О. & Мусхелишვილი, Д. 1970, pp. 1-3). In the same epoch, first contacts of Georgia with Eastern Europe via the Black Sea are proved.

Georgian relations with Eastern Europe through the Black Sea had especially intensified since VIII-VI centuries BC, when the shores of the Black and the Azov Seas were webbed with Greek colonies and outposts. The first Greek settlements of this time: Apollonia (Sozipol, Bulgaria), Messembria (Nesembre, Bulgaria), Odessa (Varna, Bulgaria), Toma (Konstanza, Romania), Tyra (Belgorod, Ukraine), Pitiunt (Bichvinta, Georgia), Dioscuria (Sukhumi, Georgia), Gienos (Ochamchire, Georgia), Phases (Poti, Georgia), became the links connecting the countries across the Black Sea coast. All through the Antique epoch, Georgia had tight commercial, economic relations with Western/North coasts of the Black Sea and other Eastern European countries bordering them. These relations were stimulated by the fact that in the first century AD, the entire Black Sea region was incorporated in the Roman Empire.

In the VI-XI cc., the most part of the Black Sea basin was in the frames of Byzantium and this was quite beneficial for Georgia's relations with the East European countries.

In the VIII-XI AD, Georgia kept its links with the Eastern Europe countries thanks to the so-called "Rout of Variags to the Greece", dealing even with far Scandinavia and the Baltic states. X century coins of Georgian King David Kurapalat, excavated in modern Estonia and Poland, works as a solid proof for this (დუბდუა, თოდუა, 2006, pp. 188-190).

The main direction of this route passed through the Baltic Sea, the Western Dvina River (Daugava) and the river Dnepr, with the state of Kiev Russia on its middle and Southern parts. In the X-XII cc, Georgia maintained both political and commercial-economic relations with this kingdom. According to Russian chronicles, in 1153-1154, the great Prince of Kiev, Iziaslav, married the daughter of Georgian king Demetre I (1125-1156) (ცონცაძე, 1956, pp. 172-178). It's noteworthy that "Book of Holy Fathers" of Kiev Cave Monastery tells us that mosaic stones for the main cathedral of this complex were transported from Georgia (ცონცაძე, 1962, pp.12-19).

In the XI-XIV cc, Georgia had especially intensive cultural and economic relations with Bulgaria. Near the city of Plovdiv, the outstanding Georgian-born military and political figure of Byzantium, Grigol Bakuriani founded special Abbey for Georgian monks. This abbey is now known as Bochkovo and is the second largest in Bulgaria, after the Ryla Monastery. From the very beginning, Bochkovo became the important center of Georgian and Bulgarian culture. As a peculiarly Georgian monastery, it functioned until XV century, and was under the patronage of Bulgarian kings – especially King Ivan Asen II (1218-1241), and Ivan Alexander (1331-1371). After the Ottoman invasion in the beginning of the XV century, the Georgian monastery was ruined and then rebuilt as Bulgarian one. Nowadays the Bulgarian monks respect the memory of their predecessor Georgian Holy Fathers. The dome is still crowned with scripted Georgian cross and the monastery keeps the Icon of Holy Mother of 1311 with the Georgian scripture on it (ჩავჭავჭავაძე, 1980, pp. 84-87).

In the historical sources, the relations of Georgia with Hungary are proved from the XIII c., from the time of the 5-th crusade, in which the king of Hungary, Andras II also participated. The king of Georgia, Giorgi IV Lasha, also planned to take part in this event and thus Georgia and Hungary established diplomatic relations in the first decade

of the XIII c. Afterwards, 1235, king of Hungary, Bela IV sent special mission to the East, headed by the monk Julian. From the Constantinople, this mission took way to the Northern Caucasus and bypassed Georgia from the North (ჭარდო, 1968, pp. 6-7).

After the great Mongol conquests, interest of the Catholic Church for Eastern Christian countries increased greatly; In 1318, Pope of Rome founded Catholic Archbishopate in the capital city of the Mongol Kingdom of the Ilkhans – Sultanye, and then it moved the Episcopate from Smyrna to Tbilisi. Also, Catholic monks in Georgia were mostly Hungarians, as it is said in the chapter 38 of the voyage log (1253-1255) of the envoy of Louis IX king of France to the Orient, Guillome Rubruckvis: “In the town of Nakhichevan, there came to me a Dominican monk, padre Bernard Catalani, who was the Prior of the Holy Grave Order in Georgia, that possesses vast lands there... Then he went to a Hungarian padre who lives in Tabriz... the one that traveled with me to Tbilisi, accompanied by a servant”. Before that, in the chapter 30, he describes a Resurrection Day feast in Karakorum, carried by the Georgians, the Russians and the Hungarians together (რუმბრუკვისი, 1942, pp. 128-173).

