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**From the Relations Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire
in the XVI-XVIII Centuries**
(According to the Ottoman and Georgian sources)

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The dissertation can be found in the library of BSU and on the website of the same university.

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Relevance of the research topic: The subject of the dissertation is "From the Relations the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the XVI-XVIII Centuries (According to Ottoman and Georgian sources)". The work, as the title suggests, is mainly based on Georgian and Turkish (Ottoman) sources. I have also used the works of English and Azerbaijani authors.

Georgian-Ottoman relationships spanned many centuries and were quite intense throughout the entire existence of the Ottoman Empire, with some exceptions. A special place in this regard is occupied by the relationships of the Ottoman Empire with the Kingdom of Imereti.

Relations between the Ottomans and Georgia began during the reign of Sultan Mehmed II Fatih (1451-1481). After the conquest of Constantinople in 1453, the Ottoman Empire, thanks to the policy of Sultan Mehmed II, who turned the Black Sea into a Turkish lake and ensured political unity in Anatolia, turned its interests to the East and began conquests there. The first relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Georgia began in 1454 as a result of a military attack to Sukhumi, undertaken by Sultan Mehmed II to the Black Sea coast. At the beginning of the XVI century, due to problems in the country, the united kingdoms of Georgia were separated. The kingdoms of Kartli, Kakheti, Imereti and the principality of Samtskhe appeared in the geography of Georgia.

Relationships between the Ottoman Empire and Georgia, which began in the second half of the XV century, continued until the end of the XIX century. These relationships became more intense in the XVI century. It is known that during the reign of the Ottoman Sultan Beyazit II (1481-1512), Georgia was attacked by his son Shehzade Selim (Yavuz Sultan Selim), who was a sanjakbek of Trabzon at that time. Relationship between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire began in 1508, after the raid of Sultan Selim on the capital of the Kingdom of Imereti, Kutaisi, and lasted for over three centuries. During this time, they took on a different character: sometimes they were friendly, and at times they were hostile. In the XVI-XVII centuries, Imereti's relationships with the Ottoman Empire first influenced Iran, one of the strongest states of that time. The Ottoman Empire and Iran consistently asserted their sovereignty over Georgia during the treaties of Amasya in 1555, Ferhat Pasha in 1590, Nasuh Pasha in 1612, Seravi in 1618, and Zukhab in 1639. In accordance with the general terms of these treaties, the lands of western Georgia - Imereti, Samegrelo, Guria and western Samtskhe were subordinate to the Ottoman Empire, and the lands in the east of the country - Kartli, Kakheti and eastern Samtskhe were under the rule of Iran. The relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Georgian kingdoms, as well as the relations between Iran and the Georgian kingdoms were settled in accordance with the terms of the aforementioned treaties. In the XVIII century, the strengthened power of Russia entered the political arena. The Georgian states began a policy of rapprochement with the same faith Russia. The Georgian kingdoms, that were located far from the Ottoman Empire and Iran, sometimes pursued a policy of balance, and sometimes showed hostility towards the Ottoman Empire and Iran. However, they did not receive the appropriate support from Russia, and the result was not as expected.

Aims and objectives of the study: The aim of the study is to provide an end-to-end assessment of the relationship between the Ottoman Empire and the Imeretian Kingdom, which spanned more than three centuries. Relations between the two countries began in the early XVI century and continued actively throughout the XVII and XVIII centuries. We assess this period in different parts of the present paper. There are some questions on which we focus our attention. The first one is the beginning of Ottoman-Georgian relations. We estimate the battles between the Ottoman State and Iran for domination in Georgia in the XVI century, and we pay special attention to the relations between the Ottoman State and Imereti during this period. In addition, the battles that took place between the Ottomans and Iran on the territory of Georgia until the second half of the XVII century, as well as the relations that developed between Imereti and the Ottoman State, are especially important for us. It can be seen that during this period the Imeretian kingdom sometimes had friendly, but often contradictory relations with the Ottomans. The agreements signed between

the parties during the Ottoman-Iranian wars from the beginning of the XVI to the middle of the XVII centuries, showed that the Ottomans mainly dominated the territory of Western Georgia (Imereti, Samegrelo, Guria, western Samtskhe). Therefore, the Ottoman Empire repeatedly interfered in the internal affairs of Imereti in the second half of the XVII century. The present work pays special attention to this issue as well. The XVIII century was the most tense period in the relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Imereti. At that time, apart from the Ottomans and Iran, Russia also entered the struggle for domination in Georgia and the Caucasus in general. Against the background of the battles between these three great powers, we assess the process of rapprochement and union of the Imeretian kingdom with Russia and its consequences. At the same time, we discuss its relationship with the Ottoman Empire, which was qualitatively changed periodically.

Scientific novelty: Georgian historical research mainly focuses on the relations of the Ottoman Empire with Georgia as a whole and, to a lesser extent, with its individual kingdoms. There are many works on the history of the Ottoman Empire based on Turkish sources, but a lot of time has passed since these studies.

The presented dissertation is entirely devoted to the relations of the Imeretian kingdom with the Ottoman Empire. It uses both Georgian and Turkish (Ottoman) historical sources. These include primary sources, such as chronicles and archival documents, as well as scientific works based on these sources - monographs, articles and abstracts. We paid special attention to the opinions of other authors and included them in our research, contrasting, synthesizing and comparing them with our conclusions. In addition, we compared and took into account the various references given in the two sources, and on their basis, we made some conclusions. Although there are not many studies related to Georgia in Turkey, and therefore there is little information, anyway, these valuable studies have provided us with some guidance.

Overall, our goal is to show and study relationship between the two countries in a new innovate way, to introduce different sources to researchers, to analyze the information provided in the sources, and to illuminate issues, that have not yet been discussed, in a new light.

Research methods: The present paper, which mainly relies on Georgian and Turkish (Ottoman) sources, also uses English-language literature. The research includes chronicles, archival documents, monographs, articles, abstracts.

First, we identified sources related to the research topic. Then we determined have established a correspondence between the period and the source, the reliability of which has been re-checked. In addition, there have been obtained the Ottoman archival documents related to the topic; the content, meaning and place in the topic have also been determined. After that, we proceeded to the dissertation. The most important method, that we have used in our work, is the comparison method. The most meaningful factor in its use is the discussion of relations between the two countries by examining the differences and analogies between Georgian and Turkish sources.

Theoretical and practical significance of the work: The most important part of the paper is to acquaint researchers with the primary sources of relations between the two countries and give them the opportunity to obtain various information on this issue in many sources. In addition, our work is important for those who want to thoroughly study the relationship between Imereti and the Ottoman Empire, the policy of Russia, Iran and the Ottoman Empire towards Georgia and the Caucasus in the XVI - XVIII centuries and the place of Imereti in this policy. Another important goal of our dissertation is to create a source and other perspective for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral thesis, articles or books.

History of the studied issue: When working on dissertation, we mainly used both Georgian and Turkish sources and literature. Among them there were many sources that were directly or indirectly related to the topic of our research, although they were very useful to us in the research process.

First of all, we used archival materials stored in the Ottoman archives of the Turkish Republic. Among the materials preserved here, the most interesting for us were "Muhime Daftrebi" and "Sultan's Rescripts" (Khati Humayun). These books were recorded from the second half of the XVI century to the end of the XIX century (**Kütükoğlu, 2006: 520-523**). For example, one of the resolutions states that a problem arose between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire, which could not be solved on the spot, and it was sent to Istanbul for consideration, where an appropriate decision was made and appropriate measures were applied. All this is very important to study for a correct assessment of relationship between the two countries. The Ottoman Archives of the Turkish Republic also include a translated and published simplified version of "Muhime Daftrebi". It is very interesting as it contains resolutions on Imereti's relationships with the Ottoman Empire in the XVI - XVII centuries. In addition, we used the versions of "Muhime Daftrebi" that were used and published by researchers in their Ph.D. and doctoral dissertations.

