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## INTERNAL POLITICAL PROCESSES IN GEORGIA (VIEW FROM BAKU)

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Georgia is a regional, strategic partner of Azerbaijan. Both countries participate in common projects of the South Caucasus, and they can't remain indifferent to the political processes taking place in their internal political environment, as they are connected with external factors that influence the region as a whole.

*Key words:* Independence, constitution, opposition, struggle for power, power authority, president, parliament.

Prior to its national policy, Georgia announced May 26; 1918 in the adopted "Act of Independence of Georgia". It proclaimed:

"The democratic republic of Georgia within its borders ensures the equality of all citizens in civil and political rights regardless of nationality, religion, social status and gender" (Art. 5).

"The democratic republic of Georgia provides a full opportunity for free development to all peoples living on its territory" [1].

It should be noted that the government of the Democratic Republic of Georgia remained faithful to these principles up to the end. After the restoration of independence, the National Council of the Republic of Georgia was replenished with representatives of the peoples living in the country, who received the right to elect their representatives to the highest legislative body of Georgia. Despite the fact that to solve the most complicated problems of nation-building, the government of the Republic of Georgia had too little time, and that this process was taking place in a difficult military and political situation, in a complex internal and external environment, great progress was achieved that resulted in the creation of the Constitution, Approved by the Constituent Assembly of Georgia on February 21; 1921 [2].

The Georgian Constitution of 1921 was a great achievement of Georgian political thinking. It was developed taking into account the experience of the advanced democratic countries of the time and had a corresponding democratic orientation. In addition, it granted the right of autonomous management of internal affairs to inalienable parts of Georgia – Abkhazia (Sukhumi okrug), Ajaria (Batumi region) and Saingilo (Zakatala district) [5].

Despite the fact that this Constitution was practically not implemented, but its adoption for the Georgian people was of great importance, which entered into the history of Georgia.

These "Georgia Independence Act" and the Constitution have become the legal basis for further struggle for Georgia's state independence. When the state independence of Georgia was restored, its authorities – the highest legislative and executive, determined the main directions of national-state construction.

It should be noted that, despite a short period of its existence, the implementation of the plan was successful.

In 1921, as a result of forced Sovietization, Georgia was recognized as a Soviet republic. Since December 1922, along with Azerbaijan and Armenia, it became part of the Transcaucasian Socialist Federation of the Soviet Republics (ZFSFR), as part of the USSR. However, Georgian

oppositionists wanted political autonomy for Georgia within the Soviet state and began a struggle against Stalin's policy. This provoked the publication of Stalin's Instruction on mass purges, as a result of which tens of thousands of people were killed, including party activists, intellectuals, specialists and all who were suspected of being dissatisfied with Stalin's regime. So, the opposition, and with it, the hopes for independent development, were destroyed. Despite this, during the Second World War (1941-1945) in the fight against fascism, the Georgians heroically fought and heroically died defending their ideals. On the fronts of World War II, 300,000 Georgians died.

The war had not yet ended when, in 1944, on the basis of fabricated accusations of cooperation with the advancing Germans, the deportation of the Meskhetian -Turks, representing a mixed group of Georgian-Muslims and Turks, began.

Approximately 100 thousand people were deported from South Georgia to Central Asia.

Georgia's decapitated centralized government weakened NS. Khrushchev.

In the late 1980s, when Mikhail Gorbachev began to rebuild the Soviet Union, on March 18; 1989, a rally was held in Abkhazia in the village of Lykhna, where local residents demanded to leave Georgia and join the RSFSR.

This led to a serious aggravation of the internal political situation in Georgia. On April 4, an unlimited rally started in Tbilisi, organized by opposition groups headed by the future Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, as well as by Merab Kostava, Irakli Tsereteli and George Chanturia.

During the action, slogans appeared against the leadership of the USSR: "Down with the Communist regime!», "Down with Russian imperialism!», "The USSR is the prison of nations!», "Down with Soviet power!».