In the second half of the XIII c., the so-called “Italian Colonization” started in the Black Sea basin, and mostly Genovese factories were founded there, among them in Georgia Tskhumi (Modern Sokhumi) proper. These factories pushed the trading-economic relationships, and as it came clear, in the XIII-XV centuries Georgia held close contacts with Eastern countries around the Black Sea. Georgian merchants and traders settled in Crimea, in Kafa (modern Theodosia) alongside with Italians and Hungarians (Берадзе, 1989, pp. 101-104).

From the second half of the XIV century, the Ottomans threatened most of the kingdoms of the Eastern Europe, and this stimulated their interest towards Georgia. Special notice should be paid to the reign of then king of Hungary, and afterwards - the Emperor of Germany, Jhigmond (1387-1437) who sent several diplomatic missions to the Eastern countries, and we presume that Georgia was not excluded from the list.

During the time of first crusade in Balkan in 1396, King Zhigmond and his allies has been severely defeated near Nikopol, and the Ottomans captured Hungarian officer, someone Johan Shiltberger, and detained him for more than a decade. Getting back home, Shiltberger had to cross Caucasus, and then he published his journal, contributing many pages to Georgia. Thus, it's no surprise, that in Hungary, they held substantial information about Georgia and the Georgians' participation in the Ferrara-Florence Ecclesiastical conference in 1438-1439, was met with great interest.

In May 29, 1453, Constantinople fell and the millennium-time Byzantine Empire ceased to exist. This fact had a great resonance in Europe: Pope Pius II tried to consolidate western and Eastern European countries into a big anti-Ottoman coalition aiming at liberating Constantinople. He initiated representative international conference in Mantua, Italy, that planned to organize crusade against the Turks. The conference was attended by the representatives of leading European states with Hungary and Poland amongst them. The participants were exalted hearing about Georgia's readiness to join the coalition with its 75,000 army and the Hungarians promised to delegate some 40,000 warriors on their behalf.

Pope Pius II sent Lodovico of Bologna as an ambassador to the eastern countries. After the successful diplomatic negotiations, the ambassadors of the Eastern countries – Georgia, Trapezunt Empire, Ak-Koinlu (White Lambs)... gathered in the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi, and moved toward Europe by the land route. They crossed the Northern Caucasus and arrived to Hungary, where they were met with great respect and hospitality by the king Mattias Huniad (1458-1490). “The King of Hungary generously welcomed them and after the negotiations, there emerged the mutual hope of success for this simultaneous endeavor” – writes one of the Hungarian chroniclers (ჭარდი, 1968, pp. 15-23).

In XIII-XV centuries, Georgia communicated with Western Europe primarily by the sea, but there was yet another rout - connecting the country from its Black Sea ports with the main commercial Genoa colony – Kafa and then through Ukraine, Poland and German lands – to Italy. Till 1475, this was the route used by lot of ambassadors to/fro between the Ruler of the White Lambs – Uzun-Hassan and the city-states of Italy (Бераძე, 1989, pp.146-147). In these negotiations, aiming at joint opposition to the Ottomans, actively participated some Georgian principedoms – on one side, and Matias Huniad of Hungary – on the other.

After death of the king of Hungary, this state soon degraded and then lost independence.

In XVI c. Georgia, especially the western part of it, suffered from the Ottoman invasions and the ambassadors of several Georgian Principedoms and the Hungarians, used to hold meetings in Istambul. Thus, it is no surprise, that there are a lot of interesting historical documents kept in Hungary, concerning Georgia in the first half of XVI century (ჭარდი, 1968, pp. 33-155).

Georgian-Hungarian relationships never seized even after Hungary lost it's independence. From this perspective, it is very interesting to survey the heritage of an Austrian diplomat Peter Bedick, who had been bestowed the title of Hungarian count for his successful diplomatic efforts. Peter Bedick more then once traveled to Iran through Georgia. He wrote a volume of memoirs about his first diplomatic mission, stressing the theme of Georgia and the Georgians dwelling at the court of the Shah of Iran. He emphasizes meeting with the King of Kakheti – Erekle I, whose letter to mother the above-mentioned Austrian diplomat burdened himself to carry to Moscow (ჭარდი, 1968, *უნგრეთ-საქართველოს ურთიერთობის ისტორიიდან*. pp. 10-12).

In XV-XVI cc. most of Eastern European kingdoms lost their independence. The entire Black Sea basin was under the Ottoman control. As for the other Eastern European countries, they were incorporated into the so-called Holy Roman Empire – to be more precise, in the Austrian Empire. Naturally, all these minimized the interrelations between Georgia and the East Europe, at least on the state level.

After the fall of Constantinople, the Black Sea became a “locked lake” of the Ottomans, but this did not affect on Georgia's trade activities with surrounding countries. In XVI-XVIII cc., trading ships regularly crossed the waters between seaports of Georgia, Kafa, Varna and Burgos (Бераძე, 1989, pp. 75-77).

