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# **Georgia as a Part of Integrated Europe**



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Nothing is amazing in Georgia's strong desire to be allowed to enter the EU and NATO. Indeed, Georgia has always been a part of integrated Europe, while European alliance itself has been shaped differently throughout history, e.g. Greek and Roman Europe, Byzantine "Commonwealth", etc. The above issues are narrated below.

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## **Georgia as a Part of Integrated Europe – Analysis**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/11052020-georgia-as-a-part-of-europe-analysis/>

***Below is a short overview of how the concept of Europe emerged over the past millennia and why Georgia has always been part of integrated Europe.***

Climate determines economics. Hot and less humid environment defined an early advantage of the South over the North – indeed, the Egyptian state and the crafts confront entirely the primitive clan-system which existed in fact everywhere. Then the whole pattern changed.

Times after, some technical improvements towards the North created very comfortable vegetation process, while the Egyptians still needed time to put a seed beyond the reach of the sun. In the 9<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> cc. B.C. the Greeks are already at the vanguard by means of the technics and the structures. The countries being superb before, like Egypt and Babylon, or India, now face a new hegemonic power – Hellas, already overpopulated and needing grain and the raw materials to be imported. Then the perception of Europe has appeared. Europe is a special term for the part of the earth, which stipulates or will stipulate the same vanguard level of development. Even Scythia with its rough spring was thought to be reorganized in the Greek manner, than those countries which needed the additional finances for irrigation. So, the making of Europe started.

The Greek pattern was as follows: 1. occupying or even frequently being invited to the key points of other economic structures like Caria, Thrace, Bosphorus or Colchis; 2. establishing the autonomous Greek social structures granted

heavily with the technics from the metropolis; 3. the natives being equipped with the best tools for agriculture; 4. Greek industrial structures maintained on this background; 5. exporting supplies to Hellas and receiving back some industrial goods. The Aegean and the Pontic (the Black Sea) areas were supposed to form unique economic space. Economic integration considered several stages to be realized: first it was Asia Minor, in fact mistakenly called so, to be Hellenized due to climatic similarity with Greece, then – West, North and East Black Sea countries.

Two major waves of the colonists passed from Hellas – first one in the 8<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> cc. B.C., and the next – in the 4<sup>th</sup> c. B.C. led by Alexander the Great. Asia Minor was a complete victory of Hellenism, even being integrated politically under Mithridates Eupator, king of Pontus, as far back as in the 1<sup>st</sup> c. B.C. The Roman rule gave a new sense to the economic prosperity of the Greek World. And at last, the Byzantine metropolis was created with all those languages like Lydian, Cappadocian etc. vanished forever. But there were serious failures too. Colchis (Western Georgia) offered a dangerous humidity to the Greek way of life. The Greeks living there had no chance to keep their industrial spirit as agriculture was very slow in development. Soon the Greek community became a bilingual one, and after – totally assimilated within the Colchian society. As to Bosphorus (at the Northern Black Sea coast), a corn-supply from Asia Minor to Greece broke the traditional scheme and the region soon lost its Greek style.

The Romans did the same job for Gaul and Spain, putting the Latin population there and Romanizing these sites. They also cared much about their Greek colleagues in making Europe – starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> c. B.C. the Romans were running the whole administration within the Hellenistic World, while the Greeks used to build their integrated industry. Then the whole system collapsed.

Indeed, Italy never cared much for maximum of technical improvement and power revolution. The result was catastrophic – excessive growth of population in Italy, insufficient economic progress, high prices on the Italian industrial export, cheap supply from European provinces, indecisive military advantage of the metropolis over the provinces; the Roman imperial system vanished Italy being forced to receive large numbers of Goths as settlers. New Europe will pay special attention to the technical progress employing more and more hands in heavy industry. But what was supposed to be done with the starving Italy?

East Rome (Byzantium) possessed prominent food stocks from Asia Minor and Egypt. Emperor Justinian put Italy within the Byzantine hegemony. But Byzantium itself was also a very old economic pattern. And Europe struck with the Slavs and the Bulgars penetrating beyond the Danube, establishing their national states in Thrace, Moesia and Dalmatia. The Asian provinces were lost too. From this very point on Byzantium was steadily degrading still being a predominant for East Europe and the Black Sea countries. Besides, the Byzantines kept some of the Italian provinces thus irritating the rest of Europe and provoking the emergence of Catholicism and Holy Roman Empire.

Till the 11<sup>th</sup> c. Byzantium was the dominant power, the champion of Christendom against onslaught of Asia and Islam. But it was already very old European pattern of the Mediterranean trying to control North. Soon Empire found itself caught between two fires – the Crusaders and the Turks. Byzantium had to be calmed finally. The Crusaders (after 1204) and the Turks (after the battle of Manzikert, 1071) did this job properly overpopulating the country. Towards the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> c. Byzantium is nothing but a lot of principalities with different confessional visages (Orthodox, Catholic and Muslim). The Orthodox World starts disputing about a new leader, Serbian, Bulgarian and Georgian kings assuming

formally the title of Caesar and Autocrat (and before the Georgian kings formally had been hailed as king and Kuropalates, king and Sebastos, even sometimes, king and Caesaros).

The Italians were more pragmatic. Seizing the whole islands and the key points over the Aegean and the Black Sea, they will control the complete economic output there until the 15<sup>th</sup> c. This was a disaster for building of Europe. Within the Holy Roman Empire Italy was granted only moderate supplies of food and the raw materials from the Northward. And now Venice and Genoa made a commercial onslaught upon what still can be called the Byzantine World destroying the local crafts. e.g. In 1261 the Byzantine Emperor Michael Palaeologos had to sign a treaty with Genoa promising the republic the concessions, own quarters in Constantinople and other ports, and free access to those of the Black Sea.

A comparative analysis of the Hellenic and the Italian periods is as follows: the Greeks took up their permanent residence within the East Aegean and the Pontic areas stimulating economics, while the Italians placed the soldiers and the merchants there to empty the local markets. That is why the Ottoman reintegration was welcomed by the overwhelming majority in Asia Minor. And Greece since has formed a separate economic structure. Thus the Italian overlordship came to an end together with the handsome transit trade.

The Italians did their best to save the maritime empires but they failed. Galata or Pera was lost immediately. And the Ottoman control over the Straits endangered the existence of the Black Sea colonies like Caffa (Theodosia), which passed over to the Ottomans in 1475. Quite soon the whole empire of Genoa had vanished. Venice triumphed at the battle of Lepanto (1571), but little good resulted. Hence the Italian supplies had been tied up neatly with the countries Northwards, while Italy itself being reduced to a modest land.

After these Southern European empires gone forever, new Europe emerged with its rationalism and a traditional division into the West and the East still vital, with a clear perspective of collaboration, even creating the universal whole European architectural style – a certain mixture of the Gothic (Western) and the Byzantine (Eastern) styles – that was Baroque, elaborated still in Italy in the 16<sup>th</sup> c. The West was lucky in evolution, more severe East had to arrange an economic tension losing the comforts and the services to catch the West. Both of them headed towards Asia for a supply. The colonial system was established. And if the imperial experiment happened to be used still within Europe, like the Austrians and the Russians did, no economic synthesis was planned. Great Britain and Russia never thought even of America and Siberia as of some agrarian sections while sending the colonists there. World War I created the state-socialist system in the Russian Empire and the USSR appeared. World War II widened the state-socialist system and the Warsaw Pact appeared. The brutal rationalism like state-socialism still did its job neatly. Towards the midst of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. East Europe with its serfdom seems to be a grotesque European province. Now the differences are hastily diminishing, and the making of Europe is nearing the end. Soon the entire North will face the South within the network of a collaboration affiliating some extremely Southern industrial countries like Australia and the Republic of South Africa, Chile and Argentina.

So, Europe is part of the earth which stipulates or will stipulate the same vanguard level of development. That has been well acknowledged since ancient times. An idea of European integration is as old as comprehension of geographical determinism for technological evolution.

Academic summary for Georgia being a permanent subject of the European integration is as follows: as far back

as in the 6<sup>th</sup> c. B.C. Themistagoras from Miletus made Phasis in Colchis home for himself and his Greek colonists. Thus West Georgia was involved in the European matter. Greek commercial superiority was substituted by the Roman hegemony over the small coastal strip of Colchis, already called Lazica in the 1<sup>st</sup> c. A.D. And that hegemony was based upon well-manned castellum-system from Pitius up to Apsaros. Lazi client-kings, dwelling in the hinterland, largely enjoyed Roman *pax* and prosperity, gaining a handsome profit by trading with the gallant Pontic cities, like Sinope, Amisus and Trapezus.

The whole Black Sea area might be looked upon as a multicultural region of which the general principles were still based on Hellenism, but that was facilitated mostly by the Roman money and defended by the Roman soldiers. Further towards the East, Iberian kings, sometimes even possessing Roman citizenship, welcomed Graeco-Roman transit from Central Asia and India. Spices, precious wood and stones were brought to Europe via “Transcaucasian” trade-route. <http://georgiatoday.ge/news/20876/Silk%2C-Spices-and-Oil-%27Transcaucasian%27-Trade-Route-and-Georgia>

Byzantium was not a betrayal of all that was the best in Hellas and Rome. Great oriental bastion of Christendom, she seems to be a formulator of the Orthodox Christian Commonwealth. The Georgian kings being within were hailed as king and Kuropalates, king and Sebastos, king and Caesaros. Again dual citizenship was applied. For the Christian monarchs, there were the Byzantine titles to make them feel as the citizens of the Orthodox Empire, being at the same time ascribed to their own country. After the adoption of Christianity, Eastern Slavonia, with Kyiv as capital, joined the Byzantine Commonwealth. That clearly meant enlargement of the Eastern European unity towards the Eastern section of humid continental Europe, into the direction of the river Volga. Russians were the loyal subjects of the

Commonwealth, looking calmly at the decline of Constantinople's hegemony, and the Bulgar and Georgian kings seizing the titles of "Tsar" and "Autocrat".

Becoming stronger, Russia vividly protested Ottoman reintegration of what was formerly known as Byzantium, and Muslim overlordship over the Orthodox World by taking the title of "Tsar" for Grand Prince Ivan in 1547. New center of East Europe was shaped, and then long-term war started for hegemony, Russia being victorious.

Seeing itself as East European super-power, thus Russia claimed Byzantine political heritage. For Russians Georgia had to be within the East European Union, and at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. Kartalino-Kakhetian Kingdom (Eastern Georgia) became a part of the Russian Empire. The USSR was a substitute for the Russian Empire. And now Georgia is searching for her room within unified Europe (T. Dundua. The Making of Europe (Towards History of Globalization). The Caucasus and Globalization. Journal of Social, Political and Economic Studies. Volume 2. Issue 2. Sweden. 2008, pp. 38-45).

### *Towards the Modern Period*

Georgia and EU established close bilateral relations since the 1990s. Significant progress was made in 2004-2011 paving the way for further cooperation. In June 2012, the EU opened a visa dialogue with Georgia. By early 2013 a visa liberalization action plan was laid out. In March 2016 the European Commission proposed to allow visa-free travel to the Schengen area for Georgian citizens.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eastern-partnership/georgia/>

Major developments took place in the economic sphere. In June 2014, the EU and Georgia signed an Association Agreement (AA). This, along with the Deep

and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) Agreement, builds a foundation for far-reaching Georgian political and economic integration with the EU.

[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage\\_en/49070/Georgia%20and%20the%20EU](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/49070/Georgia%20and%20the%20EU)

Modern Georgia aspires to become an economic part of Europe, and enjoy its monetary system, unified currency – euro. Major steps have been made to this end since the break-up of the Soviet Union. The current EU-Georgia close relationship is based on the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. More importantly, the latter involves a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), which came into force in mid-2016 and along with closer political ties aims to achieve deeper economic integration between Tbilisi and the EU. <http://georgiatoday.ge/news/20981/%27Attic-Standard-Zone%27%2C-Eurozone-and-Georgia%3A-Historical-Comparative-Analysis>

Since the signing of the DCFTA EU-Georgia trade ties have seen a radical change. True that only a modest growth of exports to the EU has been seen so far. However, there was a considerable decline in Georgia's trade with the former Soviet states due to the unfavorable economic situation of CIS trade partners. By 2020 Georgia trades more with the EU than it was before the DCFTA. Over the long term the positive effects of the DCFTA are likely to build up considerably (Deepening EU-Georgian Relations. What, why and how? Ed. M. Emerson, T. Kovziridze. London. 2018, p. 5).

On 27 June 2014 the European Union and Georgia signed the Association Agreement (AA), including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA). The DCFTA has an ambitious objective of integration with the EU's internal market, therefore is considered as the unique free trade agreement. As the main pillar of the AA, it contributes to modernization and diversification of economy in Georgia.

[https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/49070/node/49070\\_uz](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/49070/node/49070_uz)

Recently the EU has published an Eastern Partnership (EaP) policy which outlines the Union approach for 2020 and beyond towards the six former Soviet states bordering Russia. This comes amid fears that the EU has not been able to fully implement its previous Eastern Partnership policy as Georgia and Ukraine, the states which most successfully implemented the reforms, have not become EU members. <https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/03/01/despite-troubles-eastern-partnership-will-remain-operational-in-one-form-or-another/> The new policy document is therefore an important step, serving as a continuation of the EU's resolve to further integrate the 6 former Soviet states into the Union's institutions.

The new policy document is a result of consultations launched in 2019 by the European Commission. The previous document made an emphasis on engaging with civil society to ensure effective reforms. There also was a focus on increased public accountability, advanced human rights and local development.

The new policy document outlines changes in 3 out of 4 priority areas. The EU again will work on building stronger economy, connectivity and stronger society as a guarantee.

In the new policy, EU-Georgia cooperation will remain the main way to ensure the implementation of policy recommendations. According to the document, "the EU will continue to provide support in bilateral, regional and multi-country fora, including targeted sectoral assistance in line with the principles of inclusiveness and differentiation. In addition, the EaP will continue to be flexible and inclusive, allowing countries to tackle common and global challenges jointly in a wide range of areas, fostering regional integration". <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood->

[enlargement/sites/near/files/joint\\_communication\\_on\\_the\\_eap\\_policy\\_beyond\\_2020.pdf](#)

Overall, there are the following long-term Eastern Partnership policy objectives the EU plans to implement with Georgia beyond 2020: building resilient, sustainable and integrated economies, accountable institutions; increasing the rule of law and general security; making progress in building environmental and climate resilience; implementing a resilient digital transformation; building a fair and inclusive societies.

The new EaP strategy also underlines the importance of increasing bilateral trade which builds upon the previous progress. For example, in the 2010s, EU-EaP trade has nearly doubled, turning the partner countries into the EU's 10<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner.

This has the geopolitical ramification of Russia gradually losing the economic battle as the EaP states diversify their economies. The EU is the first trading partner for four partner countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), while for Armenia and Belarus the EU is the second biggest trading partner.

The diversification in exports of goods of EaP states helps to better integrate those states into the global value chains. Another sign of closer interaction between the EU and EaP states is the number of companies trading with the Union. In Georgia, the number increased by 46%, from Moldova by 48% and from Ukraine by 24%.

Building upon this achievement, the new document calls for deepening of “the economic integration with and among the partner countries, particularly that of the three associated countries through continued support for the full implementation of the current DCFTAs”.

Another geopolitical realm covered by the new document is transport. The EU will be focusing on upgrading key physical infrastructure in road, rail, port, inland waterway and airport facilities, and logistics centers, in order to further

strengthen connectivity between the EU and the partner countries and among the partner countries themselves. This is in connection with the energy connectivity in the “South Caucasus”, as the Southern Gas Corridor was completed in 2020 with first gas from Azerbaijan likely reaching the EU. <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/03/21/the-eu-introduces-new-vision-for-eastern-partnership-states/>

Yet another important sphere of cooperation will be strengthening the EU’s cooperation with the partner countries to create a strong financial system for sustainable economic growth. Within the measures to minimize organized crime, the EU will continue its support for the EaP states to cooperate with EU justice and home affairs agencies to fight human trafficking and trafficking of illicit goods (notably drugs and firearms), etc. Among other policies, the EU’s support for the cyber resilience of the partner countries stands out. This is particularly important for Georgia as the country was recently subject to massive external cyber-attacks.

Thus there is a clear progress in EU-Georgia relations with likely advancement to follow in the coming years.