Another archival material that we used to work on the dissertation is "Sultan's rescripts" ("Khati Humayun"). Khati Humayun, with a few exceptions, is the manuscript written by the Sultan (**Kütükoğlu, 1997: 485-488**).

During working on this dissertation, when we dealt with relationships between Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the XVIII century, these manuscripts and the "Books of Resolutions" especially helped us and gave direction to our topic in terms of assessing relationships between the two countries.

In addition to the above-mentioned archival materials, we used the works of various historians related to this era. One of them is "History" by Solak-zade. The book is dedicated to the history of the Ottoman Empire from 1299 to 1657 (**Solakzâde, 2015**).

The same era is mentioned in four volumes of Khoja Saadetin Effendi - "Tacüt Tevarih", where the history of the Ottoman Empire is studied from the founding of the Ottoman state to the last years of the reign of Sultan Yavuz Selim (**Hoca Saadettin, 1999**).

"The History", written by Ibragim Petchevi, known as "Petchevi's History", covers the history of the Ottoman Empire from 1520 to 1639. The most interesting part is Lala Mustafa Pasha's narration about the military campaign to Georgia (**Peçevi, 1981; 1982; ფეხური, 1964**).

"The History" of Hasan Bei-zade (1520-1595) (**Bey-zâde, 2004**) and "The History of the Ottoman Empire" by Selaniki Mustafa Efendi (1563-1600) (**Selaniki, 1999**) are the most important chronicles of XVI century Ottoman history.

"Nusret-name" by Mustafa Ali directly concerns the Georgian-Ottoman relations of the XVI century. The work describes in detail Lala Mustafa Pasha's campaigns to the East (**Gelibolulu Mustafa, 2014**).

From the chronicles of the XVIII century, we used "Murit-i Tevarikh" (1730-1777) written by Shemdanizade Suleiman Effendi and „Mehâsinü'l-Âsâr ve Hakaikü'l-Ahbâr“ written by Ahmed Vasif Effendi (**Fındıklı Süleyman, 1976; 1978; 1980; 1981; Vasîf, 1994**).

The first and most important work in the history of the Ottoman Empire is the six-volume "History" of the Ottoman Empire, written by Ismail Khaki Uzunkarshil, that describes in details the history of the Ottoman Empire from the founding of the Ottoman state to the end of the XVIII century (**Uzunçarşılı, 1975**). A kind of continuation of this work is the five volumes of "Ottoman History" by Enver Zia Karal, which covers the history of the Ottoman Empire from 1789 to 1918 (**Karal, 2000**). These works of two great Turkish historians complement each other. Many books were subsequently written on their basis, and many authors used them as a source. Another extensive work created in this area belongs to Ismail Hami Danishmend. The work consists of six volumes. It presents the history of the Ottoman Empire chronologically, with brief explanations (**Danışmend, 1971**). In addition to Turkish historians, the works of foreign historians in this area are of great interest. The most important of these are the seven volumes written by the German historian Johann Wilhelm Zinkeishen, which cover the history of the Ottoman Empire from 1299 to 1812, as well as

the work of the Romanian historian Nicolas Jogra "The History of the Ottoman Empire", which consists of five volumes and covers the era from 1299 to 1912 (Zinkeisen, 2011; Jorga 2009).

In addition to the aforementioned articles, which discuss in detail the history of the Ottoman Empire, in our dissertation we have used research on Ottoman-Caucasian relations, the policy pursued by the Ottomans towards the Caucasus. The most interesting of these studies is the "Conquest of the Caucasus by the Ottomans" (1451-1590) by Fahrettin Kirzioglu (Kirzioglu, 1998). Although the author is often biased and evaluates the lack of sources as biased. The database of monograph sources is very rich and in this respect it is interesting for us.

The work of Jemal Gokce and Sadiq Mifit Bilge is also devoted to Ottoman-Caucasian relations. Cemal Gokce's book "The Caucasus and the Policy of the Ottoman Empire in the Caucasus" covers the years 1774-1829 (Gökçe, 1979). Sadiq Mufit Bilge's work "The Caucasus in the Ottoman Era" is a relatively new study of Ottoman policy in the Caucasus of 1454-1829 and provides information on military operations (Bilge, 2015).

Approbation of Dissertation. The work was successfully approved by the Department of History, Archeology and Ethnology of Batumi State University on November 2, 2020. Separate parts of the work were published as articles in scientific journals, and were also presented at an international scientific conference.

Work structure. The work consists of an introduction, 4 chapters, 9 subsections and a conclusion. There is also attached is a list of used sources and scientific literature. There are also several Ottoman documents with the corresponding Georgian translation as an attachment.

The introduction examines the relevance of the topic, the goals and objectives of the study, theoretical and methodological foundations of the article, scientific novelty. It also presents the current level of study of the issue in detail, emphasizes the importance of individual sources and scientific literature.

Chapter I. The beginning of Georgian's Relationship with the Ottoman

In the XV century, Georgia was devastated as a result of the invasions of Temur Leng. The country was at a low socio-economic level. In 1403, by Temur Leng's order, the attacks on Georgia were stopped and a peace treaty was signed. After the death of Temur Leng in 1405, Georgia was liberated to some extent, but the restoration of the country and the return of its former power was not so easy, because in the XV-XVI centuries Georgia again became a target of the great powers.

After the death of Temur Leng in 1405, the king of Georgia, George VII, also died. His place was taken by his younger brother Constantine I, but his life was short and he died in 1411. After the death of Constantine in 1412, his son Aleksandre I ascended the Georgian throne. It was Aleksandre I who was the king of united Georgia. However, it should be noted that during his reign, the territory of Georgia, in comparison with ancient times, occupied a small area. At the same time, the country's economy was in dire straits. There began the restoration of cities, villages, castles and churches-monasteries, destroyed after the conquests of Temur Lang.

King Aleksandre became the head of state, with a destroyed socio-economic status and tried to fix the problems with reforms, although to no avail. All this led to the weakening of the king's power, as well as the central government and to the strengthening of the feudal lords' power. Another reason for the weakening of central authority was interference with the rules of the royal family. Disagreements between the feudal lords gradually intensified. As a result of such a chaotic situation, King Aleksandre I abdicated the throne in 1442 and transferred his seat to his son Vakhtang III, who died four years later. His brother George VIII took the throne in 1446. He led the struggle against the feudal lords.

Georgia's first relationship with the Ottoman Empire began during the reign of Sultan Mehmed II (1451-1481). However, there is some disagreement over the date when relationship between the Ottoman

Empire and Georgia began. There is no exact information about this date in Ottoman sources. According to Kvami, Kirzioglu, the date refers to the period when Mehmed II ascended the throne, instilling fear in Vlakheti, Abkhazia and the country of the Kivchags. According to the Byzantine historian Duke, after the conquest of Constantinople on June 18, 1453, delegations from Christian states arrived in Edirne to congratulate the padishah. The padishah ordered these delegations to come to Constantinople annually, declare their obedience and pay an annual tribute. According to Duke, these delegations also included representatives of Trabzon and the Black Sea states.

Another opinion about the date of the beginning of relationship between the Ottomans and Georgia is indicated by a document from 1821, stored in the Ottoman archives of the Prime Minister. According to the document, after the conquest by Russia, the Kingdom of Imereti, on behalf of the governor of Akhaltsikhe, sent a message to Ali Pasha informing him about the occupation. Georgia did not want to obey Russia, so in this battle with Russia, it asked the Sultan for help. The Ottoman Empire sent a letter to Imereti immediately after the conquest of Constantinople. After that day, Imereti came under the rule of the Ottoman state.

One of the last assumptions about how and when the relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Georgia began was the attack of Sukhumi. A year after the conquest of Constantinople, Sultan Fatih Mehmed sent a fleet of 56 ships to the Black Sea, which first arrived in Akkerman, but, having stumbled upon serious protection here, the Genoese captive colony went to Sukhumi and captured it in June 1454. Thus, the western coast of Georgia was occupied, although no administrative organizations were created in these regions in exchange for tribute.