Along with commercial-economic relations, in XVI-XVIII centuries Georgia was also connected with political entities on the Western Black Sea coast with cultural-re-

ligious identity. The vivid example of this is the history of establishing first printing-house in Georgia (Ватеишвили, 2003, pp. 75-77).

The first Georgian printed book was produced in 1629, in Italy, Rome.

Approximately 6 decades after, the initiator of establishing Georgian printing house was King Archil – then reigning in Imerety. He commissioned a well-known specialist, Hungarian-Vlakh Miklosh Kish, of Transilvania origin, to prepare Georgian fonts in Amsterdam. The fonts were ready for 1687, but it was impossible to transfer appropriate sum of money and by that time, delivering fonts to Georgia and establishing the printing house has failed.

Actually the first printing house in Georgia was established by Vakhtang VI, the king of Kartli. For this, he contacted the Gospodar of Vlakhia - Ioan-Konstantin II Brinkovianu (1688-1714) and this step was no accidental choice. In that period of time, in the Vlakhia principedom, there lived a well-known ecclesiastical figure – Antimoz of Iveria. It's clear even by his nickname, that Antimoz was of Georgian origin, born approximately in 1750 and his mundane name was Andria. Kidnapped from Georgia at the age of sixteen, he then was ransomed by the Patriarch of Jerusalem and was given the best education for the time. Antimoz learned several European and Oriental languages and soon became prominent man of letters throughout the whole eastern Christendom.

In the beginning of the XVIII century, he was invited by the Gospodar of Vlakhia and in 1708 was appointed as Metropolitan of Vlakhia. Since then, he travailed for the renaissance of the Romanian National culture. It was he who substituted the Greek language with Romanian in the liturgies; He established four printing houses in Vlakhia and printed books on Romanian, Greek, Arabic, Turkish, and Old Slavic Languages. He published several original works too, with his own illustrations and miniatures. In Bucharest, he built big Abbey, the portal and windows of which were of his own design. In the ornaments, he used Georgian and Romanian motives, and these ornaments are considered as the best examples of wood engraving until now.

Antimoz of Iveria Lived in Vlakhia for 10 years and became one of the leaders of Romanian Peoples' struggle for independence. In 1715, anti-Romanian Party of the Fanariots seized the power in Vlakhia. The new Gospodar – Nikolaos II Mavrocordat ousted him for his views. By Gospodar's order, Antomoz was abdicated from the Church, renamed as Andria and given a life sentence to the St. Catherine Cathedral on the mountain of Sina. But on his way to the seclusion, he was killed and his body was thrown into the river waters. On June 21, 1992, the Orthodox Church of Romania proclaimed him a saint and set September 27 as his memorial day (გვინბოძე, 1973, pp. 95-160).

But some time before, Antimoz sent a Hungarian-Vlakhian specialist for book-printing, Mihai Ishtvanovich, to the king of Georgia, Vakhtang VI. Mihai, renamed into Georgian manner – Stephaneshvili, built a printing press in Tbilisi, brought up several high-quality workers and went home in 1711 (მარაშვილი, 1955, pp. 84-94).

One of the kingdoms in East Europe, that managed to maintain its independence, was Poland, named as Rech-Pospolita since 1569.

In 1385, Poland has been united with Lithuania, thus reaching the Black Sea and Georgia as well. The first contacts between Poland and Georgia were established by

then. As it has been noted, there was a route via Ukraine and Poland that connected Georgia to the Eastern European countries. Right by this route joint group of Georgian and Spanish ambassadors marched to Rome and Madrid, carrying letters of Konstantine II, King of Kartli, to the Pope and King of Spain. It comes out that Georgian ambassador held special talks in Poland, as old Russian translation of several Georgian letters are to be found in Polish Archive – Russian being one of the State languages in Poland and Lithuania of that time (ჯონჯაძე, 1965, 11-41).

In XVI-XVII centuries, Georgia traded with Poland via the Black Sea: numerous Polish coins of that time had been found in Georgia. Presumably, silk was carried out to Poland, and amber and all kind of handicraft from Poland and western European countries were taken in (Берадзе, 1989, pp. 132).

In addition, Georgia of that time, already divided into several princedoms, still kept contacts with Cossacks of Zaporojie, as they were considered as subjects to the king of Poland.

The Cossacks' first successful sea raids on Ottomans territories took place in 90-ies of the XVI century. In the beginning of the XVII century, they passed through the Ottomans' and their vassal's – Crimea khanate borders and devastated Ottomans lands in the Black Sea region. The Ottoman ships were systematically attacked and ravished. In a short time, the Cossacks became considerable power in the region and "the Cossacks Problem" played a great role in the foreign policy relations of Ottoman Empire, Poland, and Georgia (ჯონჯაძე, 1965, pp. 50-70).