### **“Attic Standard Zone”, Eurozone and Georgia: Historical Comparative Analysis**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/05052020-attic-standard-zone-eurozone-and-georgia-historical-comparative-analysis/>

*If you cross the state borders freely, seeing all the cargos moving without delay, money standard and the name being identical everywhere, that means you are in Eurozone. The reality has its remote pattern, Athenian (Attic) case with Colchis (Western Georgia) being involved. If Colchis was in “Attic standard zone”, why to deny Eurozone to Georgia? Below Athenian and modern European cases are discussed.*

*“If anyone mints silver coins in the cities and does not use Athenian coins or weights or measures, but foreign coins, weights and measures, I shall punish him and fine him according to the previous decree which Klearchos proposed”* (A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions. To the End of the Fifth c. B.C. Edited by R. Meiggs and D. Lewis. Oxford. 1969. Printed to the University 1971, p. 113; Chr. Howgego. Ancient History from Coins. London and New York. 1995, p. 44). This is what a secretary of the Athenian Council (Boule) had to add to the Bouleatic oath from the famous Athenian decree enforcing to use the Athenian coins, weights and measures within the Athenian Alliance. The Athenian officials in the cities were responsible to carry out the decree, and the local officials too (A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions. To the End of the Fifth c. B.C. Edited by R. Meiggs and D. Lewis, p. 113). The date of this decree is problematic, but still between 450 and 414 B.C. (A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions. To the End of the Fifth c. B.C. Edited by R. Meiggs and D. Lewis, pp. 114-115; C. G. Starr. Athenian Coinage. Oxford. 1970, p. 68 n. 15; Chr. Howgego. Ancient History from Coins, p. 44). The text was carved on stelai and set up at Athens and the other cities – members of the League. Seven fragments of this text have been already discovered in various places (A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions. To the End of the Fifth c. B.C. Edited by R. Meiggs and D. Lewis, p. 111; “Athenian coinage decree”. J. M. Jones. A Dictionary of Ancient Greek Coins. London. First Published in 1986). There are several attempts to interpret the decree. One thing is clear – this decree is imperialistic in tone, and if some of the cities within the Athenian “Empire” were still supposed to issue own money, only Attic weight coins had to be used. Electrum staters remained popular (A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions. To the End of the Fifth c. B.C. Edited by R. Meiggs and D. Lewis, p. 113). Later this decree is parodied in

the “Birds” of Aristophanes (C. M. Kraay. *Coins of Ancient Athens*. Newcastle upon Tyne. 1968, p. 5).

The decree seems to be very comfortable for trade and taxation – indeed, Athenians were scrupulous while collecting taxes within the League.

The whole story about the Greeks shaping Europe has been already told. Macedonia contributed much as a recruitment area, but earlier Athens had been thought to be a leader. It was merely a frustration – indeed, if the best city had to be stripped from a population, nothing would be created at all. While the Greeks still in this mistake, Athenians made a good deal – seizing the markets and imposing taxes.

Athenians cared much for the Black Sea areas; and Pericles even launched a special expedition (Plut. *Pericl.* 20). Then the numismatic visage of Colchis (Western Georgia) was changed as Athenian tetradrachms came in sight together with the Attic ceramics (G. Doundoua, T. Doundoua. *Les Relations Économiques de la Colchide aux Époques Archaique et Classique d’après le Matériel Numismatique. La Mer Noire. Zone de Contacts. Actes du VII<sup>e</sup> Symposium de Vani*. Paris. 1999, p. 111 №23; *Очерки истории Грузии*. т. I. ред. Г. А. Меликишвили, О. Д. Лордкипанидзе. Тбилиси. 1989, p. 228). Moreover, Milesian, Aeginetan and Persian standards used for the autonomous coin issues of Phasis (modern Photi, Western Georgia) now disappear and Attic standard becomes unique.

Dioscurias (Modern Sokhumi, Western Georgia) was a splendid Greek city dominated by a mercantile oligarchy, a foundation of Miletus, sometimes – being troubled by the natives from the hinterland. Then it seems to be completely assimilated. History of Dioscurias is full of tremendous events and clashes. And the clashes were back again in the summer of 1993 as the civil war broke out in Abkhazia. Still one missile was especially lucky as it buried itself deep in the earth and showed a coin-shaped white metal. The description

is as follows: weight – 300.37 gr. d=70 mm. Head of Athena wearing a crested helmet (the fashion is that of “old-style” coinage)/Owl. Obviously Athenian weight, it was offered for sale to Simon Janashia State Museum of Georgia.

The greatest number of the marked weights found in the Agora are small roughly square lead plaques. Sometimes these official weights are marked with the same symbols as the coins – head of Athena/owl (The Athenian Agora. v. X. Weights, Measures and Tokens by M. Lang and M. Crosby. Results of Excavations Conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Part I. Weights and Measures by M. Lang. Princeton. New Jersey. 1964, p. 6). Large circular stamp with helmeted head of Athena appears on the lead weight of the Roman time (The Athenian Agora. v. X. Weights, Measures and Tokens by M. Lang and M. Crosby, p. 31 pl. 9 LW (lead weight) 66). Bronze weight too of some 69.9 gr. has an owl incised. This seems to be a coin weight, 1/6 of mina (The Athenian Agora. v. X. Weights, Measures and Tokens by M. Lang and M. Crosby, p. 26 pl. 1 BW (Bronze weight) 5). Even countermarks for the weights represent double-bodied owl and helmeted head (The Athenian Agora. v. X. Weights, Measures and Tokens by M. Lang and M. Crosby, p. 28 pl. 6 LW 26, p. 30, pl. 8 LW 46). The dry measure also has two stamps: the double-bodied owl and helmeted head of Athena (The Athenian Agora. v. X. Weights, Measures and Tokens by M. Lang and M. Crosby, pl. 14 DM (dry measure) 44, 45; pl. 18 DM 44, 45).

The Athenian coin mina, consisting of 100 drachms, weighted approximately 436.6 gr. There was also another mina, used for weighting market produce, equal to 138 coin drachms, or 602 gr. (“Mina”, “Attic weight standard”. J. M. Jones. A Dictionary of Ancient Greek Coins).

So, the piece from Dioscurias should be considered as Athenian trade-weight – half mina.

What conclusions are we to draw from all this?

- 1) Dioscurias had to receive or was glad to receive the official Athenian weights as the city became a subject of the Alliance.
- 2) And Phasis should have accepted even a coin mina and Attic standard too while already in the Alliance. Was there any legislation in favour of democracy; what does a maintenance of “Archaic smile” on the Athenian (“Old Style” coinage) and Phasian coins mean? We shall never know.
- 3) One thing is clear – Attic standard was installed in Colchis between 450 and 414 B.C. And the effect was similar to the modern introduction of euro across much of the European Union.

### *From Ancient Period to Modern Europe*

Creating a common economic space was a recurring ambition throughout European history. The above-discussed “Attic standard zone” was one of the pertinent examples from Ancient history. From modern period the best example perhaps is the European Union (EU) which from the late 1960s aimed at coordinating economic and fiscal policies. It also included the establishment of a common monetary policy as well as the introduction of a common currency. The principal arguments in favor of its adoption were economic stability and unencumbered cross-border trade.

In 1979 the European Monetary System (EMS) was launched. Later on during the European Council session in Maastricht, 1991, the Treaty on European Union, which contained various provisions necessary for successful implementation of the monetary union, was agreed upon. [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/euro/history-and-purpose-euro\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/euro/history-and-purpose-euro_en)

Then came the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) which aimed at step-by-step economic integration of a number of countries. EMU was designed to support sustainable economic growth and a high level of employment.

This specifically comprised three main fields: 1. Implementing a monetary policy that pursues the main objective of price stability; 2. avoiding possible negative spillover effects due to unsustainable government finance, preventing the emergence of macroeconomic imbalances within Member States, and coordinating to a certain degree the economic policies of the Member States; 3. ensuring the smooth operation of the single market.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/economic-and-monetary-union/what-economic-and-monetary-union-emu\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/economic-and-monetary-union/what-economic-and-monetary-union-emu_en)

It was not however until 1999 that a common currency – the euro – appeared with 11 countries – Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain – fixing their exchange rates and creating a new currency with monetary policy passed to the European Central Bank.

For the first three years euro did not exist as it essentially was an “invisible” currency. It was used mainly for accounting purposes. In 2002, however, first euro coins and banknotes were introduced in 12 EU countries thus ushering in, arguably, the biggest cash changeover in history. Nowadays, the euro is in circulation in 19 EU member states. There are a number of advantages attached to the use of the euro: low costs of financial transactions, easy travel, increased economic and political role of Europe on the international arena.

Parallel to the creation of the unified economic space ran the establishment institutionalized freedom of movement within most of the European states. The treaty came to be known as the Schengen Agreement signed on June 14, 1985, which led most of the European countries towards the abolishment of their national borders. The concept for free movement between the European countries is very old and it can be found through the Middle Ages.

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/eu-countries/>

As was the case with the “Attic standard zone”, modern Georgia aspires to become an economic part of Europe, its monetary system, unified currency – euro. Major steps have been made to this end since the break-up of the Soviet Union. The current EU-Georgia close relationship is based on the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. More importantly, the latter involves a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), which came into force in mid-2016 and along with closer political ties aims to achieve deeper economic integration between Tbilisi and the EU.

<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/georgia/>

Simultaneously with Georgia’s slow and steady economic integration into the EU economy, the country has also started to enjoy the benefits of institutionalized free movement of citizens across much of the European continent.

Thus there is a long history of Georgian economic and territorial integration into the European models of unified economic spaces. The above examples of the “Attic standard zone” as well as the modern European Union prove this point.

## **Silk, Spices and Oil: “Transcaucasian” Trade Route and Georgia**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/29042020-silk-spices-and-oil-transcaucasian-trade-route-and-georgia-analysis/>

***Georgia is a comfortable acting passway for Asian oil and gas to the European industry. “Transcaucasian” pipelines have increased political sympathies towards the country and contribute to its economic growth.***

An idea of “Transcaucasian” and Pontic (the Black Sea) transit of the Asian goods is not a new one. As far back as in the 4<sup>th</sup> c. B.C. Alexander of Macedon took his Graeco-Macedonian army towards the very heart of Asia. There, particularly in India, the Europeans tasted the spiced meals for the first time, and they decided that their life would be dull without pepper. So, one could buy some spices for, perhaps, a drachm in the valley of Indus, and sell it in Rome, or maybe, in Athens for hundred (Plin. NH. VI. 101). The profit from the trade was very handsome.

In all there had been the following routes towards India: 1. maritime route – from the Red Sea ports of Egypt via the Indian Ocean towards Malabar coast. Alexandrian merchants profited from this route mostly. According to Strabo, some one hundred and twenty big Alexandrian ships sailed a year to India bringing back the spices, precious woods and stones (Strabo. II. 118; XVI. 781; XVII. 798). But the Southern coast of Eastern Iran was very wild, without harbors, so one had to load a ship heavily with food and water for a direct sail and only small section was left for the commercial goods. There existed one more sea route from India through the Persian Gulf to the mouth of Tigris and Euphrates; 2. the second route was very expensive. Starting in India, it climbed to the Iranian highlands, crossing the Iranian plateau to

Mesopotamia and Syria. There the spices were placed on the European ships. Iranians and Graeco-Syrians profited from this route; 3. the third route was amazingly cheap, for it was river-route via well inhabited and supplied districts, city of Phasis (Poti, Western Georgia) being a starting point together with a mouth of the river Phasis (Rioni), very comfortable for the large boats. Rioni is prolonged by the rivers Kvirila and Dzirula towards the Likhi mountains. They divide Georgia into two parts: the West (ancient Colchis), and the East (ancient Iberia). The merchants used to climb the mountains, and then board again at the Kura-river boat-station in Eastern Georgia. A voyage down the river towards the Caspian Sea was swift. According to Herodotus, the Caspian Sea could be easily covered in eight days on a large boat (Herod. I. 203). One could find the river Amu-Daria (Oxus) in the past joining the Caspian Sea in its Southeast section. Amu-Daria – Balkh (Bactra) – Indus is the last section of the route. And the Greek merchants were already in the wonderful country of leisure and the spices, in the homeland of Buddha. The Greeks and the Romans, the Byzantine soldiers and merchants were in Georgia for the transit purposes and within the frames of early European integration. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C. the Chinese started to send silk caravans via the Chinese Turkestan. Then the usual “Transcaucasian” and Pontic transit took place. This route was cheap, but very fragile. As soon as Iran recovered from the Hellenic onslaught, it cut the route organizing the Caspian fleet (T. Dundua. North and South /Towards the Question of NATO Enlargement/,

[www.nato.int/acad/fellow/99-01/dundua.pdf](http://www.nato.int/acad/fellow/99-01/dundua.pdf)

pp. 5-6; T. Dundua. Georgia within the European Integration. Tbilisi. 1999, pp. 30-32).

The route is well traced in Graeco-Roman sources. “Aristobulus declares that the Oxus is the largest of the rivers he has seen in Asia, except those in India. And Patrocles, as well as Aristobulus and Eratosthenes, say that it is navigable

and that large quantities of Indian wares are brought down on it to the Hyrcanian Sea, and thence on that sea are transported to Albania and brought down on the Cyrus River and through the region that comes next after it to the Euxine” (Strabo. XI. 7. 3).

All the authors listed above, including Strabo, use the present tense meaning that “Transcaucasian” transit of the Indian goods (along the rivers Indus – Bactra /Balkh/ – Oxus /Amu-Daria/ – Hyrcanian /Caspian/ Sea – Cyrus /Mtkvari/Kura/ – Phasis /Kvirila and Rioni/ to the city of Phasis /Poti/ in Colchis) worked hard in the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. B.C., first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C., and in 19/20 A.D. when Strabo “published” his work.

“Varro says also that during this expedition of Pompejus it was known that it is but seven days journey from India to the Bactrians, Bactra River, which runs into the Oxus; and that the merchandise of India, transported by the Caspian Sea, and so to the river Cyrus, may be brought in not more than five days by land as far as to Phasis in Pontus” (Plin. NH. VI. 52). It is clear enough that Varro speaks about the possibility of “Transcaucasian” transit by 65 B.C., it had been already broken. And Pliny has nothing to add. Again, there is no transit in the 70s of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. A.D.

The Seleucids gained direct access to the cheap spice market as far back as in the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. B.C. Greeks living in Syria organized a spice supply of Europe via the “Transcaucasian” river-route thus saving much money while transportation of the Indian goods. They started to gain a handsome profit. Then it had to be shared with the allies, Greeks from Bactria. Colchian coins of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. B.C. found in the Central Asia, Bactrian coins of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C. found in Eastern Georgia, and the presence of the Bactrians in Colchis attest to this trade.

Becoming stronger, the Arsacids of Parthia/Iran cut this trade by organizing the Caspian fleet. From that day on

only their merchants could have direct access to the spices transported towards Europe. The Seleucids had to do nothing but to pay a huge sum for the goods brought from the left bank of the Euphrates. Romans, already governing Syria, had to do the same.

Thus, Transiranian transit became the most important one, only sometimes being interrupted by the same Romans, humiliating the Parthians and with the help of the Kushans organizing silk and spice supply of Europe via “Transcaucasian” trade route (T. Dundua. Georgia – Early Origin and Antiquity. Appendix /in Georg. with Engl. Summary/. Tbilisi. 2019, pp. 28-40).

When the “Transcaucasian” transit was finally broken, the Byzantines did their best to reach Asia rounding the Caspian Sea in the North, and moving towards the Turks, dwelling already in Central Asia. But this route – steppe route to the North of the Caspian Sea – failed to be nice because of a very low socio-economic level of the Caucasian mountaineers by that time. When this level became a bit higher, Genoa organized silk and spice supply of Europe via the North Caspian regions and the “Northern Caucasus” to Crimea (Caffa). And the rest of the route was as follows: Sebastopolis (Sokhumi, Georgia) – Trebizond – Galata – Italy. When the Ottomans diminished the Italian trade, Africa was rounded by the Portuguese vessels (T. Dundua. The Making of Europe /Toward History of Globalization/. The Caucasus and Globalization. Journal of Social, Political and Economic Studies. Volume 2, Issue 2. Sweden. 2008, p. 41).