According to Georgian sources, the date of the beginning of relations is 1451. As we can see, this date lags behind the above data by 3-4 years. Thus, there are also differences between the sources. After the attack of Sukhumi, the fleet, heading for the Crimea, anchored in Kef on July 11, 1454. A few days later, the Crimean Khan arrived and forced the king to pay tribute to the Genoese colony.

The relations between the Ottoman Empire and Georgia, which began during the reign of Sultan Fatih, became even more intense during the reign of his son Beyazid II and grandson Selim I.

Chapter II. Relationships between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the XVI century

§ 1. The Beginning of Relationships Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire

At the beginning of the XVI century, Bayezid II (1481-1512) ruled the Ottoman Empire. During his reign the Safavids, who ruled the eastern border of the empire and the lands of Anatolia, were a great danger, especially during the battles in the West. This danger was noticed by the ruler of Trabzon, Prince Selim and took appropriate measures. His father, the Sultan, Bayezid II, wanted his son to pursue a more peaceful policy, and even gave advice on this matter.

The eastern conquests of Selim began when he was the sanjak beg of Trabzon. Before becoming a padishah, he had been ruling Trabzon for about 23 years, from 1487 to 1510. During all this time, he closely followed the military campaigns of the Safavids and Georgians and informed Istanbul about this. In the sources, we see that Prince Selim set out on a campaign against Georgia in the first years of his reign as sanjak beg in addition, there are sources confirming that Selim went on a campaign against Georgia three times. One of the reasons for Selim's campaigns during the famine in Georgia were attacks by the rival Shah Ismail (1501) on Georgia and Laz. With this Selim wanted to give an answer to Shah Ismail. Another reason for Prince Selim's campaigns in Georgia was that he was seized with a sense of conquest, and also wanted to express his gratitude for ascending the throne in this way. Among the campaigns of Prince Selim to Georgia, the most important is the attack with a large army on the Kingdom of Imereti. Information about the date of the

campaign is given differently in Georgian and Turkish sources. Therefore, it is difficult to establish the exact date. Sources, relating to this date, point to 1508, 1509, 1510, 1512. The only Ottoman source giving information about the date of the campaign is the work of Kemalpashazadeh. The document says that the Ottomans under the command of Prince Selim invaded Georgia in May-June 1508. This work mentions that the geography of Georgia includes high mountainous regions and deep valleys, which in turn are covered with forests and rivers. Another researcher Kirzioglu also considers the date indicated in the work of Kemalpasha to be correct, since May-June is a period favorable for campaigns both in terms of climate and in accordance with Ottoman traditions.

Georgian sources give different data regarding this date. In the work of Vakhushti Batonishvili, it is mentioned that Prince Selim made two campaigns to Georgia, in particular, to Imereti in 1509 and 1512. According to him, during the campaign of 1509, the king of Imereti Aleksandre was in Kartli and returned home during the Ottoman invasion. During the second campaign in 1512, the period of the king Bagrat (king Aleksandre's son) reign, the Ottomans first destroyed Gelati and Kutaisi, and then conquered Imereti. During the campaigns, the first army was called "Jihni" and the second army was called the army of Sultan Selim. Ivane Javakhishvili mentions either 1509 or 1510 in this respect. M. Svanidze considers this date as 1510 in one work, published in 1971, and in another book, published in 1999, he thinks it is 1509.

Prince Selim's campaign is recognized as the first serious battle between the Ottomans and Imereti. It can be said that the relationship between the Ottomans and Imereti began with this battle. Relationship with the Ottoman Empire and Imereti, which began with Selim's campaigns on Imereti during his reign, continued over the next two centuries.

§ 2. Kingdom of Imereti and Its Relations with the Ottoman Empire in 1520 - 1555

After the death of Selim I, his son Suleiman I (1520-1566) ascended the throne of the Ottoman Empire. During the reign of Selim I, there was no peace with Iran. Moreover, even the ambassador, who arrived for the peace talks, was arrested. When Sultan Suleiman ascended the throne, this situation between the two states continued to persist. Upon learning of the death of Selim, Shah Ismail invaded Georgia and conquered Kakheti. During this period, western Georgia (Guria, Samegrelo / Dadiani, Imereti / Bashiachuki) was under the rule of the Ottomans, and eastern Georgia (Kakheti, Kartli, Samtskhe) was under the rule of Iran. In addition, it should be noted that the Ottoman Empire had good relations with other Georgian kingdoms. In 1524 the king of Imereti Bagrat, the Samtskhe atabeg and the king of Kakheti Levan asked Sultan Suleiman to allow Georgians to visit Jerusalem.

During this period, King Bagrat III (1510-1565) ruled the royal throne of Imereti. During the reign of King Bagrat, the main problems of Imereti and Georgia as a whole were disagreements regarding the rulers and the prisoner trade. In the XVI century, the prisoner trade increased, especially in western Georgia. The prisoner trade, mainly composed of young people, has resulted in the loss of youth in Georgia. This had a very bad effect on the social and economic development of the country. To prevent capture, the rulers tried to take all measures.

After the campaign against Jikheti, King Bagrat turned his attention to Samtskhe Saatabago, which was the main entrance to Imereti for the Ottomans. There are different opinions about the date of the start of the war in Murjakheli, located near Akhalkalaki. One of them is August 15, 1535. According to some sources, this is August 13 of the same year, while others mention 1536. Atabeg Samtskhe Kvarkvare, who was defeated in the battle, was taken prisoner by King Bagrat, and the lands of Samtskhe joined Imereti. Kvarkvare, who had been in captivity for ten years, died in Gelati. At the end of the battle, the territories of Adjara and Chaneti were transferred to Gurieli. Dadiani was dissatisfied with this fact as he was not satisfied with the

strengthening of the power of these two feudal lords. This situation ultimately led to Dadiani's betrayal of the tripartite alliance.

The feudal lords of Samtskhe were not at all happy with the results of the end of the Battle of Murjakheti. For this reason, Kvarkvare Atabeg's son Kaihosro and Otar Shalikashvili went to Istanbul to ask for help in the fight against Imereti. The direct connection of this region with the Ottoman Empire was important for the Ottomans in terms of strategy. Therefore, in 1541 Sultan Suleiman sent large forces to the territory of Samtskhe in order to end the occupation of Imereti. The Ottoman army of over 22,000 people laid siege to Oltu Castle. In 1543, the Ottoman army entered Tao and captured it. According to Vakhushti, the Ottoman army had good weapons. Nevertheless, the Ottomans were defeated in a battle with the forces of the Bagrat-Gurieli alliance in the vicinity of Karagak.

After the defeat of the Ottoman Empire at the Battle of Karagak in 1543, Kaihosro and Otar Shalikashvili returned to Istanbul and asked for help. In response, Suleiman the Magnificent sent the beys of Erzurum and Diyarbakir back to Samtskhe in 1545. Bagrat asked for help in the fight against the Ottomans from Gurieli, Dadiani and the king of Kartli Luarsab. Dadiani did not take part in this alliance. Not far from Basiani, in Sohoista, a big battle took place between the troops of the Georgian alliance and the Ottomans, which lasted all day and all night. In the middle of the battle, the Meskhetian soldiers retreated. The Ottoman army, predominantly in numbers and weapons, won the battle. After the Battle of Sohoista in 1545, the position of the Ottoman Empire in Samtskhe strengthened and its influence increased even more. As a result, Ottoman dominance increased, especially in Western Georgia.

In 1546, the Shah of Iran Tamaz marched with an army against Georgia. In 1547 the king of Imereti Bagrat and the king of Kakheti Levan declared their loyalty to Shah Tamaz and saved their countries from a possible invasion. The Shah gave them gifts. King Bagrat returned home, and the king of Kakheti Levan spent some time with the shah.