Political entities of Georgia - primarily sea coast princedoms of Odishi and Guria, as well as Imereti Kingdom, fully assisted the Cossacks in their battles with the Ottomans. We have very interesting notes by a well-known Italian traveler Pietro Della Vale, who visited Persia in the 20-ies of the XVII century: "Georgian Princes of Imereti, Odishi, and Guria heartily welcome the Polish Cossacks living down the Dnepr River, as they are also Christians. As I have found out, these two people are keen to each other. They say that even the King of Poland himself has deep friendship and carries correspondence with these Princes. Also, trading ships are frequently sailing between these two countries. Such a situation may have a great beneficial outcome for Georgians, as the Cossacks dominate on the Black Sea and have a great power. The king of Poland can give a helping hand to Georgians via the Sea – in case of disaster the Georgians may suffer from Persians and Turks" (Della Valle, Pietro, 1627, pp. 10-12).

In the I half of the XVII century, the rulers of Georgia tried to use Cossacks factor on the Black Sea: the prince of Odishi, Levan II Dadiani (1611-1657), designed a special project aiming at exporting silk from Iran and South Caucasian countries to the Western Europe via Georgia, Black Sea, Ukraine, and Poland. Transporting silk through this route would have been at least twice cheaper than by other commercial-transit ways.

To accomplish this goal, Levan Dadiani took several primary steps: he sent his personal ambassador Nikiphore Cholokashvili to Poland and also, started diplomatic negotiations with Western European countries. Unfortunately, in the 50-ies of the XVII century, the Ottomans eventually managed to neutralize "The Cossack Treats" I the Black Sea region, and Levan II's projects ultimately failed (ანბეღავა, 1990, pp. 103-121).

It becomes evident, that in the XVII century, many Georgians lived in Rech-Pospolita and were rather successful at the King's court. One of the vivid examples of this is Bogdan Gurjizki's diplomatic career.

First, rather interesting is a surname – Gurjizki, the polish version of “Gurji” i.e – Georgian. In fact, in every document of the 60-ies of the XVII century, related to his activities, this person is named as Bogdan Gurjizki and he too calls himself Bogdan Gurji (Georgian). We should also mention that all through his diplomatic career, he previously wrote his rapports mainly in Georgian.

Its noteworthy, that Bogdan Gurjizki's original Georgian name is yet unknown; till the end of 40-ies of XVII century, he lived in Georgia and was the subject of the King of Kartli – Rostom. In the second half of 50-ies he moved to Poland, took active part in this country's military campaigns and was promoted as a senior officer. In 1668 the King of Poland, Jan II Kazimir (1648-1668) sent Gurjizki to Suleiman, Shah of Ispahan, as an ambassador, where he successfully accomplished his diplomatic mission (ზედგენიძე, 1983, pp. 40-55). Georgian ambassador of Polish King passed through the Georgia and was welcomed by the King of Kartli, Vakhtang V Shah-Navaz (1658-1675) who gave him a letter to deliver to the Polish king: “King of Kings, and Great Ruler – Shah-Navaz Khan greets You, John Kazimir, wishes You prosperity, lasting peace and success in all Your endeavors. We thank God to know You are in good health – from the letters received from the Great Chancellor of Your kingdom, Great Poland's Lieutenant-general Ioan Lezunski. Your humble servant, officer of Your kingdom – Gurjibeg Danbek came here to renew peace and foster the friendship You maintain with His Majesty King Suleiman... Your envoy passed through our lands without any inconvenience and now he is on his way back to Your Highness” (ქართული დიპლომატიის ისტორია, pp. 334-337).

From the second half of XVII century onwards, Rech-Pospolita began to lose its power – lost Eastern Ukraine and abandoned the Black Sea coast. As a result, the relations between Georgia and Poland failed for a long time.

In 1795, the Kingdom of Poland ceased to exist. A bit later, in the beginning of XIX century, the Russian Empire annexed Georgia; afterwards, most part of Eastern Europe and South Caucasus were divided between Russian and Austrian (later: Austro-Hungarian) empires.

In the XIX century, the Baltic states, as well as big portions of Ukraine and Poland, were also incorporated in Russian Empire; others – in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Thus, Georgia had only scientific-cultural relations with the Eastern Europe countries.

Cultural interrelations between Georgia and Ukraine has been established in 1760, when an eminent Georgian poet Davit Guramishvili (1705-1792) settled in Mirgorod. Before his death, he asked Prince Mirian, the son to the King Erekle the II, to deliver his collection of poems, titled “Davitiani”, to Georgia (ბარამიძე, ასათიანი, ჟგენტო, 1954, 4-8).