April 9; 1989 in Tbilisi at the Government House, during the internal forces of the troops and the Soviet Army, special. Operations to disperse the opposition rally, tragically killed 19 people, 16 of whom were women.

From that day, the process of consolidating the Georgian society around the ideas of national independence, the restoration of Georgian statehood began.

In November 1989, at a session of the Supreme Council of the Georgian SSR, a resolution was adopted on Russia's violation of the peace treaty with Georgia of May 7; 1920.

After October 1990, the first after 1919, alternative, multi-party elections of a non-communist government were held in Georgia. The Bloc of Radical Nationalists "Round Table – Free Georgia" won seats in the Supreme Council (155 seats out of 250). Naturally, after this, the communist administration was replaced with an autocratic presidential system.

In March 1991, the Georgian government refused to hold a national referendum on the future of the USSR. Instead, on March 31 of the same year, on the initiative of Z. Gamsakhurdia, who represented the nationalist Bloc "Round Table – Free Georgia", a referendum was held on the independence of Georgia. Out of 95% of the electorate participating in the referendum, 93% voted for Georgia's independence. The result of the referendum was the adoption on April 9; 1991.

The Supreme Council of Georgia Act on the restoration of state independence. The Chairman of the Supreme Council of Georgia was Z. Gamsakhurdia. At an extraordinary meeting of the first session of the Supreme Council, on April 14; 1991 Zviad Gamsakhurdia was elected the first president of Georgia.

His policy was distinguished by nationalism, his slogan was "Georgia for Georgians". The Russian-speaking population was forced to leave Georgia.

At the end of December 1991 – January 1992. In Georgia there was a civil war with a military coup, it led to the overthrow of the presidential regime Z. Gamsakhurdia. He left his

post and disappeared into exile. A few months later, the media learned that on December 31, ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia passed away in the village of Dzveli Hibula of the Samegrelo region. An organized parliamentary commission investigating the circumstances of his death presented to the Bureau of the Parliament a conclusion that Zviad Gamsakhurdia was killed.

The military council was headed by T. Kitovani, commander of the National Guard. Kitovani dissolved the parliament and suspended the Constitution. In March

1992 The Military Council announced the dissolution and the creation of the State Council, consisting of approximately 70 representatives of 36 opposition parties. At first, the non-Georgian population of the country took a breath, but gradually the situation began to deteriorate: a massive shutdown of electricity and gas began, a large part of the previously functioning state enterprises stopped, the property of factories and factories was plundered, the equipment was exported as scrap metal to neighboring countries. The economy collapsed, the country plunged into energy collapse, street vendors and beggars appeared on the streets of cities and villages, crime and corruption increased.

Prior to the next general elections in October 1992, the country was ruled by a state council consisting of approximately 70 representatives of the majority of opposition parties.

After the presidential elections and the constitutional referendum, in October 1995 Georgia became a democratic republic. Her second president was Eduard Shevardnadze. He headed the country's leadership from 1995 to 2003.

The main achievement of the newly formed parliament was the adoption on August 24; 1995, of the new Constitution of Georgia. Georgia became a presidential republic with a unicameral parliament with a mixed electoral system, 150 deputies were elected by proportional system, and 85 deputies by majority.

The first article of the Constitution read: Georgia is an independent, unified and indivisible state, as confirmed by the referendum held on March 31; 1991 throughout the country, including the Abkhaz ASSR and the former South Ossetian Autonomous Region, and the Act of Restoring Georgia's State Independence of April 9 1991 (Art.1.1)

The democratic republic was proclaimed the form of the political structure of the Georgian state (Art. 1.2).

Soon after that, Georgia joined all conventions of international law.

It should be noted that, despite the fact that Shevardnadze's arrival was attributed by many to the assistance of the Russian Federation, it was with him that Russia introduced a visa regime with Georgia, it was during this period that the main economic ties with Russia and other formerly fraternal Soviet republics were ruptured.