King Bagrat, declaring his obedience to Shah Tamaz in 1547, began to take measures in the struggle against the feudal lords. He grabbed and arrested the Commander of Samegrelo Levan Dadiani. Later Bagrat summoned Rostom Gurieli to fight the Ottomans on the condition that he get him Odishe. Gurieli, who doubted the king's honest intentions, rejected him and therefore did not share the fate of Dadiani. During this period, Atabeg's spy Kaihosro from Samtskhe helped Dadiani, the ruler of Samegrelo, who was arrested in Gelati monastery, to escape to Akhaltsikhe. A few years later, with the help of Gurieli, he returned to Samegrelo and headed the government of the country. After these ambitions of the king, Bagrat, Gurieli and Dadiani began to develop relations with the Ottoman Empire, standing under its protection. In 1553 they became part of the province of Erzurum.

§ 3. The Amasya Peace Treaty of 1555 and Subsequent Events

As mentioned above, hostilities between the Ottoman Empire and Iran began in 1501 with the founding of the Safavid dynasty by Shah Ismail in Iran. After the death of Selim in 1520, as we have already mentioned, his son, Suleiman, ascended the throne. Contradictions between the Ottoman Empire and Iran continued during his reign. After the death of Shah Ismail in 1524, his son Shah Tamaz took the throne. Sultan Suleiman advanced three times with his army against Iran, although the battle never took place on the battlefield. The reason for this was that each time Shah Tamaz retreated. And going back, the Ottoman army burned and destroyed everything on its way.

The first battle of Sultan Suleiman against Iran took place in 1533-1535. In this battle, Baghdad, Tabriz, Hamadan and Sultaniye were captured. The second campaign of Sultan Suleiman against Iran was carried out with the support of the Shah Tamaz's brother, Elki Mirza, who opposed the Ottomans. After the battle of 1548, Vani and its surroundings were annexed to the Ottoman lands. Tabriz was conquered again.

On August 28, 1553, Sultan Suleiman made the third campaign against Iran, known as the Nakhichevan War. The sultan wanted to support the Georgians in the war, so in October 1553, he sent a letter to Georgia through Aiya Pasha. According to Ferman, the Georgian princes, subordinate to the Ottomans, were able to govern their principalities independently in this way.

In 1553 and 1554, the Safavids, who repeatedly attacked the Georgians, captured and brought home about 30 thousand Georgians. Georgian aristocrats and some Circassians were recruited into the civil service. In response to the Safavids, who opposed Imereti in August 1554, Sultan Suleiman sent Sadrazam Kara Ahmed Pasha along with about 3-4 thousand Janissaries to fight in Georgia on September 6, 1554. For two weeks Ahmed Pasha was driving out the Safavids who invaded the lands of Tortomi, Oltisi, Ardagan, Pasini and Imereti.

On October 30, 1554, the Ottoman army left Erzurum and went over to winter in Amasya through Sivas. Sultan Suleiman remained with his army in Amasya for seven and a half months. During this period, significant events took place. The most important of them, which has a direct connection with our topic, is the Amasya Treaty. This was the first peace treaty concluded between the Ottoman Empire and Iran (Safavids). On May 29, and according to some reports, in June 1554 the council was again convened. Sultan Suleiman sent a letter to the Shah of Iran through the Iranian ambassador, inviting him to the council and expressing his consent to the truce. Thus, there was ended the half-century war between Iran and the Ottoman Empire.

According to the Amasya treaty, peace was established between the two states, and the border was determined by the division of lands. This border ran between Mount Likha and Kars. Ardahan and Shavsheti passed under the rule of the Ottomans. Georgia has suffered the most because of this agreement. According to the treaty, Georgia was divided into two parts - Eastern and Western. The lands of Imereti, Samegrelo, Guria and western Samtskhe, located in the west of the country, fell under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, and the remaining Kartli, Kakheti and eastern Samtskhe in the eastern part of the country came under the rule of Iran. According to the agreement, the Ottomans and Iran officially recognized and gained control over the territory of Georgia. This meant that the already politically fragmented Georgia had to disintegrate.

After the Amasya treaty, the ambassadors of the Imeretian king Bagrat, the king of Kartli Luarsab, as well as representatives of the rulers of Samegrelo and Guria arrived in Erzurum with tribute. When this fact was learned in Istanbul on August 15, 1555, they demanded the transfer of ambassadors and tributes from Erzurum to Istanbul.

In the period after the conclusion of the treaty, the Ottoman Empire closely followed the most important kingdom of Georgia - Imereti, and especially the relations between Imereti and Iran. It even took measures to get closer to the Kingdom of Imereti. Again, after the conclusion of the Amasya Treaty, the Ottoman state demanded that the Kingdom of Imereti maintain peaceful relations with Iran in accordance with the terms of the Amasya Treaty.

§ 4. Iranian-Ottoman war of 1578-1590 and the Relationship Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire

King Bagrat III of Imereti died in 1565, and George II (1565-1583) ascended the throne. During the reign of Bagrat III, the Ottomans made many military campaigns to Imereti. In addition, Bagrat III had to fight a number of battles with the princes of Imereti. In the first days of his accession to the throne, George II pursued a peaceful policy with the rulers of Imereti (Dadiani and Gurieli). However, this situation did not last long. With the weakening of the king's power, Dadiani and Gurieli started attacking him. This caused great problems and internal unrest in Western Georgia. These problems, which began after the death of Bagrat

III, continued until the end of the XVI century, and then continued in the XVII and XVIII centuries. The wars did not unite the country, on the contrary, they led to a weakening of foreign policy.

Suleiman I (1520-1566) died in 1566, his son Selim II (1566-1574) inherited his throne. After these changes in the Ottoman Empire, George II sent an ambassador to Istanbul, through whom he declared his loyalty to the Ottoman Sultan. In a reply letter sent to King George of Imereti on January 29, 1568, Selim II said that he had received his letter and he has no doubts about his loyalty and sincerity. He also asked to accept the sent gifts and serve the Ottomans sincerely.

As we can see, King George had good relations with the Ottomans, but the internal unrest in the country put him in a difficult position. By 1568, King George fought battles with George Gurieli, Levan Dadiani, the Abkhazian prince and other feudal lords. The Sultan could interfere in the internal affairs of the western Georgia and Imereti. As we can see, the Ottoman rule in Imereti continued during this period. No negative events took place between the two countries, with the exception of the Kingdom of Imereti, because the situation here was more complicated. During the reign of George II, who ascended the throne after the death of King Bagrat III, certain disagreements arose between the king and the princes. Due to the weakened royal power, he was sometimes forced to enter into an alliance with the princes. These alliances, depending on the situation and time, constantly changed. Sometimes, the king violated the terms of the alliance, because only in this way he could resist the princes and maintain his power.

During the reign of Selim II, Ottoman-Iranian relations were positive. This is confirmed by the letter from Shah Tamaz sent to Selim when he ascended the throne. When Shah Ismail II ascended the throne after the death of Shah Tamaz, relations changed. During this period, due to the negative actions of the Shah and the rulers of Iran on the Ottoman border, as well as because of the appearance of the Safavids in Anatolia, the Ottomans were forced to again march with an army against Iran. In addition, it can be said that the Ottoman Empire viewed the dispute in Iran as a pretext, because the Ottomans were not satisfied with the Amasya Treaty. The Ottomans especially wanted to conquer the Caucasus. in case of success, they could attack Iran from the north. Conquering the shores of the Caspian Sea would strengthen relations with the Turkish people of Central Asia. In addition, the Caucasian trade route was of great economic importance for the Ottomans. On January 2, 1578, Khoja Sinan Pasha and Lala Mustafa Pasha were appointed commanders to conquer the lands of Georgia and Shirvan, which at that time were in the hands of the Safavids. Thus, in 1578-1590, the war between the Ottoman Empire and Iran resumed.