### *From the Middle Ages to Modern Period*

In the 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> cc. two major foreign policy developments played an important role in Georgian history. First was the emergence of the Arabs and the spread of Islam and second – formation of a powerful semi-nomadic state by

the Khazars to the North of the “Caucasus” in the lower reaches of the Volga River (E. Avdaliani. *Georgia and Silk Roads* (6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> cc.) /in Georg. with Engl. Summary/. Tbilisi. 2019, pp. 65-76; A. K. Bennisen. *The Great Caliphs*. Yale University. 2009, pp. 141-150).

The wars between the Arabs and the Byzantines as well as a long conflict between the Arabs and the Khazars severely undermined the economic potential of the “South Caucasus”. Famous for various trade routes in Late Antiquity, those corridors almost ceased to operate across the “Caucasus” in the 7<sup>th</sup> c. However, it was at this time that new trade routes (corridors) slowly began to be formed. From the turn of the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> centuries, economic activity began to shift from Armenian cities to the Kura-Araxes basin, which led to the growth of Tbilisi and various cities in Arran and Shirvan (E. Avdaliani. *Georgia and Silk Roads* (6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> cc.), pp. 100-102).

Another important factor contributing to the economic growth of the Eastern part of the “South Caucasus” were close economic contacts which from the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> c. were formed between the Islamic world and the Khazars. The economic development and furthering of trade relations should have also been caused by the Abbasids’ decision to move the capital from Damascus to Baghdad, relatively closer to the “South Caucasus” and the Khazars. 9<sup>th</sup> c. dirhems were reaching Southern parts of modern Russia and Eastern Europe from the mints of Baghdad and other Mesopotamian cities (T. Noonan. *The Economy of the Khazar Khaganate. The World of the Khazars*. Leiden. 2007, pp. 207-244).

Under the Abbasid rule Georgian and particularly Armenian cities experienced significant development due to a general economic growth taking place in the “South Caucasus” and the Middle East. It is notable that a long and difficult process of unification of Georgia coincided with the above-mentioned distinct economic growth of Georgian cities

and villages. These led to the development of a whole network of regional trade routes along Georgia's borders, which in turn were linked to much larger, transcontinental trade routes running through Mesopotamia, northern Iran and Byzantium (E. Avdalani. *Georgia and Silk Roads* (6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> cc.), pp. 100-102).

Appearance of the Seljuks in the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> c. only slightly slowed the functioning of trade routes near the Georgian borders. From the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> cc. we again see the economic growth of the cities of Arran, Shirvan, and Armenia well evident in the Georgian, Persian-Arabic and Armenian written sources (V. Minorsky. *Studies in Caucasian History*. London. 1953, p. 105).

Thus, like large transcontinental routes, the roads of regional importance too were located outside the Georgian territory, but nevertheless near the borders of the Kingdom of Georgia. This meant that at the time of the unification of Georgia (late 10<sup>th</sup> c.) the country was again at the periphery of major economic activity in the region.

Since the establishment of the trade routes running through Arran, Shirvan and Armenia took place simultaneously with the formation of a united Georgian monarchy, the Bagrationis (ruling Georgian dynasty) in 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries initiated an expansionist policy driven by the desire to master the regional trade routes which criss-crossed Dvin, Barda, Ganja, Tbilisi, Ani, Trebizond, Ahlat, Tabriz and many other major cities (E. Avdalani. *Georgia and Silk Roads* (6<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> cc.), pp. 196-197).

The invasion of the Mongols upturned the entire fabric of the 13<sup>th</sup> c. trade routes crisscrossing the "Caucasus", which kicked off the gradual loss of control by the Georgians over regional trade. There were periods when Italians and other Europeans traded with the Western Georgian ports in 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> cc., or when the Kingdom of Kartli-Kakheti in the 18<sup>th</sup> c. tried to revitalize its "North Caucasus" commerce, but

overall the country lost the trade transit role it once possessed.  
<http://georgiatoday.ge/news/20840/The-Role-of-Trade-Routes-in-Georgian-History->

This effectively lasted until the late 20<sup>th</sup> c. when, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a number of roads, pipelines, railroads and other infrastructure projects began to run from the Caspian to the Black Sea through the Georgian territory. Georgia returned to its positioning between the Black and Caspian seas, between Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

One of such project is the 826-kilometer Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, opened in 2017, which enables the delivery of cargo between China and Europe with a haulage duration of approximately two weeks. Up to eight million tonnes of cargo may be carried on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway by 2025. Moreover, pipelines such as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) and Trans-Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP) create a network spanning the Caspian and Black seas with Georgia playing a vital transit role.

There is also a Chinese factor. Since 2013, when Beijing announced its almost \$1 trillion “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI) Georgia has had a chance to become a part of the initiative which plans to connect China with Europe through Russian and Central Asian corridors.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/27022019-chinas-belt-and-road-initiative-in-flux-oped/>

Georgia now works to position itself as a regional transit destination. A good representation of Georgia’s rising position on the new “Silk Road” is a recurrent event dedicated to the new Silk Road concept held in Tbilisi since 2015. The latest event was held in 2019 when up to 2000 politicians, potential investors from all over the world, visited the Georgian capital. <http://www.tbilisisrf.gov.ge/>

Thus the period since 1991 Georgia finds itself in a favorable geopolitical situation. The country is now successfully operating as a major transit route for oil and gas

heading from the Caspian to Turkey and the Balkans. Moreover, as argued above, the rise of China and attempts to revitalize the ancient silk road gives Georgia a major opportunity to evolve into a regional transit hub with an ambition to reconnect Asia and Europe.

### **Globalization, Hellenism and Population Movement – Georgian Case**

Globalization or interconnectedness between the countries, unequal economic development and excessive growth of population have contributed to migratory patterns from Asia to Europe, from East Europe to the Western part. Georgians are no exception. Their mobility can be conceptualized as a complex system of short-term, long-term, short-distance and long-distance movements. Indeed, migration from Georgia takes place to the neighboring countries, further to West European states, or even farther afield – the US. As any other states with large migration population outflow, Georgians will see that a priority in more developed states is placed on migrants with skills necessary for local labor market rather than on migration for humanitarian reasons.

By 2050 it is estimated that 70% of the projected 9,3 billion people in the world will be an urban population. It will be a century of final shift of human populations out of agricultural life and into cities. Much will depend on how cities would be able to provide a necessary economic basis for new settlers. Failure to do so would lead to unprecedented numbers population movement, state-to-state migrations (R. Bedford. “Contemporary patterns of international migration”. Foundations of International Migration Law. Edited by B. Opeskin, R. Perruchoud, J. Redpath-Cross. Cambridge. 2009, pp. 19-20).

But it is also important to bear in mind that migration has always been present throughout history. One example is the period between the 1880s and the outbreak of World War I. Expansion of the international economy, based on free trade and mobile capital, enabled the movement of people across national boundaries. According to some estimates, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century some 50 million people left Europe for Americas and other territories (R. Bedford. "Contemporary patterns of international migration", pp. 23).

In more distant past, the Graeco-Roman world perhaps best exemplifies the migration patterns. Back then the Mediterranean received large numbers of population either taken forcefully through wars, or later was compelled to do so as a result of large flows of barbarian populations from North Europe (the so-called *receptio*-system). Back then, as is the case in our time, Georgians (Iberians) were an integral part of this Graeco-Roman pattern, first becoming part of lower classes then gradually reached high positions.

Below is a detailed story of Georgians (Iberians) rising in the Graeco-Roman social ladder.

Civil war of A.D. 69 reveals freedman Moschus as admiral of the Roman fleet subordinated to Emperor M. Salvius Otho (Tacit. Hist. I. 87, Историки Античности. т. II. Древний Рим. Москва. 1989, p. 243; Tacitus. In Five Volumes. II. The Histories. Books I-III. With an English Translation by C. H. Moore. Loeb Classical Library. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press. London. MCMLXXX, p. 150). In the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> cc. the Roman citizenship was a prerequisite for enrolment in the legion but not for service in other units, such as the two Italian fleets (T. Dundua. Publicius Agrippa, Flavius Dades and a Dual Citizenship – a Pattern for Europe in Future? Caucasia. The Journal of Caucasian Studies. vol. 5. Tbilisi. 2000, p. 60). That is why Moschus found himself in his position. Romans

used to give specific names to the slaves and freedmen, often connected with their original nationality, e.g. Emperor Aulus Vitellius, rival of Otho, had Asiaticus, as a favourite, gradually allotting him with the Roman citizenship and *nomen* (Tacit. Hist. II. 57, Историки Античности. т. II, p. 281). Having in mind Meskheta (Graeco-Roman Moschicē), a province of Iberia (Eastern and Southern Georgia), one can suggest Iberia, as a mother-land for Moschus or his parent. If so, he could also be called Iberian (*Iber*), like Gaius the Iberian (see below), mentioned on the bronze plate from Platea in Greece (T. Dundua. Gaius the Iberian – First Ever Recorded Georgian To Be Baptized. Proceedings of Institute of Georgian History. Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University. II. Tbilisi. 2011, p. 425).

In the Roman World a slave or a freedman, Moschus by name, could be only Georgian. Greek case is different, for Moschos is original Greek name with the Greek etymology, employed rather extensively (Древнегреческо-русский словарь. Составил И. Х. Дворецкий. Москва. 1958. т. II, p. 1110; Greek-English Lexicon, Compiled by H. G. Liddell and R. Scott. New edition completed 1940. Reprinted 1961. Oxford, p. 1148). There are no chances if proving the Georgian origin for Moschos of Elis, philosopher, Moschos of Lampsacos, tragic poet, and Moschos of Syracuse, famous bucolic poet (Der Neue Pauly. Enzyklopädie der Antike. Band 8. Stuttgart. Weimar. Article “Moschos”, pp. 414-415).

Son could have father's name in the Greek society, but these cases are not frequent if not within the royal dynasties. And, if we have Moschos, son of Moschos, then he must be Iberian, whose father, or grandfather had been taken away from the Iberian province of Meskheta. This duplicity in the name could mean nothing but stressing the ethnicity properly.

Final step for those barbarian slaves and freedmen was a citizenship.

Moschos, son of Moschos occurs, at least, for three

times – twice, on the coins, once – in inscription. Magistrate of Smyrna, perhaps, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C., he put his name on the bronze coins of the city, the so-called Homereias (Apollo/Rev. Homer. Greek inscription: Moschos, son of Moschos) (J. G. Milne. The Autonomous Coinage of Smyrna. II. The Numismatic Chronicle. Fifth Series – vol. VII. London. 1927, p. 95 №321). Maybe, that was him again to issue *Kybele/Rev.Aphrodite Stratonikis* type bronze coins with the legend Moschos, son of Moschos (A Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum. XVI. Catalogue of the Greek Coins of Ionia. Barclay V. Head. London. 1892, p. 240 №33), and to be mentioned in the Greek inscription of the theatre in Halikarnassos (the 3<sup>rd</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> cc. B.C.) – Moschos, son of Moschos, son of Moschos (T. Dundua. History of Georgia. Tbilisi. 2017, pp. 86-90).

[https://www.academia.edu/35768659/History\\_of\\_Georgia](https://www.academia.edu/35768659/History_of_Georgia)

We are moving to declare one of the leading families of Smyrna (today's Izmir) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C. to be of the Georgian origin.

For the lower classes in the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> cc. there was Christianity as a certain consolation.

Bronze plate from Platea, Central Greece, offers 40 male names, mostly Greek, few Graeco-Roman. The positions are only for some of them and all they are Christian, like presbyter etc. (M. Guarducci. Epigrafia Greca. IV. Epigrafi Sacre Pagane e Christiane. Roma. 1978, pp. 335-336).

The plate, now in the National Museum at Athens, is thought to present early-Christian Community of Platea. The date corresponds to the verge of the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> cc.

For two persons we have special ethnic indicators. They are Gaius the Iberian and Athenodoros the Armenian.

So, Gaius the Iberian – was he Iberian born, only then taken from the country, and thus bilingual? Perhaps, not, he bears Latin praenomen, nobody had it in Georgia. Then how

had he found his way to Greece; and who was he socially? Too many questions indeed.

Gaius' case is more Graeco-Roman, than Georgian. But he is still "Iberian", not completely assimilated thus claiming for himself to be first ever recorded Georgian as Christian (T. Dundua. History of Georgia. Tbilisi. 2017, pp. 135-137). [https://www.academia.edu/35768659/History\\_of\\_Georgia](https://www.academia.edu/35768659/History_of_Georgia)

### **Georgia's First Treaty with United Europe**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/23082020-georgias-first-treaty-with-united-europe-analysis/>

In June 2014, the European Union and Georgia signed the Association Agreement, which entered into force on July 1, 2016. The agreement aims at enhancing political and economic relations between the EU and Georgia. This involves following through with a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), which means the removal of customs tariffs, an approximation of trade-related laws and regulations. This would help Georgia move closer to EU standards. The DCFTA should boost trade and economic growth in Georgia as well as bring it closer to the EU's single market. The agreement is not only about immediate economic benefits. It primarily involves attaching Georgia to Europe geopolitically away from the Russian sphere of influence. For Moscow, this is bad news leading the Kremlin employ all possible tools to prevent Georgia's "defection" to the Western world.

However, surprisingly, the Association Agreement is not the first historic agreement Georgia has ever signed with Europe. In fact, there is a big precedent. In 84 B.C. a treaty

between Western Georgia (Colchis) and the Roman Republic was signed. As *Res Publica Romana* is considered as a rough prototype of the modern EU, the 84 B.C. treaty is a first Europe-Georgia agreement we know of. Now to the details of this ancient treaty.

Mithridatic Wars (first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. B.C.) are of special interest for Georgian historians – Colchis and Iberia (Eastern and Southern Georgia) were involved in the full-scale European war for the first time.

Mithridates VI Eupator, king of Pontus, chose different patterns for those countries: that of satrapy for Colchis, and military alliance – for Iberia.

In 85 B.C., being in great despair, with his armies and fleet totally destroyed by the Romans, Mithridates VI had to satisfy demand of the Colchian rebels – they needed their own kingdom to be restored with Eupator's son as a king. His name was Mithridates Philopator Philadelphos (App. Mithr. 64).

We do not know much about him: he was left in charge of Pontus, Bosphorus and Colchis as his father marched westwards to face the Romans. Then he fought Fimbria, the Roman general, bravely, but unsuccessfully. As king of Colchis, Philopator issued the coins, both silver and copper, with Pontic dynastic eight-pointed star on the reverse, and rather strange for his new country, lotus on obverse. <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=23> He did not put his name on the coins. They are without inscriptions. Was he afraid of his father, for conspiring against him, having Colchians as allies?! We shall never know. Yet, Mithridates Eupator was to be feared much. Indeed, with Rome obsessed with civil war, and the Greeks having had no final choice whom they could entrust the Greek affair, Colchis felt itself hopelessly isolated. Eupator's reaction was quick

and brutal, as usual. First capture, then golden chains and death was bad epilogue for Philopator (84 B.C.). But he is not to be blamed. Junior, perhaps, did the best he could to gain the support of the Republic, but in vain.

One Greek inscription can provide some information about Philopator looking for strong ally. №375 from OGIS could be about him (*Orientis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae. Supplementum Sylloges Inscriptionum Graecorum*. Edidit Wilhelmus Dittenberger. Volumen Prius. Lipsiae. MDCCCIII, pp. 580-582): King Mithridates Philopator Philadelphos, son of king Mithridates, to the Roman people, his friend and ally, for the kindness and charity toward him, dedicates by proxy of his ambassadors... (T. Dundua. *History of Georgia*. Tbilisi. 2017, pp. 80-83).

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One could feel sorry for Junior. He could even become Rome's formal ally in order to secure the safety of the country, much more depended on his Pontic garrisons. Indeed, he needed his copper issues just to pay them since the Colchians totally ignored the small change. But that was pocket-money. With, perhaps, no banking-system in Western Georgia, those soldiers were thought to keep most of their salaries at home – in trapezas (banks) of Sinope, or Amisus. Then lotus-type silver issues used to be transferred there. Thus they could be brought upon Eupator's suspicious eyes. Philadelphos did his best for his coins to look like old Pontic satrapal issues. He did his best to secure his headquarters. As the lotus-type copper is mostly grouped in the hinterland town of Surion/Vani, it is thought to be his capital.

Alas, Philopator was granted no time. Appian, Greek author, narrates about his punishment – he was brought by force. And archaeology reveals the traces of heavy clashes

and fire in the early 1<sup>st</sup> c. B.C. layers of Eshera, suburb site of Dioscurias at the coastal strip, and Vani itself.

