
European Values and Georgia: Historical Aspects

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Abstract: The article presents the views of various public figures about European values in historical context. Naturally, the aspiration of Georgia towards Europe and the West, in General, did not start at the end of the 20th century. After following of the review of historical aspects of aspirations towards European values, in the article is given modern interpretation and systematization of the views of public figures of Georgia that are effectively based on European ideals and principles. A review of scientific research relevant to the research topic is given, attention is paid to the role of Georgian thinkers and public figures, whose opinion was the recognition of the European course as the direction for the development of the Georgia.

Keywords: Europe, Integration, History, Public Figure, Union, Historical Study

1. Introduction

Today, the globalization has become a crucial issue in the everyday political, economic and social and cultural life. [4] From the strategic point of view, it is very important for Georgia to enhance the world trade - economic, financial and other kinds of relations, especially when it is in the foreign interests of the country to share the advanced European values and experiences and join the European Union. [2] In order to form the right economic policy of the country it is necessary to conduct a theoretical and practical research in the area of the integration of Georgia into the world economic area, to study the foreign economic contacts quantitatively, to reveal the main tendencies of the development, to calculate their forecasting indexes, to estimate the results correctly and to work out appropriate political-economic proposals and preventive measures.

At the present stage of development the level of Georgia's economic development depends to a huge extent on the country's relations with the rest of the world, as economic development of the developing countries is conditioned by market liberalization and integration processes.

Today, The Association Agreement between EU and Georgia has high importance, or, in another words, is vital for Georgia's economic development because it will promote: formation of trading system compatible with EU market; the attractiveness rise of investment climate and promotion of

foreign investments; job creation as a result of stimulation of foreign investments; rise of Georgian products' competitiveness; rise of Georgian export; improvement of Georgian products' quality; stimulation of economic growth and economic development in general. Simultaneously, it is important to inform Government Agencies and Private Sector of EU and EAP regarding Georgian economic policy, business environment and investments in Georgia; Reforms which were executed successfully within the agreement of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area should be promoted regularly.

Georgia has historically been trying to achieve European integration. This is evident in the historical sources. Our countrymen for centuries dreamed of the biggest in Europe. Ilia, Vazha, Jacob Gogebashvili, Akaki Tsereteli and other died so that, they had only dream of independence of Georgia. These people had received education in St. Petersburg, but they were the greatest preacher for Europe and European values, in the Georgian society.

Their big dream was closer to Europe. Georgia has long been trying to prove to the West that we are and have always been an integral part of Europe and its history.

European values have always been a dear goal for Georgian thinkers and public figures. Georgia's aspirations towards Europe and the West, in general, originated way before the end of the 20th century. Our ancestors start-ed paving the way towards Europe much earlier, since they

regarded Europe as one of the safeguards for the power and freedom of the country. If we analyze a well-known phrase by Paul Valéry, French poet and philosopher, "Every race and land that has been successively Romanized, Christianized, and, as regards the mind, disciplined by the Greeks, is absolutely European." [9] We can draw an adequate conclusion: Georgia appears to be an European country, like Greece, Poland, Hungary or any other similar country.

Historical Euro-integrative processes are the subjects of a lot of scientists' researches, among them M. Muskhelishvili, N. Nikoladze, S. Meskhi, I. Javakhishvili, V. Shubitidze, N. Tsereteli, R. Putkaradze, O. Abesadze, N. Abesadze and others. The works of these scientists consider the historical issues of integration with Europe of the Georgia, European criteria towards European values and so on. At the modern stage is very important analysis in retrospective to evaluate the real tendencies to integration processes with Europe

For Georgia becoming increasingly active, the words' of the ex Prime Minister of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania: I am Georgian, therefore I am European

Main Goal of the Study is the analysis of assessments of European values by Georgian thinkers and public figures, in historical context. For its examined and analyzed the Source, where Georgian thinkers and public figures see the European road. In historical source was seen their attitudes toward Europe, toward the integration and advancement. It was real way of development of the country.

Methodology. During the research, we used the methods of synthesis, induction, deduction, information collection, grouping and analysis methods.