The founder of modern Ukrainian literature, Taras Shevchenko, also played a great role in establishing these relations. “Georgian people has much in common with us, the Ukrainians’, - said he. He had a great sympathy toward Caucasus and called for its' independence. Perhaps, that's why in 1912, Georgian newspaper “Temi” wrote, that

“he is a genius... he is not just calling for independence, but in his poems praising brotherhood between all men and nations” (ზარამიძე, ასათიანი, ჟგენტო. 1954, p. 25). They say, that in 1858, getting back to Petersburg from exile, Shevchenko made an acquaintance with an eminent Georgian writer and statesman, Ilia Chavchavadze, highly praised in Ukraine. Shevchenko’s lyrics had been translated into Georgian by several Georgian poets, and similarly, many Georgian classics are published in Ukraine. In 2007, Shevchenko’s monument was raised in Tbilisi and that of Shota Rustaveli in Kiev.

It’s noteworthy, that another Ukrainian poet, Lesia Ukrainka, spent last years of her life in Georgia, and she used to say, that “if I had not been an Ukrainian, I would have wished to be a Georgian” (ზაბიშკინი, 1957, p. 12).

Since the second half of XIX century, many Georgians studied in the universities of Odessa, Kharkov, and Kiev in Ukraine. In addition, at that time, Tartu University of Estonia was another center of high education for Georgian youth (ზაქანიძე, 2004).

Georgian students had their community, which successfully introduced Georgian culture to Estonian people (Исаков, С.Г. 1969, pp. 112-165). The representatives of Estonian culture who lived in Georgian cities since the II half the XIX c introduced Georgia to Estonians. In the II half of the XIX c. Estonians settled in the inseparable part of Georgia –Abkhazian territory. Unfortunately in 1992-1993 due to the combat fights caused by Abkhazian separatists and Russian Federation, Estonian population who lived in Abkhazia had to leave the Georgian territory and return to their historical motherland.

It appeared that Georgia and Georgian people had more common with Polish people rather than other European people who were populated in Russian Federation.

It is known that in 1815 in Vienna Congress the winner countries divided Poland among each other. The biggest part, together with Warsaw entered the Tsarist Russia’s territory and received the name, so called “Polish Kingdom”, which actually was governed by Russian Emperor. Till 1831 the “Polish Kingdom“ had some autonomy : relevantly liberal constitution, Seim, government, however the situation completely changed after November 29, 1830 when the Anti-Russian rebellion blew up, but was defeated after one year. As the revolution was suppressed repressions followed from the Russian Federation: constitution was abolished, the best part of Polish intelligence was urged to immigrate. In 1830 after the rebellion Tsar’s government settled many of Polish people in Georgia. They left an important spot in the Georgian political-cultural life. This time Georgians like Polish people fought for their independence. As it is known, the first part of the anti-Russian fight finished with the 1832 plot. The Polish gave an example to Georgian plotters: the most actual for the 1832 plot organizers was the mutiny which started in November, 1830 in Poland. Georgian plotters tried to follow up their examples and experiences. Poland figured also in the independent Georgia’s future projects prepared by Georgian plotters. Unfortunately, the plot was disclosed and its members were sent to Poland (საქართველოს ისტორიის ნარკვევები, ტ. IV., 1973. pp. 952-955; მეტრეველი, 2004, pp. 17-23).

The second wave of the rebel against the dominance of Russian Empire blew up in 1863-64 yy. The Georgian democratic society responded actively to this rebel .The suppress of the rebel in Poland caused the new wave of settlement of Polish people in Georgia (ხუციშვილი, 1959, pp. 18-27).

In the second part of the XIX c. the Russian administration's high rank Georgian official's name – General Peter Bagrationi was well known among Polish population. He was a chief of the Warsaw railway and a prince Aleksander Imeretinsky. He took a high rank positions in Poland, and the period of Imeretinsky's governance was called "the Imeretinsky Era" In the second part of the XIX c. in the Georgian community in Warsaw not only Georgian military persons and officers but also Georgian merchants and craftsmen were included. As it is known there was a Veterinary Institute in Warsaw where many of Georgians received education. Among them was Noe Zhordania, the future leader of the independent Georgia (გოზნიაკი, 2004, pp. 95-109).

Among people subjugated by Austria-Hungary Empire, Georgia had close cultural relationship with Hungarians and Czechs. In this respect among Hungarian culture representatives the famous painter and graphic Mixai Zichi should be named in the first line. In 1881 Zichi under the request of Georgian intelligence visited Georgia and started working on the book "Knight in the Panther's Skin" illustrations. He made 34 paintings on the theme of "Knight in the Panther's Skin" poem free of charge, among them he selected 27 and added to the Georgian text of the famous poem published in the XIX c. Mixai Zichi also painted several pictures on Georgian theme (გორდუზიანი, 1966).

Representatives of Czech culture and sport have also a big merit towards Georgian culture in the XIX c and at the beginning of the XX c. Among them the famous teacher of the II Tbilisi Young Men gymnasium Josef Drbolhav and the writer Rakushan should be named. Among the Czechs who lived in Georgia also I. Svatosh – Tbilisi Young ladies I gymnasium director should be named (ჭკუასელი, 1980).

