

Media

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Publisher the Georgian Press during the Years 1914-18

The objective of our research is the assessment of those materials from the years 1914-18 from the Georgian press, which highlight the protection of human rights and peace during the four year period of First World War, the need for the creation of International Organizations and their influence on international processes. The analysis of the Georgian press itself based on this assessment and its influence on the formation of public opinion.

The Georgian press, due to the violation of the neutrality of Belgium by Germany and considering the scope of the war, highlighted and focused on the defense of International rights and their implementation in real life. With the popularization of this issue, the press showed the necessity of defiance of those international norms and acts that were just starting to emerge in the beginning of century.

In Georgian historiography, materials published in years 1914-18 in Georgian press regarding the International Organizations during the First World War are not yet fully studied, covered and highlighted. Due to the abovementioned, the presented article represents an honorable attempt to partially fulfill this gap.

Keywords: Georgia, press, publisher, human rights

At the start of the World War I in 1914, the destruction of Belgian neutrality by Germany produced large-scale war, the size of which had never been seen. Related issues became so present in the Georgian press, issues with universal importance as a necessity for the protection of international rights. Georgian publishers devoted a number of analytical letters on these topics during this period. Our research aims to better understand the years 1914-18 years in Georgian press materials, focusing on the reporting the protection of human rights for the four year period of the World War I, the necessity of the creation of international organizations and their influence on international processes. On the basis of this assessment, the Georgian press gave birth to a unique discourse about the protection norms which gained a foothold at the start of this century.

With international tension in the background, the newspaper *Public Sheets* published a letter on July 20. In this letter “the triple union contract” reminds the reader about two military blocks: “Entente” and the history of the triple union and their role in the ongoing international processes. Accordingly both parties shall undertake mutual support in case of attack of from. The second article of the contract makes Germany assist Austria if the latter will attack. But according to the point of view of the newspaper, in a particular case, Austria is the attacker and Serbia is a repulsive. Therefore, the editorial staff explains to its readers that the union contract of Germany had not come into force until Russia did not attack Austria. But the newspaper suggested that there is an agreement with secret clauses. It is true that the editorial staff reported that an agreement concluded between Austria and Germany and Italy is unpublished but the newspaper’s unofficial sources suggests that Italy has a similar contract with Germany, as Austria-Germany did. There is only one difference that Russia’s place holds in this agreement, France. Thus, Italy has more less duty towards the Austria rather than towards the Germany. Therefore, according to the conclusion of the newspaper and according to this contract Italy does not consider it obliged to help Austria in an aggressive war. The point of view of the Georgian newspaper confirmed by history, because Italy declared neutrality (*Public Sheet*, 43; 1914; 2-3).

The political events of the first few days of First World War are analyzed and told to the readers on July 20 in *The Voice of Kakheti* in a letter entitled “Around the War.” In the beginning, the author highlights the Balkan wars of 1912-13 years and explains to the reader, how not make an agreement in the Balkan States “in division of the booty, and after it mixed up a monastery. According to his opinion,” the great state can great loudly about their culture and justice, all of this is only for showing to other and early even today, as throughout past centuries it has been everything built (*The Voice of Kakheti*, issue 171, 2).

The newspaper *Public Sheet* in the letter “What is a War?” states that according to the current situation, despite the divergence of newspaper observations, all think that it is necessary to create the War on the grounds of international rights, which aimed to create such conditions, when States are forced to no longer become his right to protect the weapons apply to the implementation of which is editorial and, unfortunately, cannot yet be established. Therefore, the states strength and their hopes lie in their military forces. According to the conclusion of editorial board, despite the publication of numerous declarations and documents, it’s a drop in the sea and this findings minimum take the great difficulties in this war (*Public Sheet*, issue 63, 3).

Still in 1914, in the Georgian press, trends in the violation of international rights appear, in even more active form with Georgian experiencing it and this appeared. Especially today, in a developing democratic society, the existence of the ideas born at the beginning of the last century indicates that this issue is the focus of progressive Georgian society, that is, it is articulated that any nation has the right - an independent existence and regardless of political affiliations, a sharply negative attitude towards the war.

The newspaper *Labor* published an important letter entitled as an “International Rights and the Armed Forces,” where the author fundamentally discusses such topical issues such as the lack of existence of international rights institutions and the need for their creation. The author is forced to recognize that indeed there is not one particular body, which will be equipped with all rights and that will be able to punish any state with response, that proves Germany’s Belgian intervention was a violation of the law of neutrality. According to the author’s point of view, stuck a paradox, none of the state have appeared to declare a war against the Germany, only in order that he violated an international right. And England named Belgium even as the cause of the war, but according to the author, this happened because “British activism was proportional to the scare, which prepared to him for Germany’s invasion near the border of Belgium. Therefore, according to the conclusion of the author and according to the existing international situation, it is necessary to create such body, which will have the most power to make international right is still not left the voice of one crying in the wilderness” (*Public Sheet*, 36-3/XI, 1).