### **Rome, Byzantium and NATO: Grand Strategy of the West and Georgia**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/22042020-rome-byzantium-and-nato-grand-strategy-of-the-west-and-georgia-analysis/>

*There are two ways to prove Georgia's place within the NATO Alliance. First is the current argument urging for total Euro-Atlantic unity, next – historical one. Previous pan-European (Roman and Early Byzantine) military presence in Georgia can be applied to the present discussion. The chapter covers this issue.*

*Roman Period. Frankish Limitanei in Lazica*

Before being totally destroyed, the Roman Imperial security system actually had shown three gradual phases of development.

A large number of the Italian colonists with the best technologies, swift and comfortable communications, the most prominent industrial output, Roman citizenship, municipal freedom – that was the Roman gift for the Western provinces in the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> cc. A.D. Sincere intimacy with the metropolis had been founded as a direct result of complete satisfaction. It paved the way to the Romanization. As for the Greeks, the Romans reserved a quiet life and economic stability. Still beyond the Roman Rhine, Danube and Pontus there were others favouring this concept of pan-European

integration. The happy client kings used to be awarded with the Roman citizenship. And for the Julio-Claudians these client kingdoms formed the first defense-line of the Imperial territories. A little behind, the whole perimeter was dotted by solid legionary concentrations, proving the system to be impregnable. No cardinal changes took place in the era of the Antonines, except for annexation of the client kingdoms and breaking the big army concentrations in favour of scattering the legions along the whole frontier. In both cases, after defeating comparatively weak enemy at the border, the Romans usually attacked their territory. This system of security is called forward defense.

Greeks and the Romans were sending more and more working hands towards industry, but not to manufacture the means of production. As a result, population was growing, but not amount of industrial goods *per capita*. Prices rushed high for the Italian produce, demanding damping for provincial food and raw materials, thus weakening the sympathies between the European subjects of the Roman Empire. Some even started to search for a relief beyond the Rhine and Danube rivers. Many things happened that completely changed the defensive strategy, namely: 1. economic crisis; 2. weakening of the integratory links; 3. socio-economic animation of “*Barbaricum*”; 4. financial chaos and some professional regiments converted into *limitanei*. From now on they are to stand the first strike and evacuate the whole frontier folk into citadels, thus wearing down the enemy. And there were large and mobile field armies deployed far behind those self-contained strongholds to cut down any invasion into the depth. This system shaped in the times of Diocletian is called defense-in-depth.

But before this new system was finally established, the Romans had been fighting those already easily passing the

border wherever they could manage to concentrate large army-units. In the early days of the Empire praetorians formed the only Imperial reserve. And now Gallienus recruited special mobile reserve-regiments. Name for this defensive system is elastic defense.

Security system had to be changed at least because of emergence of the Germanic seaborne attacks from the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. everywhere at the seas that prolonged the line of the frontier (Ed. N. Luttwak. The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire. From the First Century A.D. to the Third. Baltimore. 1981, pp. 192-193; T. Dundua, N. Silagadze. European Industrial Complexes of I Cycle of Capitalism and the Georgian Western Affiliations. Historical and Numismatic Tale. Tbilisi. 2005, pp. 5-7; T. Dundua. North and South. Tbilisi. 2001, pp. 8-15).

Full-time units, legions, *alae* of cavalry, *cohortes* of infantry and mixed *cohortes equitatae* served the forward defense-system. Part-time border force of *limitanei* had appeared and auxiliary *alae* and cohorts had disappeared; and regular mobile reserve – *comitatenses* – substituted legions, fixed at the border. All they served new security system – defense-in-depth. The whole 3<sup>rd</sup> c. saw these changes, finally shaped in the times of Constantine I. Septimius Severus was the first to form a certain kind of reserve. He stationed II *Parthica* in Albanum, increased praetorian and urban cohorts in number. And Gallienus created special cavalry units to serve as a reserve (Ed. N. Luttwak. The Grand Strategy, pp. 173, 184).

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. large federations of *Franki* and *Alemanni* began to threaten the Rhine-frontier. And the Goths had already reached Dniester by 238 (Ed. N. Luttwak. The Grand Strategy, pp. 128, 146). Franks attacked Gaul, Alemanns – Italy. From the great deeds of Emperor M.

Aurelius Probus (276-282) the most important is the deliverance of seventy Gaulic cities. He drove back Franks and Alemanns, four hundred thousand of them being killed. Probus passed the Rhine, and returned back with considerable tribute of corn, cattle, and horses. Sixteen thousand Germanic recruits were dispersed among the Roman units. Other captive or fugitive barbarians gained a new status, that of part-time peasant-soldiers (*limitanei*). Emperor transported a considerable body of Vandals into Cambridgeshire, great number of Franks and *Gepidae* were settled on the banks of the Danube and the Rhine, *Bastarnae* – in Thrace. Pontic (The Black Sea) coast was reserved for some more Franks (Ed. Gibbon. The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. Vol. 1. London. 1993 (first published in 1776), pp. 362-368). But which one exactly? This is to be discussed.

According to Ed. Gibbon, Franks settled at the sea-coast of Pontus had to check the Alani inroads. A fleet stationed in one of the harbors of the Euxine fell into their hands, and they resolved, through unknown seas, to explore their way from the mouth of Phasis (river Rioni in West Georgia) to that of the Rhine. They easily escaped through the Bosphorus and the Hellespont, and cruising along the Mediterranean, indulged their appetite for revenge and plunder by frequent descents on the shores of Asia, Greece and Africa. City of Syracuse was sacked by the barbarians. Franks proceeded to the columns of Hercules, coasted round Spain and Gaul, and steering their course through the British channel, at length finished their voyage by landing in safety on the Batavian or Frisian shores (Ed. Gibbon. The Decline and Fall . . . , pp. 367-368).

What is this whole story based on? Zosimus and one panegyric to Constantius Chlorus contributed to it.

Narrating about the events in the past, in the times of divine Probus, author of this panegyric mentions undeserved success of the small Frankish band, who, sailing from Pontus on the captured fleet, ravished Greece and Asia, damaged Africa, stormed Syracuse, and passing through the columns of the Hercules, reached the ocean (*Recursabat quippe in animos illa sub diuo Probo paucorum ex Francis captiuorum incredibilis audacia et indigna felicitas, qui a Ponto usque correptis nauibus Graeciam Asiamque populati nec impune plerisque Libyae litoribus appulsi ipsas postremo naualibus quondam uictoriis nobiles ceperant Syracusas et immenso itinere peruecti oceanum, qua terras irrumpit, intrauerant atque ita euentu temeritatis ostenderant nihil esse clausum piraticae desperationi, quo nauigiis pateret accessus.*) (Panegyricus Constantio Dictus, IV, XVIII. Panégyriques Latins. T. I (I-V). Texte Établi et Traduit par Édouard Galletier. Paris. 1949, pp. 96-97).

Zosimus tells us about the Franks having appealed to the Emperor, and having a country given to them. A part of them afterwards revolted, and having collected a great number of ships, disturbed all Greece; from whence they proceeded into Sicily, to Syracuse, which they attacked, and killed many people there. At length they arrived in Africa, whence though they were repulsed by a body of men from Carthage, yet they returned home without any great loss (Zosimus. New History. Book 1. London. 1814).

There is no mention of mouth of the river of Phasis as a spring-board for the expedition in the sources. Then, what was in Gibbon's mind? Perhaps, logic, excluding the possibilities.

Indeed, the Northern Black Sea coast is beyond the Roman rule. The Western shores, and the Balkans are already packed with the barbarians. Southern littoral was less used

for *receptio*, while Lazica (West Georgia) and Pontic *Limes* cannot be argued. And something strange had happened to this *limes* in the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. Now threat comes not from the front, the Romans have Lazi client king dwelling there, but – from behind, because of the Goths living at the Northern shores.

We can only guess that the Franks were in Lazica as *limitanei*. But we really know nothing about how they were coordinating with the full-time units, their number before and after the revolt, what was the life like for those who stayed loyal.

Still, it seems quite reasonable that the bargain of *receptio*-system should have been distributed among all Roman provinces to keep the centre undisturbed from the barbaric influx. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. the Empire is able to do this, not after.

### *Byzantines in Georgia*

With the death of Theodosius, last Emperor of the united Roman world, in 395 A.D. the Empire was divided into two almost same-sized halves. The Western part, while defending itself throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> c. from various barbarian hordes (at the time, the Western part was defended by regiments consisting mainly of barbarians) coming from beyond the Rhine river, had an almost destroyed tax-paying system. This very factor did not allow the Imperial administration based in Ravenna to muster enough economic and military resources for effective defense of the Northern borders. Last Western Roman Emperors were mere puppets in the hands of barbarian warlords – the process which culminated in deposing the last Emperor Romulus Augustulus in 476.

The Eastern part (Byzantium) with the capital in Constantinople, on the other hand, showed greater resilience in managing internal problems and external threats. Byzantium managed simultaneously to hold off the barbarians coming from the North and the Sassanians from the East. This was made possible by an efficient tax-paying system the Byzantines inherited from the Romans, which, in turn, made it possible to field large armies to defend the Imperial borders on several fronts and at the same time wage offensive wars (Ed. N. Luttwak. *The Grand Strategy of the Byzantine Empire*. Harvard. 2009, pp. 1-16. The most apparent case is the reign of Justinian when, while waging war on Vandals in North Africa and the Ostrogoths in Italy, Constantinople still had to defend its Eastern border from the Sassanians and the Danube river from the Slavs).

The Byzantines did not have such abundant resources as the Romans had during the first three centuries A.D. Moreover, the Eastern half was spread on three continents – Europe, Asia and Africa – making the Imperial borders highly vulnerable to foreign powers. In other words, the geography put the Byzantine Empire at a huge disadvantage as the Danube river was a barrier easy to cross for the Goths, or in later centuries Huns, Slavs and Avars. In Africa, the desert frontier stretching for more than a thousand kilometers had no geographic barrier to rely on making rich Tripolitania and Byzacena and the South of Egypt exposed to attacks from the Berbers and other nomadic groups. The Eastern frontier too was highly vulnerable as the Arab groupings could easily reach Palestine and Syrian cities from the Syro-Mesopotamian desert. In the North Mesopotamia Byzantium faced its greatest rival, Sassanian Iran, and this portion too needed to be defended with the assemblage of large military power, whether through the field armies or military fortifications.

Moreover, the Byzantines had little geographic depth along its entire Eastern frontier to fully employ the defense-in-depth strategy (e.g., in the Balkans Constantinople did enjoy large geographic depth necessary for the defense. This was apparent when the Huns under Attila and then the Avars in early 7<sup>th</sup> c. broke through the Danubian defenses and reached Constantinople. However, military regiments placed in various fortresses and the distance of several hundreds of kilometers (from the Danube to the capital) enabled the Emperor, whether it was Theodosius II or Heraclius, to thwart the barbarian onslaughts). The similar situation was in Africa. Since Asia Minor, Balkans, Egypt and Syria were the most prosperous lands in terms of population number and the level of urbanization, the functioning of the Empire was contingent upon the defense of these provinces. Overall, the Byzantines were at much worse geographic situation than their Western counterparts.

Thus, in order to survive in this difficult geopolitical situation and preserve the Empire from early 5<sup>th</sup> c. to the 7<sup>th</sup> c., the Byzantines had to develop a whole set of military strategies. In other words, the Byzantines were no less successful than the Flavians, Antonines and late 3<sup>rd</sup> c. Emperors. However, the Byzantines made numerous changes by adapting to new circumstances. Since Constantinople had less economic and human resources than the united Roman Empire, the Byzantines always tried to use less military power and employ more diplomacy and the propagation of the Christian religion (G. Fowden. *Consequences of the Monotheism in Late Antiquity*. Princeton. 1993, pp. 80-100) to safeguard Imperial borders.

The Byzantines inherited from the Romans military presence in Lazica and alliance with Kartli/Iberia (East and South Georgia). This military tradition goes back to the first

two centuries A.D. and represents a forward-defense strategy. Byzantine garrisons, which existed in Lazica from the 5<sup>th</sup> c. till the Arab invasion of the Middle East in the 30s of the 7<sup>th</sup> c. (T. Dundua. Influx of Roman Coins in Georgia. Roman Coins Outside the Empire. Ways and Phases, Contexts and Functions. Proceedings of ESF/SCH Exploratory Workshop. Nieborow (Poland). 2005. Moneta. Wetteren. 2008, p. 313), did not change their location. However, the role of Lazica considerably increased as in late 4<sup>th</sup> c. the so-called “*Völkerwanderung*” or Migration period began. Since the new peoples such as Huns, Avars etc. lived in the Eurasian steppes, which bordered the Caucasian range and the Danube river, Constantinople had to face a two-front war from the North (from the Eastern and Western parts of the Black Sea). Therefore, the Byzantine garrisons in Lazica were transformed into forward posts for collecting information about new peoples coming from the steppes and, in case of need, establishing first diplomatic contacts too.

For example, when approximately in 557 the Avars reached the Volga river, in modern-day Southern Russia, in a year or two through the Alans they sent an embassy to Constantinople. But, before the letter was received in the capital, first it had been passed through the hands of Byzantine generals stationed in Lazica (Ed. N. Luttwak. The Grand Strategy of the Byzantine Empire, p. 59). The role of Lazica increased also because of the mountain passes through which the newly-coming nomads from the North could potentially penetrate into the South and cause havoc even in the Eastern provinces of the Byzantine Empire as it happened in 395 when the Huns reached as far as Antioch (P. Heather. The Fall of the Roman Empire. A New History of Rome and the Barbarians. Oxford. 2007, pp. 145-154). The Byzantine officials also used the passes to distract nomad leaders by

making them to take much longer roads to reach the Imperial capital. Menander Protector preserves the bitter complaint of a Turkic chief from the steppes, North to the Caucasian range, dated by 577: “As for you Romans, why do you take my envoys through the Caucasus to Byzantium, alleging that there is no other route for them to travel? You do this so that I might be deterred from attacking the Roman Empire by the difficult terrain (i.e. high mountains which for horses are very hard to cross). But I know very well where the river Danapris (Dniepr) flows, and the Istros (Danube) and the Hebrus (Maritsa, Meric)” (*Excerpta de Legationibus Romanorum ad Gentes*, 14, in *The History of Menander the Guardsman*. Translated by R. C. Blockley. London. 1985, p. 175).

Lazica's military importance increased even more following the stand-off between Justinian and the Sassanian Shahanshah Khusro I Anushirvan in mid-6<sup>th</sup> c. By the time Iran had already been increasing its political and military pressure towards North and West, which culminated in the abolition of the Albanian and Armenian kingdoms during the 5<sup>th</sup>-early-6<sup>th</sup> cc. As was said, mid-6<sup>th</sup> c. saw renewed warfare between the empires and the focus of the conflict, traditionally along with the North Mesopotamia, also fell on Lazica. Iran was interested in occupying the Eastern Black Sea coast to pressure Constantinople (which by the time was already embroiled in a war with the Ostrogoths in Italy) into signing a more winning peace treaty for Ctesiphon. The Byzantines knew well that if the Sassanians managed to occupy the Lazica shore, Iranian military vessels in the near future would make their way through the Bosphorus directly to Constantinople. This is well reflected in one of the passages from Procopius – Lazi sent an embassy to Khusro to explain the geopolitical advantages which the Iranians would gain through controlling Lazica and the Byzantine fortresses there:

“To the realm of Persia you will add a most ancient kingdom, and as a result of this you will have the power of your sway extended, and it will come about that you will have a part in the sea of the Romans through our land, and after thou hast built ships in this sea (i.e. Black Sea), O King, it be possible for thee with no trouble to set foot in the palace in Byzantium. For there is no obstacle between. And one might add that the plundering of the land of the Romans every year by the barbarians along the boundary will be under your control. For surely you also are acquainted with the fact that up till now the land of the Lazi has been a bulwark against the Caucasus Mountains” (De Bello Persico. II. 15, Procopius of Caesarea. History of the Wars. Translated by H. B. Dewing. Cambridge. Massachusetts. 1914, pp. 225-226).

The above analysis of the Roman and Early Byzantine military strategies towards their neighbors quite clearly shows that Georgia always had its own place within the pan-European military alliances. Why not bring it back?

### *NATO and Georgia*

NATO alliance’s strategy could be likened to the best military traditions of Rome and Byzantium discussed above. As was the case with these two Empires, NATO too regards the Black Sea and its Eastern shore – Georgia – as fundamental for the alliance’s strategy in the Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region overall.