Czech musicians have great merit in the development of music in Georgia. Many of Czech musicians worked in the Tbilisi State Musical School which later was turned to Conservatoire. Czech musician I. Ratil has a great merit in the research and rescue of Georgian folklore. First he was a soloist in the Tbilisi Opera Theatre, then for years he worked as a teacher of music. Right after the arrival in Georgia I. Ratil got interested in Georgian folklore music. He was admired of Georgian polyphony and eagerly started putting in notes the Georgian folklore music, this way many of musical creations survived. I. Ratil made friendship with I. Chavhchavadze, J. Gogebashvili. The contemporary representatives of musical society of that time: M. Balanchivadze, L. Aghniashvili, S. Savaneli, I. Kargareteli, I; Ratil was a chief organizer of Georgian folklore choir were many of Georgian musicians received experience. Among them was a Georgian National Opera founder Z. Paliashvili (ლეკიშვილი, 1961).

In XIX c. Czech literary society got interested with the Georgian theme. The famous Czech writers S. Czech and I. Giunsh published a series of letters about Georgian people, its culture and nature.

At the beginning of XIX- XX cc Czech gymnastics society "Sokol" representatives I. Grumlek, A. Lukesh. V. Kovba and others have great merits towards sports development in Georgia. They played a big role in the development of many of sport types, first of all gymnastics. In 1918 after the declaration of Georgian independence on the base of "Sokol" the first independent Georgian sport society "Shevardeni" was created (გოგრაძე, 1946, pp. 43-55).

In 1914-1918 yy As a result of the I World War, the three great empires collapsed , those were- Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary Empires and the people enslaved by these empires received a long time awaited independence.

In 16 May 1918 Georgia declared its independence. Georgian democratic republic existed less than three years. That's why Georgia couldn't establish diplomatic relations with many Eastern European countries.

Ukraine was one of the first countries in Russian Empire which in January 1918 by the name of "Independent, free, sovereign Ukrainian people" declared the People's Republic of Ukraine. In May 26, 1918 after the declaration of Georgian independence in June 6, 1918, the Georgian Foreign Minister of that times A. Chkhenkeli from the name of Georgian government asked Plenipotentiary ambassador in Germany F. Shteigel for petition with Ukrainian government to recognize the independence of Georgia. "By the name of my government I have the honor to ask Ukraine to recognize the independence of Georgia as soon as possible". F. Shteigell informed Ukrainian Foreign Minister L. Doroshenko about this petition. The Ukrainian ambassador in Germany counted that the "close and friendly relationship" with Georgian people was highly important and asked Ukrainian Supreme Government to put forward and make decision on the question about recognition of the independence of the Republic Georgia and establishment diplomatic relations with it.

The several months' correspondence between diplomatic institutions of Georgia and Ukraine showed its result. In October 1918 in the center of Tbilisi, today Elbakidze Street, the diplomatic mission of People's Republic of Ukraine started working. Soon the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry consulate departments in Sukhumi and Batumi were opened.

Georgian diplomatic mission in Ukraine, Kiev was opened and led by Viktor Tevzaia. After a month this mission was turned to diplomatic representation, V. Tevzaia became the first ambassador of Georgia in Ukraine. Also Georgian consulates in Odessa and Kharkov were opened.

In December 5, 1918 "Agreement between Ukraine and Republic of Georgia" was signed. In the frames of this agreement many spheres of cooperation between these two countries were regulated.

That time the independence of Ukraine lasted less than Georgia's. That's why Georgia had to negotiate with Ukraine concurred by Soviet army about diplomatic relationship. This negotiation between sides began in December 1920 and in January 31, 1921 finished with the signing of the agreement. By this agreement sides recognized each other and showed desire to establish diplomatic, cultural-economic relations. It is not surprising that this agreement had no any real result (ბჰობო, 2008, pp. 20-31).

In fact, Georgian-Polish relations at the state level started after the declaration of independence of Georgia. Though it was legalized only in January 1920, when Republic of Poland recognized Georgia de-jure. In March 24, 1920 Polish foreign minister Stanislav Patek offered the government of Georgia to accredit Georgian official diplomatic representation in Warsaw; and to send Polish military-diplomatic mission in Tbilisi in order to determine the frames of relationship between two countries, first

of all the development of military cooperation. It is obvious that the base of such kind of relationship was a danger coming from Bolshevik Russia, which threatened both countries. The Georgian government consented this offer and the Polish side was informed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Evgeni Gegechkori. At the end of March, 1920 the Polish military-diplomatic mission led by Tatus Filipovich arrived to Tbilisi. As a result of successful negotiations, sides agreed on procedures about establishing plenipotentiary diplomatic relations, the project of military union, actions plan against Bolshevik threat, also the future help from Polish side in equipment of Georgian army.