As a result, we found the historical chronicle of all the material, which is confirmed the integration of Georgia with Europe.

2. The History of Aspiration Towards Europe

On the territory of Georgia of the establishment of Christianity, strengthened its union with the European Christian world.

Christianity was not the only religion, it was a whole system of cultural values. In IV century, decision of Kartli King Mirian meant cultural integration of Georgia with Europe.

Georgia choose clearly pro-Western orientation. But for long time was global problem -east or the west. The nation's self-identity was always a part of Western civilization, and felt comfortable in the cultural field of Europe. Aspiration towards the West was not only due to the political order.

We can say that if we were familiarized with European civilization for centuries and politically aspired to Europe, this is largely the merit of Christianity.

It suffices to recall work and ideas of Peter the Iberian, Giorgi Mtatsmindeli, kings: David IV the Builder, Tamar, Giorgi IV Lasha, Giorgi V the Brilliant, King Simon,

Teimuraz, Vakhtang VI, Erekle II and others, to say: Georgia was part of the Western civilization process and its gaze was always directed towards the west. This can be confirmed by the founding of cities on Georgian coasts of the Black Sea by the Greek over time and the development of trade and cultural relations, creating the preconditions for establishing close relationships between Georgia and Greece.

Famous Georgian emigrant scientist, Professor Mikheil Muskhelishvili, observing Georgia's integration with Europe, underscored that Georgians were European, and wrote: "Georgians have to prove their presence in Europe and have Georgia accepted in the family of the Western nations. Time is ripe for Georgians to realize that they are part of Europe." [5]

Legal and political views adequate to European values are presented according to the so-called "Fair Justice" in greatest Georgian poet Shota Rustaveli's Knight in the Panther's Skin. Rustaveli declares the right to the throne, demonstrates the equality of woman and man, focuses on certain rights and duties for each title of the feudal society, underscores the right to war and revolt. For Rustaveli, a king is an autocrat, reformer and tolerant. At the same time, a king is loving and fair towards subordinates, caring towards the poor and the deprived. And this is nothing else if not the declaration of the values that the entire European civilization was based on ultimately.

Tamar's activities are based on real European ideals and principles: "Queen Tamar abolishes the cutting off of bodily members, suspends execution, develops charity, later introduces the tradition of public service versus just gentility, benefits for non-aborigines and preservation and protection of their culture and religion. Religious peace, respect towards and assistance to all religions was state policy of Georgia, which, surely, is in line with European ideas. [10] Queen Tamar is a real image of a European social ideal.

Notably, the idea of secret vote originated back during the work of Giorgi Mtatsmindeli (of Athos) during his work at the Athos Mountain (Byzantium). He introduced "the Rule of Casting Lots", which was used for appointing the leaders of Georgian monasteries. "For demonstrating the origin of the changes in Georgia's state order during Tamar's reign as a result of the political movement of Kutlu-Arslan's group, it is sufficient to recall change in the monastic rules and order in Georgia at the beginning of the 11th century, when the former monarchic rule of appointing officials by prefect was replaced by a republican rule and elections based on the "support and unanimity" of all members of monasteries was introduced. [11]

One of the manifestations of Georgia's aspirations towards European values was the regard to bringing the education close to European level. Ideal example of this was establishing Gelati and Ikalto Academies by David Aghmashenebeli in late 11th and early 12th centuries. This was nothing else but European education, development of education and rearing of children and science while preserving national traditions. Although, it has to be mentioned also that back in the 4th century Pazisi Academy

was already in place in Pazisi (West Georgia).

We can boldly say that the Georgian law of that period was one of the most humane and democratic laws in the world. Having banned torture and suspended execution, Tamar's Georgia has surpassed European states: "Georgia has achieved considerable progress in that era in the organization of the justice as well: along with greatest achievements in the criminal law theory, great example of which is provided in Ekvtime of Athos philosophy on the murder and infliction of wounds, a number of practical activities were also implemented in Georgia. A dedicated institution was established for criminal proceedings. Thus, criminal and civil proceedings were separated. Later, David Aghmashenebeli removed the adjudication of cassation complaints from the powers of the supreme authority, establishing Supreme Cassation Collegiate Court instead." [11]

Charity, helping the poor is a rule and social norm of developed European states. During the David's reign, social peace in the country was due to the fact that 10% of state revenue was directed to charity.