As for the Romans and Byzantines before, for NATO too Georgia’s Black Sea shore would allow the alliance to expand militarily in the region and control crucial land and maritime military routes from the North to the Black Sea basin. There is also an economic dimension since Georgia serves as a vital transit route for oil/gas pipelines, important

railroads connecting the Caspian and Black Seas. Indeed, as Roman and Byzantine army units before, NATO's presence in Georgia would serve as a defensive shield for trade in the region which in Antiquity was often referred to as a part of the famous Silk Road and nowadays is called as the South Caucasus energy and transport corridor because of oil/gas transport infrastructure.

This strategic vision is well reflected in one of the recent NATO-Georgia Commission statement: "Georgia is one of the Alliance's closest operational partners, and an Enhanced Opportunities Partner. Allies highly appreciate Georgia's steadfast support for NATO's operations and missions..." (NATO-Georgia Commission Statement. Oct. 2019. [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\\_texts\\_169323.htm?selectedLocale=en](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_169323.htm?selectedLocale=en)). Direct allusion to the alliance's Black Sea strategy is also seen in another passage from the same Commission statement: "NATO values Georgia's engagement in, and contributions to, strategic discussion and mutual awareness, on security in the Black Sea region" (NATO-Georgia Commission Statement. Oct. 2019. [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official\\_texts\\_169323.htm?selectedLocale=en](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_169323.htm?selectedLocale=en)).

Thus NATO alliance's strategic vision for Georgia and the wider Black Sea region is similar to how the Romans and Byzantines saw this part of the world.

## Geopolitics of Dual Citizenship

### – Case of Georgia

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/18052020-geopolitics-of-dual-citizenship-case-of-georgia-analysis/>

*Dual citizenship emerges as a geopolitical concept. Small states seeking political and military security could attain guarantees through the spread of dual citizenship. Below are examples from Roman history with a separate case made for modern Georgia.*

Dual citizenship seems to be a way small European nations should feel safe within a framework of the European integration, whereas a responsibility for a personal security lays upon an allied country too. A research of historical background must be involved thoroughly, Georgia being an object for this case. If a foreign citizenship was a traditional honorary degree passed from the European principal domains towards the provinces, the countries being tied up formally, it should not be abandoned at all, and put under a scrupulous legislative elaboration.

“Serapita, daughter of Zevakh the lesser pitiax (duke), and wife of Iodmangan, son of Publicios Agrippa the pitiax, victorious *epitropos* (commander-in-chief and the only minister) of the Great King of the Iberians Xepharnug, died young, aged 21, and she was extremely beautiful” (Г. В. Церетели. Армазская билингва. Двухязычная надпись, найденная при археологических раскопках в Мцхета-Армази. Тбилиси. 1941, pp. 23-24).

This Greek text was carved on tombstone from Mtskheta (East Georgia), the Iberian capital. It is prolonged by the Aramaic version (Г. В. Церетели. Армазская билингва. Двухязычная надпись, найденная при археологических раскопках в Мцхета-Армази, pp. 22-23). *Epitropos* corresponds to the Aramaic *trbṣ*, which occurs to be used also towards Agrippa, now *trbṣ* of the king Pharsmanes (Г. В. Церетели. Армазская билингва. Двухязычная надпись, найденная при археологических раскопках в Мцхета-Армази, p. 32). Agrippa seems to be a very big man, and because of his Roman *nomen* Publicius – also a Roman citizen.

In the old times *civitas sine suffragio* gave to Rome a direct control of her allies' troops without destroying local (i.e. Italian) *res publica*. "Latin Rights" were regarded as something intermediary between peregrine status and Roman citizenship. Inside his own community the Latin was subject of the local laws, and a free man. The allies fought on the Roman side, but her own army consisted of the Roman and the Latin forces. The rests are simply *socii* (A. N. Shervin-White. The Roman Citizenship. Oxford. At the Clarendon Press. 1939. Second Edition. Oxford. 1973, pp. 46, 73, 96, 98, 109).

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C. Rome was beginning to govern Italy. Magistrates who had supreme power over the Latin military forces, were also the civil heads of the Roman state. The local authorities performed the demands of the central government (A. N. Shervin-White. The Roman Citizenship, p. 105).

After Social War it was as communities and not as individuals that the Italian allies were incorporated in the Roman commonwealth, they became self-governing *municipias*. Each new citizen had a double existence, but

these two lives were bound together by the most intimate of bonds. New *municipias* are the old tribes (A. N. Shervin-White. *The Roman Citizenship*, pp. 150, 153).

Then the enfranchisement of *Gallis Cisalpins* followed. From 42 B.C. onwards in Roman usage *Italia* came to mean the whole territory of the peninsula from the straits of Messina to the Alpine foothills (A. N. Shervin-White. *The Roman Citizenship*, p. 159).

Under Caesar and Augustus comes the first large-scale extension of the Roman citizenship in the provincial areas. This extension is based upon the firm foundation of a genuine Italian immigration. Beside this stands the extensive grants of *Ius Latii* in the more Romanized areas of Spain and Gaul. The method is as follows – inserting a preparatory period of Latin status before the elevation of purely foreign communities to the full citizenship. The condition of a grant of Latin rights appears to have been the possession of a certain degree of Latin culture (A. N. Shervin-White. *The Roman Citizenship*, pp. 225, 233).

But then Caracalla gave the franchise to all free inhabitants of the Empire (A. N. Shervin-White. *The Roman Citizenship*, pp. 280, 287).

As to personal grants, *Domitii*, or *Fabii*, or *Pompeii* in the Western provinces are thought to derive their citizenship from grants made to their forebearers by Domitius Ahenobarbus, Fabius Maximus, or Pompeius Magnus, the generals (A. N. Shervin-White. *The Roman Citizenship*, p. 295).

Beyond the Roman rule, Caesar was the first to make a king Roman citizen (D. Braund. *Rome and the Friendly King. A Character of the Client Kingship*. Beckenham, Kent, Fyshwick, Australia. 1984, p. 45). This practice was maintained. For Britain *tria nomina* was as follows – Ti.

Claudius Cogidubus, with Claudius or Nero being the benefactors; for Thrace – C. Iulius Rhometalcus, it is probable that he inherited his citizenship from a predecessor upon whom Caesar or Augustus had conferred it; for Pontus – M. Antonius Polemo, Antonius being a benefactor; for Judea – M. or C. Iulius Agrippa (D. Braund. *Rome and the Friendly King. A Character of the Client Kingship*, pp. 39, 41-42, 44).

Iberian case of Publicius Agrippa is very interesting. He was Pharsmanes minister and commander-in-chief. And Pharsmanes dealt with Hadrian. Roman general C. Quinctius Certus Publicius Marcellus is thought to be a benefactor, *legatus divi Hadriani provinciarum Syriae et Germaniae superioris* (Prosopographia Imperii Romani Saec. I. II. III. Pars VI. Consilio et Avctoritate Academiae Scientiarum Berolinensis et Brandenburgensis. Iteratis Curvis ediderunt Leiva Petersen, Klaus Wachtel. Adivvantibus M. Heil, K. P. Johne, L. Vidman. Berolini. Novi Eborau. MCMXCVIII, pp. 433-434, №№1038, 1042).

Hadrian sent his best generals against the Jews of Bar-Kokhba. Two inscriptions found in Ancyra in Galatia attest a senatorial legate of the *legio IV Scythica* in Syria, acting at the same time as the governor of Syria. He is Publicius Marcellus, who left his province because of the Jewish rebellion. Publicius Marcellus and part of the Syrian army participated in the war in Judaea. Another inscription from Aquileia informs that C. Quinctius Certus Publicius Marcellus was not only the consul, augur and *legatus divi Hadriani provinciae Syriae et Germaniae superioris*, but also that he received triumphal rewards, or *ornamenta triumphalia*. (W. Eck. *The Bar Kokhba Revolt. The Roman Point of View. The Journal of Roman Studies*. v. LXXXIX. 1999. Leeds, pp. 83, 85).

The revolt was dangerous, and a transfer of the legions from the different places to Judaea – an emergency

measure. This state of emergency is reflected also in a striking measure: a transfer of the soldiers from *classis Misenensis* to the *legio X Fretensis* in Judaea. Since the possession of Roman citizenship was a prerequisite for enrolment in the legions (but not for service in other units of the Roman army, such as the two Italian fleets, the *classis Ravennas* and *classis Misenensis*), this meant that these marines were given *civitas Romana* on joining X Legion. The sources attest even conscription to fill the gaps not only in the legions serving in Judaea, which lost many soldiers, but also in other legions from where the units of the experienced soldiers were taken to strengthen garrisons of Judaea. Great losses were also incurred by the auxiliary forces in Judaea (W. Eck. *The Bar Kokhba Revolt. The Roman Point of View*, pp. 79-80). They were also to be filled up.

What conclusions are we to draw from all this?

Some of the Iberian units rushed towards South to help Romans with Agrippa from the Iberian royal clan in a command. And he was given *civitas Romana*, Marcellus being a benefactor.

Thus, citizenship of Publicius Agrippa, Iberian commander-in-chief, derived from a grant of C. Publicius Marcellus, Hadrian's governor of Syria. Moreover, Agrippa was not the only Georgian to be a Roman citizen.

A silver cup of the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> cc. records a name of the Iberian king Flavius Dades. Apparently a Roman citizen, he inherited his citizenship from a predecessor upon whom either Vespasian or Domitian had conferred it (Очерки Истории Грузии. т. I, p. 415; David Braund. *Rome and the Friendly King. A Character of the Client Kingship*, p. 43).

Roman names like Aurelius are still vital in the 4<sup>th</sup> c. (Очерки Истории Грузии. т. I., p. 19).

Much of the Romans' long hegemony was spent in carrying through the major reform programs which were to set the pattern for most aspects of life in Europe for centuries to come. The Romans had a reputation for integration. Indeed, they installed Roman citizenship over the kings dwelling at the frontiers, especially the Eastern one. In the twilight of her greatness, showing every sign of disintegration, losing Gaul, Spain and Britain, the Empire still used this system, which proved to be comfortable while military campaigns in the East continued. So, the Georgian kings, sometimes possessing Roman citizenship, were, in effect, guarding the European borders (T. Dundua. Georgia within the European Integration. Tbilisi. 2016, pp. 74-81).

### *Dual Citizenship as a Tool for National Security*

Historically, most countries tried to discourage dual citizenship by requiring newcomers to renounce their country of origin citizenship in order to naturalize, and origin countries took away citizenship if emigrants became naturalized citizens of other states. Nowadays possessing citizenship in more than one country has become common.

There is a number of benefits dual citizens can receive: social service systems, voting and ability to run for office in either country. It also involves financial benefits as holders of dual citizenship are usually also allowed to work in either country. Having a citizen's passport eliminates the need for long-stay visas and questioning about the purpose of your trip. Another benefit of dual citizenship is the ability to own property in either country as some countries restrict land ownership to citizens only.

Beyond that dual citizenship also has clear geopolitical ramifications. In this way smaller states can be

defended by a bigger state. Georgia, since the break up of the Soviet Union, has been pursuing a pro-Western policy. This includes NATO and EU membership efforts. However, this policy brought troubles as Georgia experienced separatist wars in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region helped by the Kremlin and an outright Russian military invasion in 2008.

<http://georgiatoday.ge/news/16964/Abkhazians-%26-Ossetians-in-Georgia.-A-Short-History>

NATO/EU membership pursuit is thus damaged for the moment and Georgia is vulnerable militarily and security-wise.

One of the possibilities for Georgia to correct this geopolitical dilemma would have been a dual citizenship for Georgians. As in the Roman times when the Empire was dominant and the bestowal of citizenship was not only a sign of friendship, but also a political connection (vow of protection), so could, for example, the extension of the US citizenship onto Georgia provide the latter with some more concrete security umbrella. Israel is a good case to discuss as the country has, by some estimates some up to 1 million citizens holding US citizenship.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2011/07/05/the-million-missing-israelis/>

The countries use the dual citizenship for their geopolitical interests. Take Russia which has been encouraging since the 1990s the distribution of Russian passports to separatist regions along its borders. As a result, the majority living in Abkhazia, Tskhinvali Region, Ukraine's Donbas, or in Transnistria are Russian citizens which put them under Moscow's protection.

<https://www.dw.com/en/russia-starts-giving-passports-to-ukrainians-from-donetsk-luhansk/a-49207353>

To counter this, a dual US-Georgian citizenship for Georgians could work. This would have to involve direct security obligations from the US side: enlarging security and military cooperation with Georgian government etc. This will not be easy as the security obligations through the dual citizenship strategy for Georgia would potentially put the US in direct collision course with the Russians.

Nevertheless, the dual citizenship is an emerging concept in the world politics, which can be used by larger states to protect smaller ones which are vulnerable militarily. As the case of the Roman Empire showed, the concept was present in Ancient period, covering the territory of Georgia. As argued above, it can be re-used in modern times too to provide security to Georgia.

### **Confessional Issues of NATO's Eastern Enlargement: Search for a Common Saint**

Bulgaria and Romania, West and Northwest parts of the Black Sea shores, are NATO members. Both joined the organization in 2004. It is now time for Ukraine and Georgia, the rest of the Black Sea, to join the alliance.

NATO member states are characterized by identical values such as democracy, regional and global security, environ protection etc. Similar values are present in NATO-aspirant states (Ukraine and Georgia) too.

The NATO alliance is a military alliance interested in establishing Eurasian security. A closer look at the map of NATO's Eastward expansion, however, shows that the alliance essentially grows mostly where the confessionally Orthodox Christian states are located. Turkey being a notable

exception, NATO member states are predominantly Christian where Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox versions of the same religion do exist.

Still, there is a common confessional fundament between the Western and Eastern parts of Europe exemplified in the third or fourth pope of the Rome. Pope Clement was banished to Crimea (modern Ukraine) where martyred, while his disciples spread Christianity in Western Georgia.

Below is the story of Clement, the pope whose life could serve as a common ground for the cooperation between Western and Eastern parts of Europe with the NATO alliance serving as a driving force.

“He assembled the whole province by preaching; everyone coming to Clement was converted to his doctrine about the Lord; more than 500 persons used to be baptized by him daily and then – dismissed. 75 churches were built there in one year by the true faith, and all the idols – destructed, all the temples in neighboring regions – demolished, 300 miles around everything being destroyed and leveled due to his permanent work” (Martyrium S. Clementis. XXII. Patrologiae Graecae Tomus II. Paris. 1886, p. 630).

This aggressive and obviously exaggerated proselytism is an “apocryphal” deed of either the third, or the fourth bishop of Rome (the Pope), Clement (92-101). Indeed, this is an amalgam from apocryphal Greek acts of martyrdom, dated by the 4<sup>th</sup> c. Clement was banished from Rome to Chersonesus (Crimea) by Emperor Trajan (98-117) and set to work in a stone quarry. Still, he managed to go on with his Christian propaganda (Martyrium S. Clementis, pp. 627-630).

Clement could really inspire a creation of Christian organizations in those regions. But nobody could have ever believed the story about destruction of the idols and the temples in the 1<sup>st</sup> c. A.D. And under whose protection and by whose money could be those churches built?! So, the whole

story is to be believed only partly. Then, what is about 300 miles (Roman mile is equal to approximately 1480 m.) mentioned there?! If it is true, then Pitius, city in Colchis/Lazica (Western Georgia), and its outskirts fall within this range. Still, there is a major problem to be solved for Clement – was he in Crimea, or is this again a fiction? The narrative of his martyrdom in Crimea is not older than the 4<sup>th</sup> c. (Trajan orders Clement to be thrown into the sea with an iron anchor attached). Even Eusebius writes nothing alike (Ph. Schaff. History of the Christian Church. Vol. II: Anti-Nicene Christianity. A.D. 100-325. First Published 1882. Third Edition, Revised. <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/hcc2.html>, pp. 399-405; Clement of Rome. The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church. Edited by F. L. Cross. Third Edition Edited by E. A. Livingstone. Oxford University Press. 1997, p. 360; Eusebius. HE. III. IV. 6-11, III. XI. XV, III. XX. XXI, III. XXXVII. XXXVIII, Eusebius. The Ecclesiastic History. With an English Translation by K. Lake. In Two Volumes. I. London: W. Heinemann, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. MCMXXVI, pp. 197, 233, 235, 241, 289). But the lack of tradition that he was buried in Rome is in favor of him having died in exile (Ch. G. Herbermann. Pope St. Clement I. The Catholic Encyclopedia. Volume 4: Clandestinity-Diocesan Chancery. New York. 1913, p. 36).