On April 5, 1578, the commander-in-chief Mehmed Mustafa Pasha moved to Iran through Uskudar. On August 9, 1578, Lala Mustafa Pasha, having reached the borders of Iran, defeated the Safavid forces in Childir. After this battle, he opposed Georgia and took Tbilisi on August 24, 1578.

Before leaving, in February-March 1578, Lala Mustafa Pasha sent a letter to the Ottoman soldiers in Iran. He ordered them to complete their preparations and subdue the Georgian and Kizilbash commanders who opposed the Ottomans. On the other hand, the Crimean khans, commanders of Shirvan and Dagestan, asked the Ottomans for help in the war against Iran. Pasha sent separate letters to the king and princes of Georgia demanding obedience, otherwise they would enter, plunder and destroy the country, and take people prisoner. King George II of Imereti, who had good relations with the Ottoman state, asked the Ottomans to help subdue the Georgian leaders, especially the king of Kakheti and the atabeg of Samtskhe.

When the Ottoman army leaving Istanbul approached Sivas, George Dadiani and George Gurieli gave Lala Mustafa Pasha a letter, in which they informed that they would obey the Ottomans and send them a tax. They also complained that the Circassians had destroyed their country. In a response letter, they were told that they would be helped from the Black Sea, and they were also required to take part in the war.

On July 2, 1578, the army left Sivas and arrived in Erzurum. Lala Mustafa Pasha gathered military leaders in Erzurum. Before this meeting, it was already decided that first they would occupy Georgia (Kartli-Kakheti), then Shirvan and Dagestan. The army, which had been waiting for weapons from the ports of

Trabzon and Batumi for 20 days in Erzurum, set off. Approaching Mount Alahekber, they took a break. At that time, the Ottomans received a letter from King George of Imereti, which said that he and his army would take part in the war on their side. In response to his letter, the Ottomans demanded the extradition and submission of the mother of David Khan and the atabeg of Samtskhe, Dedisimedi, otherwise Kartli and Samtskhe would be destroyed.

In 1582, unrest broke out in the Kingdom of Imereti. King George of Imereti died in 1586, and his place was taken by 12-year-old son Levan. At this time, his uncle Constantine, who was in prison, fled and rebelled against the young king. King Levan was married to the daughter of Mamia Dadiani. With the help of his father-in-law, he defeated his rebellious uncle Constantine in 1587. During the reign of King Levan (1586-1590), revolts against the king constantly broke out in Imereti. The king waged a continuous war with the nobles of Imereti.

The Safavids fought the Ottomans, on the one hand, and the Uzbeks, on the other. To eliminate the threat from the Uzbek side, the Safavids wanted to make peace with the Ottomans. Peace was logical for the Ottoman Empire as well, as the prolonged war created problems in terms of economics and governance. For this reason, the parties agreed and signed the Istanbul Peace Treaty on March 21, 1590 (Treaty of Ferhat Pasha). This treaty ended the Iranian-Ottoman war, which lasted 12 years. According to the treaty, Tabriz, Karajadag, Luristan, Khuzestan, Nihaventi, Georgia, Dagestan and Shirvan were passed under the rule of the Ottomans and both sides returned the prisoners taken during the battle.

Chapter III. Relationship Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the XVII Century.

§ 1. Relationship Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the First Half of the XVII Century.

§ 1.1. Relationship Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire during the Iranian-Ottoman War of 1603-1612

As a result of the 1578-1590 war, the Ottoman Empire annexed large territories that Iran lost. Unsatisfied with this situation, the Iranian Shah Abbas I (1587-1629) prepared for serious actions. The unrest in the country, which had begun even before his rule, became the reason for the defeat of Iran in the war of 1578-1590. Iran, which bore the brunt of the consequences of the war, for the first time on the initiative of Shah Abbas I, began to take measures to avoid these unrest. Later, the Shah decided to undertake military innovations to strengthen his central government and equipped his army with modern firearms for the time.

During this period, the Ottoman Empire was at war with Austria in the West. However, inside the country, due to the protracted Iranian wars in Anatolia, the Jalal uprisings began. On the other hand, Iran was looking for an opportunity to take advantage of the situation in the Ottoman Empire.

At the beginning of the XVII century, the situation in Georgia was not so favorable. During that period, Georgia was a fragmented country exhausted by internal and external wars. Kartli, Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti were separate political entities for almost two centuries. The Kingdom of Imereti included Lechkhumi and Racha, Samegrelo (Odisha), Abkhazia, Guria and Svaneti. These principalities in Western Georgia fought against the king of Imereti, defending their independence. At the beginning of the XVII century, all of Western Georgia was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire and paid taxes to it. Kings and nobles, who were dependent on the Ottoman Empire in foreign policy, acted independently in domestic policy. The long wars between the Ottoman Empire and Iran affected not only the countries involved in the war, but also the countries where the fighting took place. These were the Caucasian states, mostly Georgian

kingdoms. During this period Rostom I (1590–1605) sat on the royal throne of Imereti, and on the Ottoman throne belonged to Mehmed III.

The prolonged wars of the Ottoman Empire in Anatolia and the Jalal revolts in Anatolia, enabled Shah Abbas to declare war on the Ottoman state. Shah Abbas's army marched. On September 27, 1603, the army arrived in Tabriz. On October 21, 1603, the Ottomans handed Tabriz over to the Safavids. The Safavids tortured people in the city, enslaved men and forced women and girls into prostitution. After the capture of Tabriz, the Safavid army continued on its way to Nakhichevan. On October 26, 1603, it became known that the Shah was approaching Nakhichevan. Because of this, the Ottomans took refuge in the Yerevan fortress, which was more convenient in terms of military protection. Shah Abbas with his army appeared in Yerevan on November 16, 1603. The fortress was besieged, during which changes took place on the Ottoman throne. After the death of Mehmed III, Ahmed I (1603-1617) came to the throne. The siege, which began in November, was still ongoing. In May, the strength of the siege increased. The Ottoman army, despite the end of winter and better weather, could not get help. The Ottoman warriors guarding the fortress no longer had strength. Therefore, on June 8, 1604, the fortress was transferred to the Shah.

Due to the war with Austria and the Jalal uprisings, the Ottoman Empire was unable to respond to the military actions of the Safavids. On May 19, 1605, the Ottoman army, gaining strength in Erzurum, under the command of Sinan Pasha moved to Tabriz. In the village of Sisi, near Tabriz, a fierce battle ensued between the Safavids and Ottoman soldiers, as a result of which the Ottomans suffered a serious defeat.

King of Imereti Rostom I (1590-1605) died in 1605 without leaving an heir. With the support of large feudal lords, his half-brother George III (1605-1639) ascended the throne of Imereti. Again in 1605, Prince Samegrelo Dadiani sent an ambassador to Istanbul. The ambassador appeared before Sultan Ahmet I on December 11, 1605 and declared his loyalty to him. In the same year, King George III of Imereti sent an ambassador to Istanbul, who arrived there in 1607 and swore allegiance to the king. As you can see, the states of Western Georgia, Samegrelo and the Kingdom of Imereti, had good relations with the Ottoman Empire during the Ottoman-Iranian war of 1603-1612.

During this period, the Iranians besieged Ganja, keeping it under siege for six months, they took it on July 4, 1606. Seeing how they tortured people there, Lore, Tbilisi and Dmanisi surrendered without a fight. Shemakhia was besieged on January 9, 1607, and taken on June 25, 1607. All the soldiers and civilians of Shemakhia was died. During the siege of Shemakhia, the Shiites living in Baku, revolted and killed captured Ottoman soldiers. Baku came under the rule of the Safavids. After Shemakhia and Baku, Derbent was taken in August 1607.