Ratification and solving the problems of Georgian-Polish military-diplomatic agreement could not be accomplished in time. In February-March, 1921, the Soviet Russia annexed democratic Georgia and the government of Georgia had to leave the country (მაჭერსკი, 2004, pp. 109-118). From this time Georgia was no more the representing the subject of international law. Soon, the republic of Ukraine shared the same fate. Baltic countries experienced the same situation after 20 years when the Soviet army occupied Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

After annexation, many Georgians were seeking shelters in East European countries. One of the most important Diasporas existed in Poland. Poland sheltered part of Georgian militaries, who served in Polish army. There were 6 Generals, 35 high rank officers and 46 cadets among them. Georgian military representatives were serving their new homeland devotedly. They showed best of themselves in 1939 in the fights against Germany and in 1944 during the revolt in Warsaw.

It is worth mentioning that Malkhaz-Jony Shalikashvili is the son of General serving in Poland. He was appointed on the position of head of the USA United Headquarters (გრიშინკაშვილი, 2008, pp. 28-35).

After completion of the II World War, the Soviet Empire established Communism Regime in East Europe and turned them into own satellites. After this period, until destruction of the Soviet Union, December, 1991, Georgia had only cultural relationships and contacts with East Europe.

In this period, many of East European writers' works were translated into Georgian. For one's part, East European readers were given opportunity to be acquainted with several Georgian compositions of modern and classic epochs.

The first anticommunist manifestation was held in Georgia, in March, 1956 after the death of I. Stalin. This was followed by October, 1956 manifestations in Poland and October-November, 1956 revolt in Hungary that was finally suppressed. Georgians were imbued by condole about this anticommunist movements in East Europe. They expressed their condolence towards Czech and Slovak people during the events happened in Czech, in 1968.

At the end of 1980, new wave of emancipation movement was exploded. Georgian national emancipator movement had close connections with Ukrainian and Baltic countries.

On 9th of April, 1991 Georgia declared the restoration of independence. This time, again, Ukraine was one of the first from East European countries that recognized Georgia as an independent country. Ukraine declared its independence at the beginning of December, 1991. Independent Ukraine was one of the biggest East European coun-

tries that recognized Georgia's Independence on 12th of December, 1991. Diplomatic relations between Georgia and Ukraine started on 21st of July, 1992, and on the 13th of July, 1993, and the agreement of Friendship, Cooperation, and Assistance was signed. On the basis of this agreement, in 1994, the Embassies of Georgia and Ukraine were opened.

From the day of starting relations between Ukraine and Georgia, this relation became very friendly. The result of that was the "Rose Revolution" in Georgia in 2003 and "Orange" revolution in Ukraine in 2004, during the presidency of M. Saakashvili and V. Iushchenko.

After this, Ukraine became the main ally of Georgia in Post Soviet space. Until now, more than 100 documents are signed between Georgia and Ukraine that aims assistance in politics and economics and among them in military sphere too.

Diplomatic relations between Georgia and Belarus started on 6th of January, 1994. The Embassy of Georgia was opened in the capital of Belarus, Minsk, in June, 2007. Today, Georgia and Belarus have friendly relationships. Despite Russia's strong influence Belarus did not recognize Marionette, so called South Ossetia and Abkhazia's independence.

Georgia began diplomatic relations with Lithuania on the 19th of September, 1994. From 2003, Georgian Embassy was opened in Lithuania that presented Georgia in Estonia and Latvia. From 2007 this embassy was defending Georgia's interests only in Lithuania. The first Emergency and plenipotentiary Ambassador of Lithuania was appointed in September, 2005.

Georgia started diplomatic relations with Estonia on the 16th of June, 1992. The Embassy of Georgia in Estonia was opened only in 2006, and Estonia Embassy in Georgia was opened in 2008.

Latvia and Georgia started diplomatic relations on the 11th of March, 1993. In autumn of 2006 the Embassy of Georgia was opened in Latvia. Earlier, in May of the same year, the embassy of Latvia was opened in Georgia. It is worth mentioning that the embassy of Latvia gives visas not only in the direction of Latvia but in the direction of North European countries.

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are Georgia's Friend countries. They support Georgia in NATO and EU integration. They expressed full support towards Georgia in 8-12 August, 2008, during Russian aggression. To show this support the presidents of Poland, L. Kachinski, and Ukraine, V. Iushchenko, came to Georgia in the emergency situation.

Diplomatic relations between Romania and Georgia started on the 25th of June, 1992. Relation with Romania is not so wide and is bordered only by trading contacts.

More often the governors of these two countries have political consultations. The significant role was played by M. Saakashvili's visit to Romania in June, 2010, that gave good diplomatic results.

Diplomatic relations with Bulgaria started on the 5th of June, 1992. Relations with this country are in the direction of military-techniques, transport, and communication fields. The relation is held in the sector of food. For the relation between the two countries very important step was moved on the 24-25th of April, 2009, the summit

“Natural gas for Europe: Security and Partnership” initiated by the president of Bulgaria, G. Parvanov.