Mikhail Sabinin (М. Сабинин. Полные жизнеописания святых грузинской церкви. В 2-х частях. СПб. 1871. Ч. 1, pp. 33-34. [http://krotov.info/libr\\_min/18\\_s/ab/in-in\\_01.htm](http://krotov.info/libr_min/18_s/ab/in-in_01.htm)) and Mikhail Tamarashvili (М. Tamarashvili. The Georgian Church from the Beginning to the Present Time (in Georg.). Materials and Researches. 3. Tbilisi. 1995, pp. 189-190) thought of Clement's converts working hard in Colchis/Lazica for the faith, both of them having in mind the proximity of Northern and Eastern Black Sea coasts, and not these 300 miles mentioned in the narrative. We believe this note about the exact distance should not be ignored.

Thus, apocryphal acts of the martyrdom show Clement's large-scale missionary labor and his life proves the possibility of cooperation between the Western and Eastern parts of Europe.

### **Euro-Asian Transit and Georgian Finances in the Middle Ages**

Today Georgia serves as a busy commercial bridge to Asia. The country has been involved in big projects, funded by both, European and Asian financial organizations. This mirrors what was taking place in the past. For centuries, Georgia, while integrated with Europe through political, economic and cultural links, it had also extensive ties with the economies of Asian countries.

<https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/04/29/silk-spices-and-oil-transcaucasian-trade-route-and-georgia/>

Georgia's integration within the Euro-Asian transit and finances is well reflected in the Georgian numismatics of the Medieval period. Take, for example, the 12<sup>th</sup> c. which, arguably, saw the biggest financial challenge.

At the time, the Middle Eastern countries stopped to issue silver coins ("silver famine"). Silver bullions kept in state coffers still made the prices, but only copper money was in circulation. Ratio of silver to copper was at least 1 to 10, i.e. copper coins total weight could be 10 times more, flooding the markets.

That is why, everyone agreed about a new ratio, perhaps, 1 to 6, thus making their copper issues acceptable abroad. Georgians did the same. Their "irregularly" struck copper coins have also Arabic legends/inscriptions. Here are several examples.

*Georgian coin before "silver famine".*

St. Virgin Blachernitissa type coins – David IV's (1089-1125) second emission. Silver.

**Obverse:** Facing bust of Virgin orans, nimbate, wearing pallium and maphorium. Greek legend MP – ΘY, to l. and r. from nimbus.

**Reverse:** Cross in the center and marginal Georgian legend – “Christ, exalt David, the king and Sebastos (?)”.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=47>

*Georgian coin during “silver famine”.*

Coins of queen Tamar (1184-1210) with her signature. “Irregularly” struck copper.

**Obverse:** Signature of Tamar in the center of a wreathed frame. Marginal Georgian legend – In the name of God, this silver (!) piece was struck in the K'oronikon 407 (=1187).

**Reverse:** Arabic legend in five lines –The great queen, glory of the world and faith, Tamar, daughter of Giorgi, champion of the Messiah, may God increase her victories.

Circle around and marginal Arabic legend – May God increase her glory, and lengthen her shadow, and strengthen her prosperity.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=68>

Coins of Giorgi IV (1210-1223) with the legend “Giorgi, son of Tamar”. “Irregularly” struck copper.

**Obverse:** Georgian legend in the center of a wreathed frame – Giorgi, son of Tamar. Marginal Georgian legend – In the name of God, this silver (!) piece was struck in the K’oronikon 430 (=1210).

**Reverse:** Arabic legend in four lines – King of the Kings, glory of the world and faith, Giorgi, son of Tamar, sword of the Messiah. Circle around. Persian legend outside the circle – In the name of the most saint God this silver piece was struck in the year 430.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=71>

*Georgian coin after “silver famine”.*

Silver coins of queen Rusudan (1223-1245) with the effigy of Christ.

**Obverse:** Bust of Christ facing, wearing nimbus, pallium and colobium and raising right hand in benediction, holds ornated book of Gospels in left hand. Greek legend: IC XC. Marginal Georgian legend – in the name of God, was struck in the K’oronikon 450 (=1230).

**Reverse:** In the center of an ornated frame three Georgian letters for the name of Rusudan. Marginal Arabic legend – Queen of the Queens, glory of the world and faith, Rusudan, daughter of Tamar, champion of the Messiah.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=49>

### **Coin as a Means of Propaganda: Georgian and Western Experience**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/10062020-coin-as-a-means-of-propaganda-georgian-and-western-experience-analysis/>

Multiculturalism (tolerance) and the ability to unify large different ethnic groups living within the state's boundaries are those distinct features which serve as the *fundamentum* for economic, military and cultural achievements of the Western civilization.

Take an example of the famous US statue, Lady Liberty. It was originally designed to celebrate the end of slavery, not the arrival of immigrants. The monument was designed by a Frenchman Édouard de Laboulaye who in June 1865, during a meeting with the French abolitionists, talked about the idea of creating some kind of commemorative gift that would recognize the importance of the liberation of the slaves. Many believe that the woman depicted as the Lady Liberty was of black provenance.

Various US commemorative coins propagate the unification of the great American nation. Take the following example of the US president Barack Obama pictured on the obverse design of the commemorative coin. The obverse inscription reads “BARACK OBAMA”. The reverse has a quote from Obama and reads as follows: “OUR DESTINY IS NOT WRITTEN FOR US. IT IS WRITTEN BY US”.

Unknown to most for many years, the famous female figure depicted as Liberty on Saint-Gaudens double eagle (1907-1932) was African-American model Hettie Anderson.



Another example is a one-ounce American Liberty 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gold coin minted in 2017 to commemorate the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US Mint. The coin has a notable design as it first had the depiction of Lady Liberty portrayed as an African-American woman.

<https://catalog.usmint.gov/american-liberty-225th-anniversary-gold-coin-17XA.html>



Similar tradition of paying respects to ethnic minorities or groups of the society which underwent deprivation exists in Western Europe and other developed states across the globe. Georgia which pursues integration into Western political, economic and military unions has an interesting historical background of encouraging peaceful co-

existence among its Christian and non-Christian subjects during the Middle Ages.

“ . . . I witnessed all these privileges, when I entered Tiflis/Tbilisi in the year 548/1153. And I saw how the king of the Georgians, Dimitri, in whose service I was, arrived in Tiflis and sojourned there some days. The same Friday he came to the cathedral mosque and sat on a platform opposite the preacher and he remained at his place while the preacher preached and the people prayed and he listened to the *khutba*, all of it. Then he went out and granted for the mosque 200 gold dinars” (D. M. Lang. *Studies in the Numismatic History of Georgia in Transcaucasia*. New York. 1955, p. 17). This is what Arab writer al-Farik says about demonstration of tolerance of the Georgian king Demetre I (1125-1156) towards his Muslim subjects. Perhaps, the king wished them to be more faithful. His son Giorgi III used even more powerful method for the same propaganda.



Giorgi III (1156-1184). Follis. d=23 mm. 5.75 gr. 1174.

**Obverse:** King in stemma (Byzantine Imperial crown) and Persian dress, with loose trousers, seated also in a very Persian manner, cross-legged, facing. His left hand rests on his thigh, on his right hand up lifted sits a falcon. Georgian letters for the name of Giorgi, and also representing date 394 of the Paschal cycle.

**Reverse:** King of the Kings/Giorgi, son of Demetre,/Sword of Messiah – in Arabic.

<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=>

66

The coin shows the ruler in the Persian dress with the false-sleeves and loose trousers, seated also in a very Persian manner, with a falcon on his hand. If not the Arabic legend on reverse claiming that he is Giorgi, King of the Kings and the Sword of Messiah, Georgian initials on obverse and Imperial stemma on the head, he could have been any of the Muslim dynasts.

But that is the schematic effigy for Giorgi III of Georgia, victorious and celebrated.

Neither his grandfather David IV (1089-1125), nor his grandson Giorgi IV Lasha (1210-1222) used to be dressed like him; all they wore divitision, loros and chlamis, common uniform for the Georgian kings within the Byzantine Commonwealth. Even David Ulugh and David Narin, vassal kings of Georgia under the Mongols, are in the Imperial dress, as seen on their drama struck in 1261. Georgian imitations to the silver aspers of Trebizond (with Emperor's effigy on reverse) keep the Imperial insignia within the Georgian culture until the 15<sup>th</sup> c.

There is no obvious reason to deny the Imperial clothes for Giorgi III. Then his Persian style is completely unrealistic.

Each baroque demands good reason and also a pattern for itself.

It could be a gentle gesture towards his Muslim subjects dwelling mostly in Tbilisi, recaptured by David IV, but only recently re-established as Georgian capital.

It could be a contribution towards great Eastern monetary pact imposing the same *ratio* for copper, basic metal in circulation due to the “silver famine”.

But it still demanded some pattern for itself – a certain kind of Muslim and Christian Imperial mixture. And only land, which could provide such composition, was Sultanate of Rum, Muslim entity within Byzantine structure.

Towards the 12<sup>th</sup> c. two powers claimed a hegemony over what was still called Byzantium – Comneni from Constantinople and the Seljuks from Conia. The latter's imperial ambitions led to an invention of curious picture – sultan holding stemma, or even being dressed in Byzantine fashion. It figures extensively on medals and coins (e.g. Eberhard Karls University of Tuebingen. Numismatic Collection, inv. №91-16-102. For the monetary type v. Sevki Nezihi Aukut. Türkiye Selçuklu Sikkeleri. I. Istanbul. 2000, pp. 287-288).

Some of these Islamic coins are not synchronous to the reign of Giorgi III, they were struck a bit later. Still, they do reflect earlier tendencies in policy and fine arts of the Anatolian Seljuks.

It seems to that Giorgi owes to both Suni and Shi'a, Seljuks and the Persians for his concrete type (T. Dundua. History of Georgia. Tbilisi. 2017, pp. 228-245).

These examples from the Georgian history show the country has rich history of unification of different groups of society for a common cause, much similar to the Western tradition.

## **Georgia through the Asian Eyes – Mongols and Georgia**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/01022021-georgia-through-asian-eyes-mongols-and-georgia-analysis/>

Georgia, the commercial bridge to Asia, has always been seen as such by its neighbors throughout history. Georgia made her European choice in Classical Antiquity as Colchians (Western Georgians) invited the Greeks to colonize their country, and Iberian (Eastern Georgian) kings became Roman citizens. Asian neighboring confederations had different opinion about Georgia's political affiliation. Whenever possible, they extended their military power over the country. But in many cases foreign powers granted Georgia special rights whether in internal matters or foreign policy affairs. The case of Mongols is especially revealing as the mighty Asian power, intent on destroying any obstacle to its power throughout most of Eurasia, granted Georgia various freedoms. One of them was in keeping parts of the traditional Georgian patterns while issuing the coins.

Mongol hegemony over Georgia was established in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> c. The coins struck at Tbilisi mint are divided into two groups: 1. coins of the Georgian kings in the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> cc., 2. Mongol occupation coins. For the moment, we will discuss only the Mongol occupation coins.

In 1281/82 the striking of very peculiar dirhems began, which in the scholarly literature are known as the Georgian-Hulaguid (Mongol ruling dynasty in Iran) coins. They were the first coins with the names of the Il-khans (Mongol rulers of Iran), but with the Christian prayer and the depiction of cross. It should be emphasized that Georgia was the only Hulaguid vassal-state where the Christian prayer was placed on the coins. This, in itself, was a big concession from the Il-khans which directly attests to the importance of

Georgia. The issue of the Georgian-Hulaguid coins took place in 1281/82-1294/95.

As a rule, there was no place of issue indicated on the Georgian-Hulaguid coins, but there is one dirhem with the following legend: struck at Tbilisi.

Georgian-Hulaguid coins. Silver (dirhem). Copper.

**Obverse:** Uighur legend in five lines which contains the names of the following Il-khans: Abaqa (1265-1282), Ahmad (1282-1284), Arghun (1284-1291), Gaikhatu (1291-1295) and Baidu (1295) (the legend/inscription is approximately as follows: Struck by Ahmad in the name of Khaqan).

**Reverse:** Christian prayer in Arabic in four lines in square within the circle – In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God. Also, Christian emblem – cross. The date is placed in the segments between the square and the circle.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type>  
=94

It is noteworthy that on the dirhems struck in the name of Ahmad the cross is replaced with a star. This can be explained in the following manner: Ahmad was the first Hulaguid who converted to Islam and was intent on removing the Christian symbol – cross – from the coins. After this the names of the Il-khans are repeated in Arabic after the Uighur legend. The cross is again depicted on the Georgian-Hulaguid coins struck in the name of Ahmad's successors.

Simultaneously with the silver coins, similar copper coins were struck. The dates on these coins are almost always distorted, or erased, and their chronology is established only through the names of the Il-khans.

### **Russian Propaganda against Georgia through Ancient and Byzantine Symbols**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/05062020-russian-propaganda-against-georgia-through-ancient-and-byzantine-symbols-analysis/>

All over the Ancient World Golden Fleece was obvious symbol of honor, wealth and glory for Colchis, i.e. Western Georgia. In the Middle Ages double-headed eagle existed as a common symbol for the Byzantine Empire and the allied countries, "Byzantine Commonwealth", Georgia included. Then it became coat of arms of the Russian Empire and later – of the Russian Federation.

When the Georgians contemplated an alliance with the Russians in the 18<sup>th</sup> c., they placed double-headed eagle on their money (Tedo Dundua and Others. Online English-Georgian Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=114>). Instead, they received abolishment of the local kingship and from then on had the Russian Tsar as a king. Russians rejected

double-headed eagle for Georgians, and as a compensation “brought back the Golden Fleece” to them. Below is the whole story.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. Kartalino-Kakhetian Kingdom (Eastern Georgia) became a part of the Russian Empire. Preparations were made for reorganization of old Tbilisi mint, then under the Russian control. On September 15 of 1804 the mint was inaugurated in the former royal bath celebrated by issuing the commemorative medal (T. Dundua, G. Dundua, N. Javakhishvili, A. Eristavi. Money in Georgia. Tbilisi. 2003, p. 98).

Quite a rare one, its description is as follows:  
Silver. 8.23 gr.

**Obverse:** Russian double-headed eagle (former coat of arms of Byzantium) soaring towards Iberia and Colchis, bearing in its claws the Golden Fleece, with the Russian legend (inscription) – “it restores what was stolen”.

**Reverse:** Russian legend – “Tbilisi mint opened on September 15 1804” (Д. Г. Капанадзе. Грузинская нумизматика. Москва. 1955, p. 134 №198; D. Kapanadze. Georgian Numismatics (in Georg. with Russ. and Engl. summaries). Tbilisi. 1969, p. 163 №244; Е. А. Пахомов. Монеты Грузии. Тбилиси. 1970, p. 271).

There could also be a gold piece. At times legend slightly differs. Tbilisi mint operated until 1834. No mythology was used at that time (T. Dundua. Golden Fleece Is Back – Russian Fiction. Phasis. Greek and Roman Studies. Volume 10 (II). Tb. 2007, pp. 161-162).

Recently the Golden Fleece mythology resurfaced.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia in the early 1990s fanned separatist movement in Georgia's Abkhazia. Later on, in the 2000s this led to an outright military and financial support to the separatists which culminated in the illegal recognition of independence of Abkhazia by Russia in 2008. With nearly 5 000 troops stationed in Abkhazia, Russia effectively occupies the region since that period.

These geopolitical moves needed to be bolstered by ideology and propaganda. First was an incorrect but purposeful use of history by Russia to claim that Abkhazia has always been separate from the rest of Georgia, while in fact all historical sources clearly indicate that Abkhazia was a classic Georgian region.

<http://georgiatoday.ge/news/16964/Abkhazians-%26-Ossetians-in-Georgia.-A-Short-History>

To support their story, the Russians went back to the Golden Fleece narrative. Russian actions reflected a simple geopolitical thinking: if before Georgia was close to Russia, no threat was made to the historical knowledge, in this case the Golden Fleece story. Once Georgia deviated from pro-Russian foreign policy stance, the Kremlin began twisting its propaganda and eventually shifting the historical narrative to support Abkhazia's separatist aspirations ideologically.