On November 20, 1612, Nasuh Pasha signed the Nasuh Pashas Treaty, which ended the 9-year Iranian-Ottoman war. According to the treaty, the Safavids were to send two hundred loads of silk to the Ottomans every year. The border between the two states was determined by the Treaty of Amasya in 1555. Rebel military commanders on the Iraqi border could not get state aid from the Safavids. The Safavids have always supported the Ottomans in any battle against the Russians. Iranian pilgrims went on pilgrimage not through Baghdad-Basra, but through Aleppo-Shami. In Iran, the Shiites did not insult the Prophet and important figures of Islam. By agreement, the Ottoman Empire lost such two important kingdoms in Georgia as Kartli and Kakheti. These territories came under the control of Iran. The Iranian government, in comparison with the Ottoman, was more loyal, and the kings could move more freely. The territory of Western Georgia and Imereti was still under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. In addition, the Ottomans also inherited the North Caucasus and Dagestan. Western Iran, Yerevan, Nakhichevan, Karabakh, southern and northern Azerbaijan, were conquered in 1578-1590 and fell under the rule of the Safavids. The Ottomans ceded an area of about 400,000 square kilometers to Iran.

§ 1.2. Relationship Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire

during the Iranian-Ottoman War of 1615-1618

In 1612, the Nasuh Pashas Treaty was signed between the Ottoman Empire and Iran, and the war, that had lasted since 1603, ended. However, tensions between the parties persisted. In 1615, another war broke out between the two countries. Shah Abbas, having made peace with the Ottomans, began a struggle against the Georgian kingdoms.

Unable to cope with Shah Abbas, the Georgian kings Teimuraz and Luarsab took refuge in the Imeretian kingdom, which was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. King George III of Imereti agreed to grant refuge to Teimuraz and Luarsab. According to the agreement signed with the Ottomans, Shah Abbas did not invade the Imeretian Kingdom and decided to settle the issue peacefully. For this he sent an ambassador to George III. The Safavid ambassador demanded to hand over Georgian kings to them. At the same time, in order not to anger the Ottomans, Shah Abbas sent an ambassador to Istanbul and announced that his goal was to stop Georgians without persecuting Muslims.

Until the 20s of the XVII century, relations between kings and princes in Western Georgia were quite good. They made foreign policy decisions together. When it was planned to negotiate with the ambassador on the transfer of the Georgian kings to the Ottomans, King George III also invited Prince of Samegrelo Levan Dadiani and Prince of Guria Mamia Gurieli. The delegation gathered at the Geguti Palace. As a result of negotiations, it was decided not to return the kings. Shah Abbas, who received a negative answer from King George III of Imereti, threatened him with the conquest of Imereti. Fearing threats from the Safavids, King George III of Imereti sent ambassadors to the Shah. The ambassadors presented precious gifts to the shah. Shah Abbas knew that King George III of Imereti would not surrender to him the kings he had sheltered. If he had attacked the Kingdom of Imereti, he would have been forced to declare war on the Ottomans, because, by agreement, the Kingdom of Imereti was under the auspices of the Ottomans. The Shah did not want to fight the Ottomans, so he backed down on his demand to extradite the Georgian kings. Another reason for this could be the good relations between the princes and the king of Western Georgia.

There were also no final results on the border negotiations. The Safavids claimed that the territory of Akhaltsikhe belongs to them. Because of this, pressure from those who wanted war with Iran grew on the padishah in the Ottoman palace. The result of this pressure was the dismissal of Nasuh Pasha. When Shah Abbas found out about this, he expelled the Ottoman ambassador Mustafa Cavush along with the silk brought as a gift, but this could not stop the impending war. The Ottoman army of 100,000 men under the command of Didveziri Mehmed Pasha set out from Istanbul on May 22, 1615.

As a result of the decisions made, he had to agree that Akhaltsikhe belonged to the Ottomans; he also had to liberate and transfer to the Ottomans the fortresses conquered by the Safavids near Baghdad, and every year, in addition to silk and fabrics, the Ottomans had to send precious gifts. Shah Abbas agreed to these terms. Under this treaty, known as the Treaty of Serava, the Ottoman-Safavid border was determined on the basis of the Treaty of Amasya, signed in 1555. In accordance with this treaty, Azerbaijan and Eastern Georgia came under the rule of the Safavids, while Western Georgia, Kars and Akhaltsikhe occurred under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. The Shah also promised not to interfere in the affairs of Dagestan, which was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. As you can see, after the war, an agreement was signed between the Ottoman Empire and the Safavids, the terms of which were almost the same as the agreement signed by Nasuf Pasha (Istanbul) after the battle of 1603-1612. One difference in the Treaty of Serava was that instead of two hundred bales of silk a year, only one hundred bales had to be sent. In addition, the remaining border issues were resolved.

Georgia again suffered the most from the Ottoman-Iranian war of 1613-1618. As always, the Georgians found themselves at the forefront between the two countries. During this war, there was no negative situation between the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Imereti. Due to the provision of shelter to the kings of Kakheti and Kartli, the Kingdom of Imereti, which was under the auspices of the Ottoman

Empire, had small disagreements with the Safavids. However, they still tried to resolve these tensions through peace agreements. The kingdoms of Kartli and Kakheti, which preferred to swear allegiance to the Safavids during the 1603-1612 war, realized their mistake and tried to go under Ottoman protection. In response, the Safavids attacked Georgia. In fact, one of the main reasons for the aforementioned war was the Safavid attacks on Georgia, because, if the Ottomans controlled Georgia again, they would have more favorable conditions in the struggle against the Safavids in the Caucasus. However, for many negative reasons, the desired result was still not achieved.

§ 1.3. Relationship Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire during the Iranian-Ottoman War of 1623-1639

The Serava Peace Treaty of 1618 put an end to the Ottoman-Iranian War of 1613-1618. After this war, one of the countries failed to achieve significant success. The terms of the Nasuh Pasha agreement, signed in 1612, were strengthened. According to the Serava Treaty, the period of peace between the two countries lasted for five years.

The war between the Ottoman Empire and Iran resumed in 1623. The reason for this was certain unrest caused by the change of the Ottoman throne. On May 19, 1622, Osman II was overthrown and Mustafa I (1622-1623) took his place. Some government officials were against the situation. At the same time, unrest arose on the territory of Anatolia of the Ottoman Empire due to the lack of central power, which, as always, the Safavids took advantage of.

In Georgia, the balance was changing. In 1627, the former king of Kakheti, Teimuraz I, came under the rule of the Safavids and again took the throne of Kakheti. Troops under the command of Childer Beylerbey, King George III of Imereti and George Saakadze were sent against Teimuraz I, who came under the rule of the Safavids. Teimuraz I was defeated by the Ottoman-Georgian army. The Georgian kingdoms were offended by Teimuraz's transition to the protection of the Safavids. In October 1627, the Georgian army led by George Saakadze attacked Teimuraz I to overthrow him, but Teimuraz I defeated them. George Saakadze fled and took refuge with the Ottomans.

In 1631 an uprising broke out in the Safavid Empire and was suppressed in 1632. Teimuraz I took advantage of this: he attacked Ganja and Karabakh and plundered them. After that, the Safavid army entered Georgia. Teimuraz I was left alone in front of the Safavids, and realizing that he could do nothing against them, he fled. He found refuge in the Kingdom of Imereti, that was under the patronage of the Ottomans. From there, he sent a letter to Beylerbey Khalil Pasha of Erzurum, in which he declared obedience and assistance to the Ottoman padishah Murad IV. Since Teimuraz took refuge in Imereti, the royal thrones of Kakheti and Kartli remained unoccupied. As a result, the Safavids appointed Rostom (1631-1658) to the throne of Kartli, and an Iranian ruler was appointed in Kakheti, which became the Safavid province. Safavid warriors were distributed in the fortresses of the kingdoms of Kartli and Kakheti. Thus, the power of the Safavids was restored in these Georgian kingdoms. After the conquest of Kartli-Kakheti by the Safavids, Samegrelo and Guria also submitted to the Safavids in western Georgia. Prince of Guria Kaihosro I gave his daughter in marriage to King Rostom of Kartli. King George III of Imereti did not want the Kaihosro's daughter to cross the lands of Imereti, so he tried to prevent this in every possible way. As a result, the Safavids sent an army against George III. In the battle between them, the Safavid dynasty defeated George III and conquered the Kingdom of Imereti.