Although, following the conquering of Byzantium and Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks In 1453, Georgia was cut off from Europe and European values for a while, nevertheless Georgians have not ceased their European aspirations after selfless battles with Turk-Seljuks and Mongols, in this regard, the work of the kings: Simon, Teimuraz I., Vakhtang VI, Erekle II and of Georgian thinkers: Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani, Anthim the Iberian, etc. is worth noting. The sacrifice of Martyr Ketevan for Christianity became a model behavior for European missionaries and clergy in the Europe of that period, despite cruel colonial rule of all these conquerors, chief values of Georgians were the freedom of a nation and an individual, irreconcilability with enemy, introduction of civilized rule.

3. The Return of European Values to Georgia

The introduction and return of European values to Georgia is connected with Ilia Chavchavadze, Niko Nikoladze and Archil Jorjadze. It was Ilia Chavchavadze who spoke about the introduction of the principles of market modern economy in Georgia: "now it is time to focus on agriculture or manufacturing. "The heroism of hard work, labor, shedding of sweat, instead of blood, is the demand of the modern period. This is war, too, though, that of sweat, bloodless war, peaceful, calm war ... heroism in peaceful war is higher than that in violent war" [10]

Georgian publicist, journalist, writer and public figure, S. Meskhi highlighted the role of the new generation of Georgians educated in Russia (Tergdaleulebi) (N. Nikoladze, G. Tsereteli, K. Lortkipanidze, etc.) in the history of the Georgian nation, for paving new roads towards Europe: "we have laud this new generation for being fast to find this new way, which is the path to Western Europe.

In N. Nikoladze's view, European development course was

ideal for Georgia: "orientation is not achieved through suggestion, people, like every live being, naturally turns towards the sunlight. Georgia would historically turn its orientation towards the source of light and movement. Those who think that some kings, rulers or generation are capable of turning Georgia at their will, are wrong. While Byzantine was the center of education and culture, Georgia, like sunflower, turned toward there, during the prime of Persia based on Indian culture, our revival, our mind was directed towards it. When, during the renascence of Russia, following the efforts by Peter the Great and Catherine the Great, Georgia was readily driven towards it, following the law of physics. [6]

N. Nikoladze is also one of the first among those who deemed that trade was the way towards turning industry, developing agriculture, progress and development. He declared science as the priority for the country. N. Nikoladze has identified the necessity to revive domestic production, trade and industry as most important ingredients for developing a nation. In his view, economic independence and development of Georgia was primary priority for retaining independence of Georgia.

In 1913, magazine, Klde (rock) wrote: "Nikoladze and Intelligentsia educated in Russia are two antipodes, absolutely different. N. Nikoladze is European, educated in Europe, holding European ideas, knowledgeable of the Europe's technical and industrial achievements, a man of initiative, matter of fact and practical person. As for our intelligentsia, they are primarily brought up at the Russia school. They are filled with this slavish spirit, bureaucratic routine and socialist values. Hence, our intelligentsia is primarily comprised of theoreticians, dreamy persons characterized by academic discourse. Their style is warm study, soft armchair, continuous theoretical discussion, metaphysical morale and various party-political dreams, fantasies. NNikoladze, on the contrary, is a worker with rolled-up sleeves, a technician of life. He is a realist, pursuer of real politics, cognizant of life and its headwinds." [7]

From Georgians, Noe Zhordania was among the first to realize that Europe "is not our enemy, on the contrary, it is our blood and flesh. We are becoming European and therefore, we have to live next to them, in concord with them and that "Europeanization is based on Georgian roots, Georgian culture." During forced migration and living in Europe for many years, Noe Zhordania got even more vividly convinced that "the way of Europe is the global way, and Georgia's choice of that path is natural". In the opinion of N. Zhordania, material and spiritual culture, technology and science of Europe is agreeable for Georgia.

