



Changes in the political system and its reflection on the territorial arrangement of Georgia

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Abstract

Georgia has a rather complex territorial arrangement. Back in the period of the Democratic Republic, the issue of territorial arrangement was a subject of active discussion. In 1918-1921, the Democratic Republic of Georgia was an asymmetrical unitary state. After the conquest of Georgia by Soviet Russia, despite the de facto federal arrangement, it represented an extremely centralized Soviet part. The territorial organization of the country was characterized by the existence of two autonomous republics (the autonomous republics of Abkhazia and Adjara) and one autonomous district (the so-called South Ossetia), while the rest of the territorial units were directly under the authority of the USSR based on the principle of centralism. The differentiation between an autonomous republic and an autonomous district was represented by an arsenal of powers, in particular, an autonomous republic enjoyed wider powers than an autonomous district. On December 11, 1990, the Law "On the Abolition of the Autonomous Region of South Ossetia" was adopted, which resulted in the abolition of the governing bodies. After the 1992 coup d'état and civil war in Georgia, the conflicts became extremely intense, as a result of which the regions of Georgia were united into nine parties, whose administrative borders, with few exceptions, coincided with the historical borders of the state. In the initial edition of the supreme law of the state adopted on August 24, 1995, the issue of state territorial organization was not clearly defined, which is probably justified due to the vicissitudes of the state at that time. From 1995 to the present, the change in the constitutional basis determining the state territorial arrangement was not actually implemented until 2017-2018. And, within the framework of the constitutional reform of 2017-2018, the constitutional norm establishing the basis of territorial arrangement underwent a new regulation, as well as the powers of issues belonging to the special governance of the highest state bodies of Georgia. What is most important, the provisions on the political organization of the state determined by the constitution adopted in 1995 have undergone more concreteness, in particular, "the territorial organization of the state of Georgia will be revised by the constitutional law of Georgia, based on the principle of separation

of powers, after the full restoration of Georgian jurisdiction over the entire territory of the country". Moreover, the establishment of a bicameral parliamentary system in Georgia was connected with the full restoration of state jurisdiction.

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⁵ Anderson M. B., Federal Solutions to Ethnic Problems: Accommodating Diversity, Routledge, 2018.

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⁷ Ibid.

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⁹ Kolbaia V., The concept of conflict resolution in Abkhazia, Davit Aghmashenebeli Hall of National Consent of All Georgia, Tbilisi, 2004.

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¹² Ibid.

¹³ Demetrashvili A., Another attempt to actualize the problem, Jemal Ghakhokidze-70, anniversary collection, "Meridian" publishing house, Tbilisi, 2021, 234. Transaction Publishers, 1987.

¹⁴ Demetrashvili S., Dilemmas of bicameralism in Georgia, Jemal Ghakhokidze-70, anniversary collection, "Meridian" publishing house, Tbilisi, 2021, 304-315.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Matsaberidze M., Political system of Georgia, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, 2019, 316.

¹⁷ Bzekalava A., The dynamics of the political relations of the countries of the South Caucasus region: Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, National Defense Academy of Georgia named after SSP-Davit Agmashenebeli, collection of papers of the scientific-practical conference, Gori, 2022, 13.

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Conclusion

Georgia's independence and subsequent transition shaped the country's political system and trajectory. The challenges of the transition period had a great impact on the political, economic and social development of Georgia.

Today, Georgia continues to move towards the consolidation of democracy, promoting economic growth and resolving territorial conflicts in order to achieve stability and prosperity. The territorial arrangement of Georgia means its political administrative division into separate units, which derives from the ideal of the Georgian people - having an independent, united and indivisible (strong) state. If we look at the beginnings of the constitutional chronicles of Georgia, the first article of the Constitution of February 21, 1921 states that "Georgia is a free, independent and indivisible state". The term "indivisible" refers a priori to the concept of Unitarism, indicating that the country is one.

At that time, Georgia was divided into regions, the borders of which mainly coincided with the historical provinces of Georgia. In 1918-1921, the issue of granting autonomy was discussed only for the "opposite parties", whose integration was related to essential problems. On this basis, the principle of autonomy for Abkhazia, Batumi region and Zakatala district was combined with the unitary arrangement of the state. Accordingly, in 1918-1921, Georgia was a decentralized unitary republic. On February 25, 1921, the period of Soviet Georgia began, when Georgia was divided into districts. At the end of Soviet rule, Georgia had 69 districts, the autonomous republics of Abkhazia and Adjara, and the autonomous district of South Ossetia.

Since the source of state power is the people, the government must express the will of the people. And, the reflection of the "people's soul" in the basic law is not a mechanical and simple process, but its formation takes place over a long period of evolution under the influence of historical factors, and if we rely on Hegel, then the state arrangement is only a product, a manifestation of the given people's own soul and, accordingly, the knowledge of the soul. stage of development. There is no doubt that the return of the occupied territories is the unshakable desire of the Georgian people, which at the same time is in unequivocal agreement with the main aspects of the current political course of the state government of Georgia. The government should carry out the specified policy very carefully, which will ensure the implementation of the unwavering will of the Georgian people - the desire for a united, strong and indivisible (unitary) state.

¹⁸ Kolbaia V., The concept of conflict resolution in Abkhazia, Davit Aghmashenebeli Hall of National Consent of All Georgia, Tbilisi, 2004.

¹⁹ Ibid.

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