The army under the command of Sultan Murad IV himself left Istanbul on March 28, 1635, and arrived first in Konya, then on June 3, 1635 in Erzurum, where it stopped for nine days, and then reached Yerevan through Kars on July 26, 1635. The siege of Yerevan began on July 28, 1635. On August 8, 1635, the Safavids transferred Yerevan to the Ottoman Empire.

By 1638, the Ottoman Empire took actions to retake Baghdad, which was strategically important for control of the Persian Gulf and Iraqi territory. To this end, Sultan Murat IV began preparations for a military campaign against Baghdad.

Sultan Murad IV moved from Uskudar to Baghdad on May 8, 1638. The Ottoman army arrived in Baghdad on November 15, 1638. After a 40-day siege, Baghdad surrendered. Sultan Murat IV left 20,000 soldiers in Baghdad, left the city himself on January 14, 1639 and arrived in Mosul.

As a result of negotiations on May 17, 1639, the Zukhab Peace Treaty was signed between the Ottoman Empire and Iran. This treaty ended the 16-year war of 1623, from which both sides were exhausted. According to this agreement, the principalities of Samegrelo and Guria, as well as the Kingdom of Imereti came under the rule of the Ottomans, and the Kingdom of Kartli and Kakheti and Dagestan came under the rule of the Safavids. Relations between the Ottomans and Iran, damaged after the conclusion of the Treaty of Amasya, were restored again during the reign of Sultan Murad IV.

The battles of the Safavids and the Ottoman Empire showed that the Ottoman Empire can never subdue the Safavids to its sovereignty and always collect tribute from them. In addition, the Safavids also understood that they would not be able to rule in Eastern Anatolia. The Zukhab Treaty from 1514 to 1639 put an end to the 125-year war between the Ottomans and the Safavids. Peace between the Ottomans and the Safavids lasted until the end of the Safavid dynasty. From the conclusion of the Zukhab Treaty until the first quarter of the XVIII century, the Kingdom of Imereti, the principalities of Guria and Samegrelo, as well as Abkhazia remained under the rule of the Ottoman Empire.

Both in the XVI century and in the XVII century, as a result of the Ottoman-Safavid wars, Georgia suffered the greatest damage. During the wars, the territory of Georgia between these two countries passed from hand to hand. Especially, the kingdoms of Kartli and Kakheti were either under the rule of the Safavids, or they acted independently, and even collaborated with the Ottomans. As for the Kingdom of Imereti, it was always under the sovereignty of the Ottomans during these wars and fought together with the Ottomans against the Safavids. Although for some time two such important principalities of Georgia as Samegrelo and Guria were subordinated to the Safavids, the Kingdom of Imereti still remained under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, and even more so, because the Safavids tried to conquer it. In addition, the Kingdom of Imereti sheltered and helped the kings of Kartli and Kakheti, who fled from the pressure and attacks of the Safavids.

§ 2. Relationship Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the Second Half of the XVII Century

In the previous chapter, we discussed the relationship between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the first half of the XVII century. The most important factor influencing relations between the two countries at this time was the Ottoman-Iranian war of 1603-1639. During this war, sometimes positive and sometimes negative relations were developed between the two countries.

In the 30s and 50s of the XVII century, a great internal feudal confrontation took place in Western Georgia, the main face of which was Prince of Samegrelo Levan II Dadiani. Feudal anarchy has inflicted social and political harm on Western Georgia for many years. The feudal uprisings made the people very tired. Those with good economic status moved to Eastern Georgia to avoid unrest and oppression. At the time, eastern Georgia was a relatively quiet place to live.

This feudal anarchy lasted for over half a century in Western Georgia. The Kingdom of Imereti caused enormous social and economic damage to the principalities of Samegrelo, Guria and Apkhazeti. These endless civil wars negatively affected the population, almost destroyed agriculture, which, in turn, adversely affected the life of the city, trade and industry ceased to function, and the slave trade increased greatly. As a result of feudal anarchy, when the general situation in Western Georgia was quite difficult, the Kingdom of Imereti

suffered the most. The sovereignty of the Kingdom of Imereti over Western Georgia was weakened. Until the second half of the XVII century, the kings of Imereti had the right to vote and influence in Western Georgia, and in the second half of the XVII century, the princes had more power and influence than the king. As a result, the political confrontation in Western Georgia has escalated. Western Georgia, in addition to internal unrest, had external problems as well. The most important fact was that politically divided Western Georgia could not stop the Ottoman incursions. Often, kings and feudal lords, in accordance with their interests, turned to the Ottoman Empire with a request to solve the problems existing in their countries. As a result, the country more and more fell under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. As a result of feudal anarchy and civil wars, Ottoman rule increased in Guria, Odisha and Abkhazia, and by the end of the XVII century, almost all castles on the Black Sea coast of Georgia were captured by the Ottomans. During this period, over 40 years, 20 kings changed the throne of the Kingdom of Imereti. Only one of these kings died of natural causes.

The Ottoman Empire was defeated in 1683 during the siege of Vienna. As a result, a sacred alliance was concluded against it in Europe, and the war continued until 1699, when the Karlowits Peace Treaty was signed with Austria. In 1700 there was also concluded the Istanbul Treaty with Russia. It should be noted that the Karlowits Peace Treaty was the first international document, according to which the Ottoman Empire did not acquire, but lost territory in Europe. The Ottomans participated in these battles for 16 years, and were defeated. However, due to feudal anarchy and unrest, Western Georgia, under the rule of the Ottomans, was unable to appreciate the poor state of the Ottoman Empire. The Kingdom of Imereti, Guria, Samegrelo and Abkhazia, which were never able to unite, free themselves from Ottoman rule and become independent. Thus, they often turned to the Ottomans about their internal unrest, which led to the further development of Ottoman sovereignty in western Georgia.

Chapter IV. Relationship Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the XVIII Century

§ 1. Relationship Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the First Half of the XVIII century

As mentioned in the previous chapter, in the second half of the XVII century, there was a very brutal feudal anarchy in Western Georgia, which also negatively affected the Kingdom of Imereti, weakened the power of the king and gradually strengthened the power of the feudal lords. The gradual strengthening of feudal power led to a deterioration in the living conditions of the people, since the feudal lords resorted to lawlessness in their actions. In such a situation, the social and economic life in the country was on the verge of ending its existence.

The feudal struggle, which began in the second half of the XVII century, continued with the same intensity in the first half of the XVIII century. They had control over almost the entire country. The absence of central authority also strengthened the position of Ottoman rule in the country. Ottoman garrisons were stationed in many fortresses in Western Georgia and Imereti. This is evident both from Georgian sources and from Ottoman archival documents. According to Rekhviashvili, people living around the fortresses, that fell into the hands of the Ottomans, began to convert to Islam. We did not find such information in Turkish sources, but there is a high probability that the information is correct, because according to the tax payment system of the Ottoman Empire, the tax levied on Muslims was lower than for non-Muslims. For this reason, it can be said that the Georgian people, who at that time lived in difficult economic conditions, having chosen to accept Islam, thus tried to reduce the tax burden to some extent. The fact that the fortresses were in the hands of the Ottomans allowed them to easily interfere in the internal affairs of Imereti. Thus, the Ottomans supported the feudal lords who swore allegiance to them and those, who acted in accordance with their

interests, were appointed kings or rulers. Feudal lords or kings of Imereti often approached the Ottomans with a request for the above.