The relations between Georgia and Poland renewed on 28th of April, 1992. The main issues were economic connections between these two. In April, 1992 with the invitation of Foreign Economic Cooperation Ministry, the deputy of the foreign relations ministry, M. Saakashvili and other representatives went to Warsaw. During the visit the document of Georgia-Poland diplomatic cooperation was signed. At the same time, the document of “Cooperation in Trade and Agriculture” was signed. The agreement was the expression of economic and trade relations of two countries.

In 1992, the next visit was held in Poland, by Foreign Affairs minister deputy, Mikheil Saakashvili. Georgian guests gave the foreign affairs minister the agreement project about the cooperation of two countries culturally and invited Polish side for further study of developed situation in Georgia and its Foreign Affairs.

On 11th of October, 1992, parliamentary elections were held in Georgia. As a supervisor, Peter Boravski, representative of Foreign Affairs Ministry in Central Asian and Caucasus Departments, came to Georgia. On 19-21st of April, 1993 Georgia hosted Andjei Ananichi, secretary of Foreign Affairs management. The Vise Minister, A. Ananichi and Georgia’s Foreign Affairs Minister, Aleksandre Cikvaizde, in presence of president, Eduard Shevardnadze, and Prime Minister, Tengiz Sigua, signed documents about “Friendship and assistance of Georgia and Poland” and “International cooperation of Georgia and Poland” on 20th of April, 1993. The same day the Culture Minister, David Maghradze and A. Ananichi signed the document about “Scientific and Cultural Cooperation” (www.mfa.gov.ge). Before the day of the jubilee of Georgia’s Independence Day and the day before Presidency elections in Georgia, the exhibition of Georgia-Poland was held in Warsaw Independence museum. It collected the Georgians living in different countries, which became the reason for the future patriotic affairs.

In 1991-1998, eight numbers of the journal “Pro-Georgia” was published, the founder and editor of the journal were David Kolbaia, and later Anjei Vojniak, from 1994 this position was taken by Viozekh Materski.

Georgia’s and Poland’s relations became very active after “Rose Revolution” 2003 and after Lev Kachinski became the president in 2006. At that time Poland became the strategic ally of Georgia.

For one’s part, Georgia played great role in Poland’s foreign politics. This fact is supported by the decision of Poland to have relations with Georgia as a priority of Poland’s foreign policy. During 2006-2007 the presidents of Georgia and Poland had visits several times. The President of Georgia visited Poland three times. As for the president of Poland, he visited Georgia officially in April, 2007. In May, 2007, during Georgia’s presidents visit to Warsaw, by the initiative of the presidents, the Georgian-Polish Presidency Consultation committee. The above mentioned committee discusses mutual cooperation aspects.

Today Poland supports Georgia in integration into NATO and EU.

Georgia and Poland have the same interests from the view point of energetic security. A good result of cooperation is shown by Krakovo Energetic Summit, on 11-13th of May, 2007.

In the last period the military cooperation of Poland and Georgia is very intensively activated: Georgia and Poland are in alliance for peace and antiterrorist operations. Georgian and Polish militaries participate together in Moscow, Iraq and Afghanistan peaceful missions.

Mutual deepening of economic relations is still one of the priorities. During the last years Poland was lobbying Georgia not only politically but economically.

In 2008 Georgia became the victim of Russia's one more aggression: On the 8th of August, armed forces of Georgia was involved in conflict of separatist Tschinvali and Russian army. About 15 thousand Russian soldier came into Georgia via Roki tunnel and Psou.

At this difficult times Georgia was supported by Poland. Lev Tkachinski's speech was very important about the current events: "Russia's actions in the Independent Georgia passed all the borders, besides which there is no civil society's safety and negotiators' security protected that causes the escalation of robbing of Georgian economy, image and environment's planned destruction, and killing. This is clear evidence of ethnical cleansing."

It is worth mentioning that on the 5th jubilee of "Rose Revolution" when Lekh Kachinski had flight to Georgia on 23rd of November, the pilot was resisting avoiding final flight to Georgia, but president's request to fly to the airport of Georgia was fulfilled. After the flight the Presidents of Georgia and Poland went to see the victims of the 8th of August, 2008. Even though the government cortege was assaulted, Lekh Kachinski admits in the interview that he does not regret visiting Georgia as he himself saw the things happening there.

Georgia started diplomatic relations with Czech and Slovakia in the 1st of February, 1993. Earlier, on the 14th of 1992, Georgia had diplomatic relations with the Republic of Hungary, and in the same year, on the 25th of June, Georgia initiated diplomatic relations with Moldova.

Unfortunately, the economic relations of Georgia with the East Europe, except Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova, prevents the specific "Velvet Curtain" that appeared after Czech, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Baltic countries entered to the EU. In order to fix this problem there is great need to place Georgia in the EU.

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