As a result, most of the enterprises stopped, because they were all integrated into a single union economic system and received raw materials from Russia and other republics, where they also sold their products. The economic crisis dragged on, unemployment and poverty increased. In fact, Georgia existed on foreign loans and economic assistance, the use of which was very inefficient.

By the summer of 2003, Georgia's foreign debt had reached \$ 1.75 billion, which meant the bankruptcy of the republic. State power was weakened by systemic corruption. Shevardnadze maneuvered between Russia and the West. Such a policy caused growing discontent, both the Russian authorities and the governments of Western countries.

Against the backdrop of all these circumstances, Georgia approached the 2003 parliamentary elections. When the results of the elections were announced, the opposition protested, which resulted in a velvet "Rose Revolution". On November 23; 2003 E. Shevardnadze was removed from his post. N. Burdzhnadarze began to fulfill his duties.

On January 4; 2004, early presidential elections took place, as a result of which Mikhail Saakashvili became the president of Georgia. Adjara boycotted these elections. After taking office, President Saakashvili appointed Z. Zhvania as prime minister of the country. On March 28; 2004, new parliamentary elections were held (with 150 seats elected according to the proportional system), on which the former opposition, the United Movement – the Democrats, won.

A number of parties and movements that previously had a parliamentary representation could not go to parliament (the Union of the Revival of Georgia, the Labor Party and others). They sharply criticized the formation of the pro-government parliament, describing it as a path to a one-party system.

The changes that the Saakashvili government carried out mostly had an external character, because of which the regime that reigned at that time, the public called “facade democracy”. In his public speeches M. Saakashvili tried to create visibility of the population with a “good life”. There was also the other side of “front-line democracy” : tens of thousands of people languished in prisons and served out exorbitantly severe punishments for not serious, if not contrived, crimes. Opponents of the authorities “sewed” criminal cases and glued to the labels “enemies of the people” and “traitors to the homeland”.

The changes in the country's economy were also façade, as in fact at that time no new large enterprise was built, and everything that was opened was created mainly on the basis of pre-existing hotels, factories, factories, which were not involved at their full capacity. Nevertheless, thanks to the multi-million donor support, the government managed to keep the main economic indicators at a relatively high level and report on high rates of economic growth, which were regularly reflected in the reports of various international research institutes.

The new Georgian authorities have made attempts to restore the unity of the country. The pressure on the A.Abashidze regime in Adjara was strengthened, where the opposition forces received support from Tbilisi and initiated mass protests against the authorities of the autonomous republic on the model of the “Rose Revolution”. A.Abashidze called the “Rose Revolution” “banditry, illegitimate seizure of power, destructive for the territorial integrity of the country” and declared in Adzharia a state of emergency, proclaimed himself supreme commander in chief of “Adjarian armed forces” and closed the administrative border with Georgia [4].

Against this background, Georgia's relations with Russia have deteriorated significantly. In 2005, Georgia obtained from Russia a rapid withdrawal of military bases (implemented in 2007). In November 2005, the Chairman of the Georgian Parliament, N.Burdzhanadze, announced the possibility of the country's withdrawal from the CIS.

Georgia has taken a course to deepen cooperation with the US and NATO. In 2005-2007 years. In Georgia, a number of reforms were carried out aimed at strengthening the vertical of power and fighting corruption. However, the concentration of power in the hands of President M. Saakashvili did not lead to long-term stabilization, it only deepened the split in Georgian society.

On November 2; 2007, a protest rally was held in Tbilisi organized by the opposition. Its participants demanded the resignation of M. Saakashvili. On November 24; 2007, M. Saakashvili announced his resignation as Georgian President. The acting president was the chairman of the parliament N. Burjanadze. On January 5; 2008, presidential elections were held in Georgia. M. Saakashvili won the majority of votes. Simultaneously with the elections, there was a referendum on Georgia's accession to NATO. This initiative was supported by 72.5% of citizens who came to the election.