The newspaper *Public Sheet* published the article “there is an international right or no?” according to the explanation of D. Onashvili, international rights are determined by the various resolutions of conferences. This author estimates that the war damage and scrap paper turn all these terms and rights, whose desires is the best, but its implementation means utopia. Because the author’s point of view, war itself is already

all right to abuse for this reason. According to the author “war does not impose any commitments to people, but also relieves from any obligations, whose evidence is this present war.” All this means to the author that European states signed on to the Hague Convention (1899; 1907) despite the fact that the next day they will be violating it, because the diplomats talk on the one hand about philanthropy and on the other hand, about the necessity of the war. The author indicated evidence of this opinion in Belgium’s neutrality, which at the beginning of the war becomes a “paper scrap”. On the basis of these facts, the author comes to the conclusion that the publication of international rights the creation of the international organizations, which stand at the highest place by its own rights that each state (*Public Sheet*, 170 I; 171; 1914; 3).

D. Kasradze refers to the same problem in article published in the magazine *Rock* and trying a wide readership, ascertain the various rights in which coverage, he can to conclude: “We as one unit and part of international life, we are covered by the law... If there is war... There is also and valid the right of the people, which is exceptions as every Law” (*Rock*, 39; 1914;8). For the Georgian press is interested not only in the opinion of the Europeans and Russian, but also the American media opinion. The newspaper *New Iveria* publishes the opinion of Theodore Roosevelt (USA’s 26th President, 1901-09) which criticized his country’s government for not have the measures to remedy the injustice which is drowning Belgium. According to him, the signing of international agreements was only fun for the American government. The same newspaper, expressed commentary showing a belief that America has not a right to come out with arms in their hands. So only one way remains - protest. America with all neutral states with solving the problem accuses Germany and reprimands his action (*New Iveria*, 26; 1914; 2).

According to information in the Georgian Press, President Wilson believes that this war had turned into an international public war and it was necessary to establish an international agreement based “People Union”. Its creation and principles of output concern the equals Peace Conference. America is ready to be responsible for this contract on which future decisions will be based (*Unity*, 232, 1918; 3).

Despite the current political and military upheaval in the world and in Russia, the Georgian Press of 1917, as yet in composition of Russian and in the meantime the World War I front-line side media, had a special interest towards the necessity of creation of the international organizations. The Georgian press envisaged the newest information of the European and American press and stands in the center of the events, the analytical article “War and America” analyzes and informs to the Georgian readers the erstwhile political situation and mentions the idea of the creation of the League of

Nations. The author starts the article with President Wilson's critical estimates. "Wilson is the sober nation child and leaves in the practical century, but it seems like that he is imbued with incurable idealism and dreams for the international peace at the time of bloodshed and thinks to found a World Federation for achieving this goal." The author shares to the readers the purpose of this federation according to which the Member States of this Federation do not have the right to declare the war. And possible conflicts will be clarified by the supreme entity of the world. The publisher asks the question: "Is it possible to establish the World Federation and, most importantly, be able the World Federation to perform this mission? When the author's critical approach consists the US past and present noteworthy facts on this issues, the author welcomes to the idea of establishing of the league of nations, but its implementation, at this case for this time, does not watch with great optimism. And the reason for many other reasons, he believes in the American historical past. It is more than a century that this Federal State is there and the principle of cooperation is still being not carried out on their own territory. For proving this opinion, the author believes that the yellow-skinned and blacks nowhere are being persecuted that in the USA. The "legal equality and idea, is only on the paper. 10 million of American blacks considered as the second quality citizens. The moral wall that white-skinned and black people divide more inevitable than the ghetto, which divided the middle ages Jewish." The author quotes the actual material, and asks the question: "How can establish an international cooperation and the peace if this cooperation and peace not hardens between the two neighbors tribes, which live in the same country?, Then when the world tribal and cultural resistance is even stronger than in the US?" The Publisher for the better representation of his own opinions and for the better clarification of the general community cites the history of America, who produced a few wars during its short existence, as within the country (civil war) as well as outside the country. After which, the author believes that "this historical memoir retrenched to Wilson's noble dream and if this did not happen, this probably can be explained by the some people in advance on those doctrines change the ability of sensation of living reality." But the author who knows the international situation better and who has good political intuition, concludes that the "War Shadow" has sustained democracy "Beacon-Star" –the country from which we understudied only the peaceful and agreed words (Georgia, 19; 1917; 1).

Thus, between the 1914-1918, Georgian publishers of the Georgian media, are still predicted in the beginning of the last century and actually substantiate the necessity of creation of the competent international organizations, that the real implementation is only a dozen years later, failed, and without which the present world order would be incredible.

Thus, from today's point even more relevant and interesting, how it manifests itself in the years 1914-18 over the world historical events were explained in the international press and Georgian editions materials. At the modern stage, the relevance of the research theme conditioned by the facts, that those international norms, their reception and protection, which only born at the last century, is the problematic issue for the modern society. Indeed, under today's globalization conditions, democratic society should foster the development of basic principles to maintain peace and end all conflicts with peaceful solutions.

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