4. Conclusion

At present, democratic development of a country, European and Euro Atlantic integration and sovereignty has become a whole entity, an object of steadfast aspiration for Georgia. European orientation of Georgia has no alternative. The paper demonstrates that Georgia, with its culture,

religion and political system, was historically always aspiring towards Europe.

A review of historical facts enabled us to make the following conclusions:

- a. Georgia's aspirations towards Europe and the West, in general, originated way before the end of the 20th century. Our ancestors start-ed paving the way towards Europe much earlier, since they regarded Europe as one of the safeguards for the power and freedom of the country;
- b. On the territory of Georgia of the establishment of Christianity, strengthened its union with the European Christian world. Christianity was not the only religion, it was a whole system of cultural values. In IV century, decision of Kartli King Mirian meant cultural integration of Georgia with Europe;
- c. Georgia choose clearly pro-Western orientation. But for along time was global problem -east or the west. The nation's self-identity was always a part of Western civilization, and felt comfortable in the cultural field of Europe. Aspiration towards the West was not only due to the political order. We can say that if we were familiarized with European civilization for centuries and politically aspired to Europe, this is largely the merit of Christianity;
- d. A lot of Famous Georgian scientists, observing Georgia's historical integration with Europe, underscored that Georgians were European. Legal and political views adequate to European values are presented according to the so-called "Fair Justice " still in greatest Georgian poet Shota Rustaveli's Knight in the Panther's Skin;
- e. Queen Tamar's activities are based on real European ideals and principles. Queen Tamar is a real image of a European social ideal;
- f. One of the manifestations of Georgia's aspirations towards European values was the regard to bringing the education close to European level. Ideal example of this was establishing Gelati and Ikalto Academies by David Aghmashenebeli in late 11th and early 12th centuries. Although, following the conquering of Byzantium and Constantinople by the Ottoman Turks In 1453, Georgia was cut off from Europe and European values for a while, nevertheless Georgians have not ceased their Europe-an aspirations after selfless battles with Turk-Seljuks and Mongols;
- g. The introduction and return of European values to Georgia is connected with Ilia Chavchavadze, Niko Nikoladze and Archil Jorjadze. Ilia Chavchavadze spoke about the introduction of the principles of market modern economy in Georgia. N. Nikoladze is also one of the first among those who deemed that trade was the way towards turning industry, developing agriculture, progress and development. He declared science as the priority for the country. N. Nikoladze has identified the necessity to revive domestic production, trade and industry as most important ingredients for developing a nation. In his view, economic independence and development of Georgia was primary priority for

retaining independence of Georgia;

- h. Georgian publicist, journalist, writer and public figure, S. Meskhi said that, is very necessary, to find fast new way, which is the path to Western Europe;
- i. From Georgians, Noe Zhordania was among the first to realize that Europe "is not our enemy, on the contrary, it is our blood and flesh. In Noe Jordania opinion "the way of Europe is the global way, and Georgia's choice of that path is natural". For Georgia becoming increasingly active, the words' of the ex Prime Minister of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania: I am Georgian, therefore I am European

Presently, the EU is more convincingly solidifying its place at the international arena as a growing geopolitical center with economic, political, financial and military influence. Therefore, the interest towards the EU and the trends within the EU, is increasing.

Intensifying relationships with the EU and integration in the EU is a guarantor for not only the return of Georgia into the European civilization, for the country's welfare and stability, but it also one of the preconditions for independence of Georgia, its cultural survival and development.

Nothing can resist the European enthusiasm of Georgia, his desire and intention to join Europe. We have to regularly guarantee to base the European values. Our country has come a long way, which is confirmed by our achievements in various fields. For Georgia is important is that Europe is not only pragmatic choice. Georgia should become a modern European country. For us, the charm of Europe is that we have no other choice.

Finally, it should be noted that, Georgia can take the perspective of the European Union and the European Union can say that Georgia will become a member of the EU. Georgia will have a wonderful opportunity to introduce its culture abroad, which was a part of European culture for thousands of years.

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