This became especially apparent in the post-2008 period. Take for example, 2014 Winter Olympics held in Sochi. To bolster the prestige of the Olympic city, the Russian propaganda started to circulate the narrative that it is not Colchis where the Argonauts visited, but Sochi. Indeed, the preparations for this narrative were in work even before 2014. In 2008 a sculpture was erected in Sochi commemorating "historical" connection between Greece and the city. Nearing the Olympics, the Russian state media dedicated a whole TV program to the twisted narrative of Sochi being a real destination of the Argonauts. And lastly, during the opening

ceremony of the Olympics, the Russians mistakenly showed Sochi as a place of Argonauts' visit.

The Kremlin's narrative is simple: with Georgia being pro-Western in political sense, Russia began to wage an ideological war with large-scale propaganda to distort history and essentially connect its territory (Sochi) and partially Abkhazia to the Argonauts myth.

Geopolitics and propaganda are deeply intertwined in Russia's foreign policy. Sudden foreign policy changes could bring about drastic propaganda twists. The Argonauts' case reflects these trends, but this also creates troubles as historical sources and century-old academic literature views Colchis – Western Georgia (including modern-day Abkhazia) as a “homeland” of the famous Golden Fleece.



## **Western Heraldry in Modern Georgia**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/19062020-western-heraldry-in-modern-georgia-analysis/>

For millennia flags have served as national symbols. They also serve as a form of communication. But most of all they serve as a form of identification as the colors and symbols of each flag convey a certain idea or ambitions. It also says a lot about values of a country.

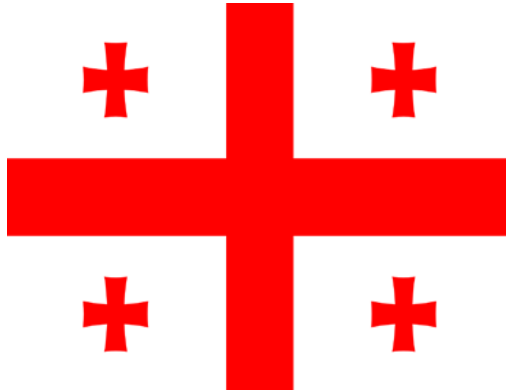
Georgia has had several flags throughout its history and it is interesting how each flag reflected the country's geopolitical ambitions (preferences in alliances etc.).

For instance, the national flag of the first republic of Georgia in 1918-1921 was a tricolor resembling the colors of the German Empire. The resemblance was not accidental – Georgia was pro-German at the time and hoped for Berlin's victory in the World War I.



Georgia's current flag also reflects the national values and geopolitical aspirations. It features Crusading states'

“Cross of Jerusalem”, derived from “Cross Potent”, which was an important heraldic feature of the Byzantine Empire.



“Cross Potent” is often shown in the Byzantine numismatics since Emperor Tiberius II (578-582) (David R. Sear. *Byzantine Coins and Their Values*. London. 1996, p. 14). “Cross Potent” was widespread in the entire Christian world, even being used by various seigniors in the Western Europe. “Cross Potent” also features on the silver money of the Georgian seignior David III Kuropalates (+1001). <http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=40>

Quite often in the quarters of the cross the Byzantines put the following religious legend: IC-XP NI-KA.



Later on, occasionally, instead of legends, stars were put in quarters of “Cross Potent”. A star was one of the attributes of Constantinople’s heraldry.

In the age of Crusades the Western Europe gave a different interpretation to the “Cross Potent” by adding four crosses in quarters. This is already “Cross of Jerusalem. The identical combination is seen even on the 18<sup>th</sup> c. coat of arms of the Kingdom of Sardinia (Х. Фенглер, Г. Гироу, В. Унгер. Словарь нумизмата. Берлин-Москва. 1982. Article «Иерусалимский крест», р. 98.).



“Cross of Jerusalem” was the symbol of integration of the Western Europe, created in the era of Crusades.

As in most cases, Georgia’s flags, whether historical or modern one, reflect the country’s foreign policy preferences and its national aspirations. The five-cross flag thus shows how Georgia sees herself – increasingly as a part of Europe.

## European Mints for Georgian Money

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/23012021-european-mints-for-georgian-money-analysis/>

In history books it is fashionable to talk about the Georgia's political, military and economic ties with the West in the light of various recent agreements signed between Tbilisi and the EU/NATO or cooperation the Medieval Georgian kings had with their western counterparts. Far smaller ties are rarely mentioned, though over millennia they have constituted a significant bond between Georgia and the West. The minting is one of such spheres and is a testimony to the country's cultural, technological and economic cooperation with the West.

Georgia's relations with the West also have "financial" history. On April 9, 1991 the Supreme Council of Georgia declared independence of the country. National Bank of Georgia was established on August 2, 1991. Since October 2, 1995 lari, national currency of Georgia, has been in circulation. This was a revival of national minting tradition, which started in the 6<sup>th</sup> c. B.C.

With no technologies left by the Soviets, Georgians had to order to Western companies both banknotes and commemorative coins. For example, banknotes dated by 1995 and commemorative gold coin dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory in the World War II were produced by the French company "François Charles Oberthure", following the Georgian design. In 2000 National Bank of Georgia ordered to the Royal Mint, UK, silver, copper-nickel alloy and bimetallic coins dedicated to 2000 A.D. and 3000 years of Georgian statehood.



Tedo Dundua, Giorgi Dundua, Niko Javakhishvili, Ani Eristavi. Money in Georgia. Tbilisi. 2003, pp. 153, 171-174.

Collaboration of the same type existed in the past. Not because they lacked mint technologies, but for higher level of Greek art, some of Georgian (Colchian and Iberian) rulers ordered their coins to be struck in bilingual (Graeco-Colchian) cities of Phasis (Modern Poti, Western Georgia) or Trapezus (Modern Trabzon, Turkey).

Coin evidence and narrative clearly demonstrate that throughout the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. B.C. Bagrat Pharnavaziani, duke of Klarjeti (Southwest Georgia), issued the coins with the proud Aramaic legend. Saurmag, the second king of Iberia (East, South and Southwest Georgia), had to deal with a revolt of the dukes. Was ambitious Bagrat among them, did he secure southern principality for himself? Perhaps, we need more records for the full picture. But still, his coins are present, ordered, maybe, to the nearest Greek community. And that could be either Phasis, or Trapezus.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type>

=16

Aka stater is exact copy of the gold coins struck with the name of Lysimachus (after his death), Alexander's general. Aka stater was issued in the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. B.C. Two specimens are known. Stylistically, technically and artistically the coin is no less than its prototype.

Topography of the coin findings proves their local, Colchian origin – they were found in Trabzon/Trapezus and in Western Georgia. Name of the king on reverse of the coin is in possessive case and can be translated (from the Greek) as “of king Akes/Aka or Akos”.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type>

=6

Thus, Georgia's association with the West can be traced in numerous spheres of life, the minting is one of them.

### **Fashion on Georgian Money**

Coins can reveal many details not conveyed by written or any other sources of the period. In many respects, Georgian coins are exceptional in showing the lifestyle of kings and queens. They also reflect the immersion of Georgia into the cultural and fashion trends of the time. Wearing the facial hair has been a continuous trend throughout the most of Georgia's history. As seen in coinage and the printed money, Georgians favored beard and mustache throughout Feudal period and after. Below are some examples from ancient period to modern times.

First come the coins of Bagadat, son of Biurat, duke of Klarjeti (Southwest Georgia). Second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. B.C. (Obverse: Head of Bagadat, bearded, with moustache).



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=16>

David IV's (king of Georgia) copper coin, type – king in Imperial coat. 1118-1125 (Obverse: Bust of bearded king in Imperial coat).



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=48>

Coins of Giorgi III (king of Georgia) – king with falcon on hand. 1174 (Obverse: Bearded king in Asian-Byzantine dress).



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=66>

Coins of Giorgi, king of Imereti (Western Georgia). I type. 1565-1585 (Obverse: head of bearded man in jewelled crown).



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=84>

Similar to the trends in Europe, beard and mustache were fashionable in Georgia in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> c.-beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> c. Prominent figures of this period are nowadays represented on printed Georgian banknotes (Niko Pirosmiani – painter (1 lari), Zacharia Paliashvili – composer (2 lari), Ivane Javakhishvili – historian (5 lari), Akaki Tsereteli – poet (10 lari), Ilia Chavchavadze – writer and political figure (20 lari), Kaikhosro (Kakutsa) Cholokashvili – military officer and national hero (200 lari).









Tedo Dundua, Giorgi Dundua, Niko Javakhishvili, Ani Eristavi. Money in Georgia. Second Revised Edition. Tbilisi. 2003, pp. 163-167.

[https://www.academia.edu/31559754/Money\\_in\\_Georgia. Tbilisi. 2003](https://www.academia.edu/31559754/Money_in_Georgia._Tbilisi._2003)

## Universal Styles of Clothing as Seen on Georgian Money

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/04032021-universal-styles-of-clothing-as-seen-on-georgian-money/>

Coins reflect the immersion of Georgia into the culture and influences of Europe and Asia, two principal zones of integration, which had their universal styles in architecture, clothing etc. Below are several pertinent examples.

When affiliated to Hellenistic Orient, Georgians were dressed in Persian-style clothing. When affiliated to “Byzantine Commonwealth” (East European world), Georgians were dressed in Byzantine-style clothing. Modern Georgia means Modern Style. The whole story is depicted on Georgian money.

a) Georgians dressed in Persian-style clothing.

Coins of Bagadat, son of Biurat, duke of Klarjeti (Southwest Georgia). I type. Second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. B.C



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=16>

Coins of Bagadat, son of Biurat, duke of Klarjeti (Southwest Georgia). II type. Second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. B.C



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=17>

b) Georgians dressed in Byzantine-style clothing.

David IV's (king of Georgia) copper coin, type – king in Imperial coat. 1118-1125.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=48>

Coin of Giorgi IV (king of Georgia) – king in Imperial dress. 1210.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=73>

Coins with the effigy of two Davids (David Ulugh and David Narin, kings of Georgia). 1261-1262.



<http://geonumismatics.tsu.ge/en/catalogue/types/?type=98>

c) Georgians dressed in Modern clothing.

Lari. National currency of Georgia.



[https://www.academia.edu/31559754/Money\\_in\\_Georgia. Tbilisi. 2003](https://www.academia.edu/31559754/Money_in_Georgia_Tbilisi_2003)

## **Abkhazians and Ossetians in Georgia.**

### **A Short History**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/13042020-abkhazians-and-ossetians-in-georgia-a-short-history-analysis/>

*In light of the disinformation campaign carried out by Russian information networks and picked up by western media, the Institute of the Georgian History at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University has released an explanation as to why the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions (incorrectly called "South Ossetia") have always been an integral part of Georgia.*

In the remote past, to the South of the Great Caucasian Range and East of the Black Sea, rural clans fought each other for land and mines, making alliances and early states. Two cultures equipped first with bronze and then with iron were established in the valleys of the rivers Rioni (Phasis), Chorokhi (Aphsaros), and Mtkvari (Cyros/Kura). Roughly, the borders of Colchis included the city of Pitius (Bichvinta, Pitsunda) in the Northwest, Sarapanis (Shorapani) in the East, near the Likhi mountains, which divides Georgia into West and East, and the mouth of the river Chorokhi in the South, near Batumi, Georgia's main port. Another name for Colchis is Egrisi, derived from the tribal name Margali/Megreli/Mingrelian. The Mingrelian language, very close to the Georgian, is still spoken in West Georgia as a family one, like that of West Georgian highlanders, the Svani. The next country had two rivers, Chorokhi, now mostly in Turkey, and Mtkvari within its borders. Local folk called it

Kartli, and the Greeks – Iberia and Iberians. The latter term contributes to Ivirk, Vrastan – Armenian terms; also to Varkan, Gurgan, Gurgistan – Persian terms, which in turn contributes to Georgia and Gruziya.

Thus, Kartli, while comprising the Mtkvari and Chorokhi valleys, was labeled as Iberia, or Vrastan, or Varkan, or Gurgan by foreigners. Gradually, Colchis/Egrisi and Kartli/Iberia became more and more integrated, and Georgian, the language spoken in Kartli, spread to the Eastern Black Sea coast, putting the Mingrelian and Svani languages in the position of a family language. From that point on, this new country was called Sakartvelo, a term derived from Kartli, and also Iberia, Gurgistan, Gruziya and Georgia (T. Dundua. *History of Georgia*. Tbilisi. 2017, pp. 5-22. v. Academia.edu/Tedo Dundua).

Still, there was another language in West Georgia which was also converted into a family language: Abkhazian. The Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia (Georgia) has Sokhumi as its capital. Sokhumi is the Turkish version of the Georgian name Tskhumi, while the Greeks and Italians called the city Dioscurias and Sebastopolis. People living in its neighbourhood in the Classical and Hellenistic periods were the Colas and the Coraxae, obviously Colchian clans. Their names are substituted by that of the Colchians themselves. The first mention of the Aphsils, obvious ancestors of the Abkhazians, near Sebastopolis/Tskhumi, dates back to the 70s of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. A.D. Soon, their relatives, the Abasks, appear. These two names sometimes disappear in favor of “Lazi,” the name of Mingrelian-speaking people descended from the southern mountains to mingle with the Colchians, thus changing the name of the country into Lazica. In the Northern part of Lazica under the local feudal lords, they again call themselves Aphsils and Abasks, when unified with the rest of

the country – Lazi. That means that from the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. A.D. the Mingrelian language was a social one throughout Lazica, while the Abkhazian language was put in the position of a family language spoken near Sebastopolis/Tskhumi. Indeed, the special Mingrelian term for that part of Lazica was “apkha,” i.e. periphery. The periphery of what? That of Mingrelian, i.e. Western Georgian, culture. Gradually, Apsils and Abasgs under the local princes also started to call themselves Abkhazians. When in the 8<sup>th</sup> c., apparently through marriage, their prince found himself residing in the central city of Kutaisi, Lazica/Egrisi received one more name – Apkhazeti. With the Georgian language becoming dominant on the Eastern Black Sea coast, the Mingrelian, Svan and Abkhazian languages found themselves in the position of a family language (T. Dundua. Christianity and Mithraism. The Georgian Story. Tbilisi. 1999, p. 6; T. Dundua, Akaki Chikobava. Pacorus, the Lazi King, Who Was Overlord of Colchis/Western Georgia. Tbilisi. 2013, pp. 9-16; T. Dundua. Georgia within the European Integration. Tbilisi. 2016, pp. 81-88. v. Academia.edu/Tedo Dundua).

West and East unified was called Sakartvelo/Georgia. And the title of the kings from the Bagrationi ruling dynasty was as follows: “King of the Abkhazians (i.e. Western Georgia), Kartvelians (Eastern and Southern Georgia), Rans and Kakhetians (extreme East of the Eastern Georgia)” (T. Dundua. Review of Georgian Coins with Byzantine Iconography. Quaderni ticinesi di numismatica e antichità classiche. Lugano. 2000. Vol. XXIX, pp. 389-393; T. Dundua and Others. Online English-Georgian Catalogue of Georgian Numismatics).

The decline of Georgia towards the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> c. enabled the Ottomans to increase their territory, seeing them taking control of the cities on the Eastern Black Sea coast.

Georgian frontier defenses were down. Finding so little opposition, many tribes settled in the districts they had penetrated, a new wave of the Abkhazian speaking clans among them. They made their way from the mountains first to the region of nowadays Sochi (Russian Federation), and then down the coast towards Bichvinta (Pitius, Pitsunda). Those rough highlanders forced part of the local agricultural folk to flee to the central regions. Thus, rural and urban sites suffered much and the links with the rest of the country were badly damaged. The Ottoman overlords also encouraged the slave trade, completely changing the economic visage of the Northwest of Western Georgia for centuries before the Russian advance against the Ottomans in the 19<sup>th</sup> c. (T. Dundua. North and South (towards the Question of the NATO enlargement). [www.nato.int/acad/fellow/99-01/dundua.pdf](http://www.nato.int/acad/fellow/99-01/dundua.pdf), pp.41-42; T. Dundua and Others. The Black Sea – Zone of the Contacts. Tbilisi. 2001, pp. 9-10, 15-16; T. Dundua and Others. The Black Sea. A History of Interaction. Teaching Pack. The Council of Europe. Oslo. 2004, pp. 46, 105).