On March 12; 2008, the Georgian Parliament approved early parliamentary elections on May 21; 2008. The pro-presidential bloc “United National Movement” won a victory on them (119 out of 150 deputy mandates). Instead of N. Burdzhanadze, who refused to participate in the

elections, the leader of the parliamentary majority was former Foreign Minister D. Bakradze, who became chairman of the parliament.

On the night of August 8, 2008, under the order of President M. Saakashvili, the military operation "Clean Field", directed against South Ossetia, began. The shelling of Tskhinvali and a number of Ossetian villages from heavy guns and rocket launcher systems resulted in significant casualties among civilians. Russia's prompt reaction to such a development of the situation led to the ousting of the Georgian armed forces from the territory of South Ossetia and the rapid cessation of hostilities.

As a result of Russia's peace enforcement operation, Georgia suffered a major military and political defeat. It led to the loss of any hope of gaining control over Abkhazia and South Ossetia. On August 26, 2008, Russia formally recognized Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states and established diplomatic relations with them.

In Georgia, the prolonged economic crisis was aggravated, and an already significant external debt (almost \$ 2.5 billion) increased. International agencies Fitch and S & P downgraded Georgia's sovereign ratings. As a result of the five-day war, the military potential of Georgia was undermined, the country suffered serious human and material losses, a heavy blow was inflicted on the moral and psychological state of the armed forces of the republic and its population.

M. Saakashvili has compromised himself both on the international arena and within the country. The end of his regime was put by the oligarch B. Ivanishvili, who announced his entry into politics in 2011 and created in the run-up to the 2012 parliamentary elections a coalition called the Georgian Dream. B. Ivanishvili was known for his donations for the construction of churches, the restoration of theaters and other buildings, the financing of benefits to actors and other prominent members of the public. This, combined with its capital, played the role of a pre-election struggle: the coalition won, gained a majority in parliament and formed a new government headed by the oligarch himself.

Criticizing the policy of M. Saakashvili, B. Ivanishvili promised to establish a real democracy, to return the country to the right path of development, to strengthen ties with the West and at the same time to establish relations with Russia. However, before that, Georgia still has a lot to go through.

The foreign policy vector of modern Georgia is oriented toward rapprochement with the West. Georgia has concluded an association agreement with the European Union, part of this agreement is in force – an agreement on deep and comprehensive free trade with the EU. The country aspires to full integration with the European Union and NATO and to join these structures, but Western officials do not give full-fledged promises to this effect [3].

However, it is quite obvious that when the time comes for Georgia's admission to NATO, the balance of power in the South Caucasus region will change. Too great is the confrontation between NATO and Russia, between Iran, Armenia, Russia and NATO, between the CSTO bloc and NATO. The zone of the South Caucasus can turn into one more hot spot in the world, this is one forecast, and according to the second option, it should be noted that Azerbaijan has fraternal relations with Turkey, a NATO member, that is, Georgia's integration into NATO can become a full entrance of the South Caucasus region in the zone of special interests of the Alliance. In any case, the events taking place in the policy of Georgia deserve close attention and a neat arrangement of relations.

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## ВНУТРІШНЬОПОЛІТИЧНІ ПРОЦЕСИ В ГРУЗІЇ (ПОГЛЯД З БАКУ)

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Грузія – регіональний, стратегічний партнер Азербайджану. Обидві країни беруть участь у спільних проєктах Південного Кавказу і вони не можуть залишатися байдужими до тих політичних процесів, які відбуваються в їх внутрішньополітичному середовищі, тим більше, що ці процеси пов'язані із зовнішніми, орієнтаційними факторами, які в змозі впливати на регіон в цілому.

*Ключові слова:* незалежність, конституція, опозиція, боротьба за владу, владні повноваження, президент, парламент.