The Russian Empire annexed Eastern Georgia, the Kingdom of Kartli-Kakheti, in 1801. This paved the way for Russian expansion into Western Georgia. In 1810 Abkhazian prince Giorgi (Safar Beg) Shervashidze swore allegiance to the Russian Emperor and in 1864 Russian governance was established in the territory. (Abkhazia in the Late 18<sup>th</sup>-Early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Entry of Abkhazia under the “Protection” of Russia. In Essays from the History of Abkhazia. Tbilisi. 2011, pp. 300-305). Sukhumi military department was founded (M. Lordkipanidze. The Abkhazians and Abkhazia (Georg., Russ. and Engl. texts). Tbilisi. 1990).

[http://www.amsi.ge/istoria/div/m.lordkiPaniZe\\_afx.html#90](http://www.amsi.ge/istoria/div/m.lordkiPaniZe_afx.html#90))

Although the process of separating Abkhazia from Georgia was actively supported by the Russian authorities, still Abkhazia was a natural and integral part of Georgia. Perhaps it was for this reason that the Sukhumi military district was soon included in the Kutaisi governorate. Despite the negative effects of the Russian imperial policy, in 1918, the year when the Democratic Republic of Georgia was founded, Abkhazia was a part of Georgia (M. Lordkipanidze. The Abkhazians and Abkhazia (Georg., Russ. and Engl. texts). Tbilisi. 1990).

[http://www.amsi.ge/istoria/div/m.lordkiPaniZe\\_afx.html#90](http://www.amsi.ge/istoria/div/m.lordkiPaniZe_afx.html#90)

On June 11, 1918, an agreement was signed between the people's council of Abkhazia and the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, where Abkhazia as a part of Georgia gained autonomy.

After the end of Georgia's short independence in 1921, Abkhazia remained within Soviet Socialist Republic of Georgia under a special union agreement, as a treaty republic having a certain type of autonomy within Georgia. In 1931 Abkhazia officially became the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (ASSR) of Georgia (Political Status of Abkhazia within the Soviet Georgia. 1921-1937. In Essays from the History of Abkhazia. Tbilisi. 2011, pp. 419-436; Революционные комитеты Абхазии в борьбе за установление и упрочение Советской власти. Сборник документов и материалов. Сухуми. 1961, p. 350). This remained unchanged until the end of the Soviet Union. According to the 1989 Soviet census, the total population on the territory of the ASSR of Abkhazia was 525,061, of which 239,872 were ethnic Georgians (45.7% of the population), while 93,267 were Abkhazians (17.8%) (S. Markedonov.

Abkhazia: Historical Context. In *Abkhazia between Past and Future*. Prague. 2013, p. 18).

Abkhazia enjoyed cultural and scientific benefits as part of Georgia during the Soviet era. The Abkhazian language was taught at the schools, and university.

Since 1993 the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia has been occupied by the Russian Federation (for the full-length narrative about Abkhazians v. 3. Папаскири. Абхазия: история без фальсификации. 2е изд. Тбилиси. 2010 (with Engl. summary).

The next region occupied by the Russian Federation is the Autonomous District of South Ossetia. The Ossetians started settling in Georgia beyond the Caucasian range in the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> cc. as fugitives.

After the annexation of Eastern Georgia by Russia in 1801, the Ossetian villages were attached to the Gori district of the Tbilisi governorate.

In 1920 the Russian Bolsheviks supported Ossetians living in the Democratic Republic of Georgia, in the mountains north of Gori, to establish the Soviet power there and declare the territory a part of Soviet Russia. This was an abortive attempt.

In February 1921 Soviet Russia violated the agreement of May 7, 1920 by militarily attacking the Georgian state and eliminating its independence. In April 1922 the Bolsheviks granted so-called South Ossetia the status of autonomous district within Soviet Socialist Republic of Georgia. Soviet policy can be regarded as a premeditated attempt to disrupt the future attempts of the Georgians to gain independence and build a stable state as separatism within Georgia would constrain Tbilisi in its actions. The Autonomous District of South Ossetia consisted of a number of Ossetian settlements and a purely Georgian town Tskhinvali.

Thus, in 1922 the Autonomous District of South Ossetia was created in the heart of historic Georgian lands where the Georgian population represented the majority of the population.

It also needs to be emphasized that throughout the Soviet period (until 1991) the Ossetians living in Georgia were granted all necessary legal rights as an ethnic minority. Then Georgia became independent and the Russian occupation of the Autonomous District of South Ossetia began (M. Lordkipanidze, G. Otkhmezuri. Ossets in Georgia. In The Caucasus and Globalization. Vol. 1 (4). Tbilisi. 2007, pp. 109-118; R. Topchishvili. Ethnic Processes in Shida Kartli (the Ossetians in Georgia). In Causes of War – Prospects for Peace. Georgian Orthodox Church. Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation. Tbilisi. 2009, pp. 111-138).

### **Coronavirus, Great Pandemics and Georgia: Short Historical Tale**

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/14042020-coronavirus-great-pandemics-and-georgia-short-historical-tale-analysis/>

*As the world continues to experience deep effects (death rate, economic downturn, slowdown of globalization) of the novel Coronavirus, it is interesting to look at all the pandemics from a historical point of view. Below are several famous epidemics that affected the world and Georgia in Medieval or Modern and Contemporary periods, and which showed the countries making similar coordinated steps to stop them.*

In general, after the appearance of very mobile Mongols in Georgia, we often find the facts of the spread of incurable diseases in the historical sources. According to the Georgian chronicler, king David Ulugh fell ill at the fortified frontier during the war between the Golden Horde and the Ilkhanate troops (Kartlis Tskhovreba /History of Georgia/. Editor-in-Chief R. Metreveli. Tb. 2008, p. 607). King David Ulugh and his son Giorgi died from the same disease in 1270 (Kartlis Tskhovreba /History of Georgia/. Editor-in-Chief R. Metreveli, p. 608). According to the opinion established in historiography, David Ulugh's disease should have been typhus (Studies in History of Georgia /in Georg./, v. III. Tb. 1979, p. 576). King Vakhtang II of Eastern Georgia died from the same disease in 1292 (Kartlis Tskhovreba /History of Georgia/. Editor-in-Chief R. Metreveli, p. 651).

### *The Black Death*

Information about the appearance of a new epidemic, which later became known as the "Black Death", came to Europe in 1346 when a plague was reported in the East (V. J. Derbes. De Mussis and the Great Plague of 1348. The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). 196(1). Chicago. 1966, pp. 59-62). The name "Black Death" originated from the specifics of the disease itself as the infection usually turned the skin into black colour with such symptoms such as fever and joint pains.

A year later, in 1347, first signs of the plague appeared in the Crimean Peninsula and the disease was most likely brought by the Tatar (Mongol) armies of Khan Janibeg, ruler of the Golden Hoard, when the latter besieged Caffa (nowadays Feodosya), a town which served as an important commercial Genoese city. According to the account of the

contemporary, Gabriele de' Mussi, the infection spread among the Mongol troops from man to man or from rats to humans (M. Wheelis. Biological Warfare at the 1346 Siege of Caffa. Historical Review. Vol. 8, No. 9. Atlanta. 2002, pp. 971-975). It is believed that the Mongols catapulted the corpses of the infected over the city walls, infecting those inside and poisoning wells (V. J. Derbes. De Mussis and the Great Plague of 1348. JAMA, pp. 59-62).

Caffa's trade relations with the Mediterranean conditioned a quick spread of the disease to Europe via Italy. It is believed that the infection was carried by rats on Genoese commercial vessels sailing from Caffa to Italy.

In the wake of the Black Death, socio-economic relations across much of Europe and Middle East drastically changed. A major reason was a near obliteration of 1/3 of the population (some think about as much as 1/2 of the entire populace) of Europe (N. Johnson, M. Koyama. Negative Shocks and Mass Persecutions: Evidence from the Black Death. Journal of Economic Growth. vol. 24(4). Heidelberg. 2019, pp. 345-395). Cities and entire villages turned empty – the process which impacted the existing economic relations between cities and the village. On a positive side though, the Black Death pandemic helped to develop early stages for modern medicine paving the way for hospital-like management.

Because of Caffa's trade relations with Sebastopolis/Sokhumi in Georgia, simultaneously with the mass spread of the Black Death plague in Europe, the pandemic reached Georgia during the reign of David IX (1346-1360). The spread of the Black Death in the country is confirmed by one note of 1348 – in the country with great hardship, there was also “great death” (Ф. Д. Жордания. Описание рукописей Тифлисского церковного музея

карталино-кахетинского духовенства. II. Тифлис. 1902. № 575), which, most likely, means the spread of the Black Death. And great hardship means that agriculture and commerce were depleted, and the state borders were closed. The deadly pandemic spread in Georgia in the 1340s and lasted for a long time. According to Georgian historian prince Vakhushti, the epidemic was widespread during the early reign of David IX's successor, Bagrat V (1360-1393), and its scale was so wide that even the queen died along with many others (Kartlis Tskhovreba /History of Georgia/. v. IV. Editor S. Kaukhchishvili. Tb. 1973, p. 262).

The epidemic of plague appeared from time to time in Georgia in later periods too and had devastating consequences for the population, e.g., the epidemic spread in the capital Tbilisi in 1770, caused the death of the fifth of the population.

This fact is described in detail by the German traveler Johann Anton Güldenstädt, who notes that churches and cemeteries in Tbilisi occupy a large place in the already small area for the 20000 inhabitants. Overpopulated and downhill location on the clay soil of the city, which is completely swallowed up during the rain, and has no drainage, existence of the cemeteries, poor police, which allows the streets to be covered with garbage, and so on, – [All this] poisons the air, so dysentery, malignant fever and epidemics, as well as plague, are not uncommon. In 1770 the latter killed 4000 inhabitants. Great mortality would have increased even more if the houses had not been ventilated because of bad doors, paper windows, fireplaces, and so on. There is always air circulation. In 1770 during the plague the sick were mostly taken to the streets, and it was observed that there were relatively more of them left alive than those lying in the house (Johannes Gueldenstaedtius. Peregrinatio Georgica. Tomus

Prior. *Textum Germanicum cum Conversione Georgica Edidit Commentariisque Instruxit G. Gelašvili*. Tb. 1962, p. 89).

The fact of the 1770 epidemic is mentioned by one of the Baratashvilis who notes that the king left the city, he himself took his sick son to the village, where the latter recovered by virtue of the healthy air (*Materials for History of Georgia and the Caucasus /in Georg./*. Part 28. Tb. 1950, p. 57).

As we can see, Georgians with a plague were moved to the streets. At the same time, they were taken away from the city to the countryside because there was more chance of healing them in the fresh air. People with the disease were given certain medicines too. And the main way to protect healthy population from an epidemic was to stay away from the place where disease was spread.

The disease spread in Tbilisi at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but its scale was not large. As prince Alexander reported from Tbilisi on November 21, 1797, to his mother, queen Darejan, the disease was in Ganja and Karabakh, while in Tbilisi only one person died (*Antiquities of Georgia /in Georg./*. v. III. Editor E. Takaishvili. Tb. 1910, p. 226). Despite its small spread, the plague was there in the country until the spring of 1798 (Platon Ioseliani. *Life of Giorgi XIII*. Editor A. Gatserelia. Tb. 1978, p. 51), and that is why the pompously planned funeral ceremony of Erekle II, king of Eastern Georgia, was held in a rather modest way.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, quarantine was introduced in three places (Garetubani, Ortachala and Avlabari) around Tbilisi to prevent the spread of the disease (*Data for the Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century History of Georgia: Joseph Shagubatov – Description of the Internal Situation of East Georgia and Imereti. The Georgian Translation of the Russian Text, Research, Commentaries, Indices and Facsimiles are*

Presented for Publishing by A. Tabuashvili and G. Zhuzhunashvili. Tb. 2015, p. 25). Nevertheless, the plague epidemic hit Georgia in 1804, killing 1570 people (J. Samushia. Sergei Tuchkov's References About Georgia /in Georg. with Engl. summary/. Proceedings of Institute of Georgian History, Faculty of Humanities, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. XI. Tb. 2016, p. 200).

Particularly devastating was the plague of 1811 in Western Georgia, which was brought to the country by Russian soldiers fighting the Ottomans. More than 30000 people died in Western Georgia alone as a result of the epidemic. The disease also spread to Eastern Georgia, killing several thousand people there (Studies in History of Georgia /in Georg./ v. IV. Tb. 1973, p. 921).

### *Smallpox Disease*

Another great pandemic was smallpox. Large-scale death rates were reported in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Europe, where in some years around 400000 people died annually of smallpox. Moreover, one-third of the survivors went blind (A. Geddes. The History of Smallpox. Clinics in Dermatology. 24. Birmingham. 2006, pp. 152-157). The recurrent smallpox epidemic also caused various attempts to combat smallpox till the discovery of inoculation as an effective vaccination.

The smallpox epidemic was spreading from time to time in Georgia too. One of the historical documents mentions the smallpox epidemic. This document is a letter of Erekle II, compiled on May 11, 1772, and addressed to commander Revaz Amilakhvari. In it, among other things, it is mentioned that the smallpox was spread in Tbilisi and the royal family had to leave the city (The Documents Issued by Erekle II. 1736-1797. Editor M. Chumburidze. Tb. 2008, p. 82).

Güldenstädt also mentions this fact and informs us about the method of preventing the spreading of smallpox: “On May 15 (1772) more than 100 children were inoculated, and I especially watched my house owner's 6-year-old healthy boy and girl who was not even a year old... One week before the illness and during the illness children are not given meat, fish and rice, they are given only wheat bread and milk; however, breast, horse and donkey's milk are considered the healthiest, while cow's milk is considered the most useless. The inoculator made not deep, bloody, cross-shaped incision, 1/2 inch in size, in the groove between the thumb and forefinger with the tip of a large knife; he would lift the tip of a knife into the horn, where the smallpox serum was, clean the blood with a cotton swab, and put a poisoned knife on the wound, then he used to put cotton on a wound, and wrap it in a piece of cloth. The children usually had fresh air and recovered before May 19, with three freckles on the wound. On May 22, they became swollen and white, on May 23 they joined each other. The children were not sick, and the boy ran barefoot. On this day I went out of town and returned on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June; I met the boy recovered and learned that he had no more freckles...” (Johannes Gueldenstaedtius. *Peregrinatio Georgica*. Tomus Prior, p. 63-65).

According to Güldenstädt, on May 23, 1772, he visited the king's son, prince Yulon, who had been given a smallpox inoculation a few days earlier (Johannes Gueldenstaedtius. *Peregrinatio Georgica*. Tomus Prior, p. 67).

As we can see, during the spread of the smallpox epidemic in Georgia in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the way to protect oneself was to keep a distance from the place of the epidemic. The vaccine, according to Güldenstädt, was quite effective at the time.

## *From 20<sup>th</sup> century pandemics to the Coronavirus*

In 1918 a new flu pandemic launched worldwide. The outbreak was devastating, causing millions to die, more than the World War I casualties. During new experiments upon the old virus strain, it was proved that the 1918 pandemic was caused by an influenza A – subtype H1N1 progenitor strain (G. Tsoucalas, A. Kousoulis, M. Sgantzios. The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic, the Origins of the H1N1-virus Strain, a Glance in History. European Journal of Clinical and Biomedical Sciences (EJCBS). 2(4). New York. 2016, pp. 23-28).

The next major pandemic was and has remained (though under control) since then is HIV/AIDS. Most likely HIV originated in Kinshasa, Congo in the 1920s (HIV spread from chimpanzees to humans). Up until the 1980s we do not know how many people were infected with HIV or developed AIDS. HIV was unknown and transmission was not accompanied by noticeable signs or symptoms. By 1980 HIV spread to five continents killing hundreds of thousands of people (P. Sharp, B. Hahn. Origins of HIV and the AIDS pandemic. Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Medicine. 1. Huntington. 2011, pp. 1-21).

In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century there were other major epidemics too such as Ebola and H1N1 paving the way for the novel coronavirus – a major epidemic that covers the entire globe, affects billions of people and stagnates the world economy (many similarities with the Medieval period).

Though the above pandemics took place in different historical periods, there are many similarities in how various world regions, whether it is Georgia, Western European states or Middle East countries, responded to the outbreaks. Nowadays, in the increasingly interconnected world, it is the

World Health Organization that coordinates the work on battling/preventing global or local epidemics.

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თედო დუნდუა, ემილ ავდალიანი

საქართველო,  
როგორც ევროპის საინტეგრაციო ზონის  
შემადგენელი ნაწილი

გამომცემლობა „მერიდიანი“  
თბილისი, 2022