There were large powerful families in the Kingdom of Imereti, which led to feudal anarchy and did not recognize the king's authority. These families united against the central government and made changes in the royal court. These families sometimes even went against each other, what manifested itself in attacks on each other's lands, the destruction of villages, castles and churches. They also abducted many people, who were then sold into slavery. The largest buyer of Georgian slaves was the Ottoman state. Local rulers helped the Ottoman slave traders the most. Moreover, Ottoman officials, who were sometimes rulers of the Caucasus region, were also involved in the slave trade. Hundreds of Georgian, Circassian and Abaza slaves were sent annually to the Istanbul slave market. As a result of the feudal anarchy in the Kingdom of Imereti, the country found itself in such an economically difficult situation that they could not even pay taxes to the Ottoman Empire. The royal treasury was almost empty. All the above was the reason that, from time to time, it was necessary to trade in slaves. These negative conditions pushed the Imeretians into a very difficult life. Such was the situation in the Kingdom of Imereti at the beginning of the XVIII century.

At that period, the Ottoman Empire was busy solving its economic and social problems, which were caused by the wars with the forces of the Holy Alliance in Europe in 1683-1699. This battle lasted for about 16 years. With the signing of the Karlowitz Treaty in 1699, the Ottoman state lost its territories. After a long and tiring war, the state treasury was emptied, and the taxes imposed on the population became unbearable. As a result, riots broke out, especially in Anatolia. To avoid insecurity and unrest, people began to migrate to big cities. Thus, the production of agricultural products was reduced, and, consequently, the taxes levied by the state on the products produced were reduced. Moving people to big cities has caused unemployment and problems with public order in cities.

As you can see, both the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the XVIII century had almost the same social and economic problems. In both states, due to unrest peasants moved to large cities. Thus, agricultural production in both countries declined.

At the beginning of the XVIII century, relationship between Imereti and the Ottomans became hostile, since there were many opponents of the Ottomans among the feudal lords of Imereti. A little later, the long ongoing battle between Imereti and the Ottoman Empire ended in an agreement between the two sides. After that, relations between the two countries became more positive during the reign of King George VI of Imereti. As in previous centuries, due to the ongoing civil war and feudal anarchy in Imereti, the Ottomans continued to interfere in the internal affairs of the country. At the same time, as a result of the events in Iran, Russia's interference in the affairs of another region led to a confrontation between the Ottoman Empire and Russia. The Ottomans, who wanted to maintain their dominance in Georgia and especially in Imereti, found themselves on the brink of war with Russia, but before it could begin, the both sides came to an agreement. With this agreement, Russia recognized the dominance of the Ottoman Empire in Western Georgia. In addition, the Ottomans captured eastern Georgia from Iran and subjugated all of Georgia.

During this period, the Ottomans considered Imereti to be their vassal. However, the kings and rulers of Imereti were never called governors, like the kings and rulers of Eastern Georgia under Iranian rule. They were always called kings or princes. In addition, the kings of Imereti were free in their internal affairs. They ruled their country according to their own rules. It should also be noted that there were no Turks among the rulers, as their names were not Turkish. The Ottomans, thanks to the fortresses conquered in Imereti in the first half of the XVIII century, dominated the plains. Their power was weaker in mountainous and hard-to-reach places. Slaves accounted for the largest share of taxes paid by Imereti to the Ottomans during this period. As a rule, slaves were young girls and boys. In addition, taxes included valuables, textiles, and birds such as hawks and kites. These taxes were annually sent to the Pasha of Akhaltsikhe, who forwarded them to Istanbul.

Tax evasion meant an escape from Ottoman vassalism. For this reason, the slave trade increased sharply in Imereti. Ottoman money and units of measurement predominated in trade, however, Georgian money and units of measurement were also used. Within the country, trade between western and eastern Georgia was rather weak.

§ 2. Relations Between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the Second Half of the XVIII Century

In the second half of the XVIII century, changes related to the throne took place in the Kingdom of Imereti. Aleksandre V died in 1752 and the throne was succeeded by his 17-year-old son Solomon I. Together with the new king, the Kingdom of Imereti entered a new era. The goal of the young and energetic king was to bring about many changes in the country. One of them was to ban the slave trade and to end the Ottoman rule that had lasted for centuries. Solomon's intentions would certainly be reflected in relations with the Ottoman state. During his reign, these two states fought with each other many times. The Ottomans began a military confrontation against the prohibition of the slave trade and the abandonment of their rule.

Solomon inherited an exhausted kingdom from his deceased father. Important fortresses of Imereti such as Kutaisi, Bagdati, Shorapani and Tsutsvati were under Ottoman occupation. The Ottomans also captured the fortresses of Gonio, Batumi, Poti, Ruhi and Anaklia on the Black Sea coast of Georgia. Thanks to these fortresses, the Ottomans gained control over the entire eastern coast of the Black Sea. In addition, the princes of Guria, Odisha and Abkhazia, with the support of the Ottoman Empire, opposed the Kingdom of Imereti.

The change of the throne in Imereti in the second half of the XVIII century caused other changes in the Kingdom of Imereti. Another goal of the young king was the unification of Western Georgia and further strengthening of the authority of the Kingdom of Imereti. However, not everyone liked this aspiration of the young king, and Solomon shared the fate of his ancestors. To gain the legitimacy of the kingdom, he had to fight against the princes, feudal lords and aristocrats in the country.

By a decree sent to Solomon by the Ottoman Sultan Mustafa III in September 1768, he was the king of Imereti proclaimed by the Ottoman Empire. Thus, the disagreements between the two countries were suspended for a while. However, Solomon tried to get closer to Russia in order to oppose the Ottoman Empire. In turn, Russia planned to use the Georgian kingdoms to strengthen its positions in the Caucasus.

On June 23, 1768, King Solomon I sent to Russia a special authorized ambassador, Maksime Abashidze, with a request for help. On October 4, 1768, a delegation from the Imeretian embassy arrived at the Kizlar prison, that was under the command of the Russian general Potapov. However, General Potapov did not welcome the delegation of Solomon's embassy. The general wanted them back.

Meanwhile, the Ottoman Empire declared war on Russia. After Russia intervened in the internal affairs of Lehistan, invaded the Crimean Khanate and the Ottoman lands. Thus, in September 1768, the Ottomans began a war against Russia.

In January 1769, a delegation from the Imereti embassy arrived in St. Petersburg. In response, Russia sent an ambassador to Imereti on March 20, 1769. Solomon received Russian ambassadors in Racha. At the end of March, Solomon sent this delegation of the Russian embassy to Tbilisi to Irakli II. King Solomon arrived in Tbilisi on May 21, 1769 and decided to unite with Erekle II against the Ottomans. He informed the Ambassador of Russia about this.

Russia, for its part, wanted to use the Georgian kingdoms both to establish power in the Caucasus and to attract the attention of the Ottomans to the Caucasus from the Balkans. Russia also planned to use the Georgian kingdoms on the Caucasian front. Russia, acting for this purpose, by the decision of Queen Ekaterine of March 27, 1769, sent to Georgia a military unit of 480 people under the command of General Totleben.

Erekle and Solomon's relationship with Russia surprised and angered the Ottomans. Through the governor of Akhaltsikhe Numan Pasha, they demanded King Erekle and King Solomon to break the alliance with Russia. However, they received a negative answer.

On October 3, 1769, Russian and Imeretian troops went into action and laid siege to the Shorapani fortress, which was in the hands of the Ottoman Empire. General Totleben demanded to surrender the fortress without a fight, but the Ottoman soldiers refused. As soon as the pasha of Akhaltsikhe, Numan Pasha heard the news about the Russians entering Georgia, he began to form an alliance with the prince Katsia and the prince of Abkhazia Sharvashidze. Katsia and Sharvashidze sent 9,000 soldiers to Imereti to help the Ottomans. When King Solomon found out about it, he left the siege of the Shorapani fortress on General Totleben, immediately returned to Imereti, fought with Katsia and Sharvashidze and defeated them. General Totleben continued the siege of Shorapani for 4 more days, then lifted the siege, went to Kartli and set up camp in Tskhinvali. King Solomon was surprised that General Totleben left Imereti and went to Kartli. Solomon's goal was, first of all, to free Imereti from Ottoman rule, while King Erekle and Totleben wanted to take Akhaltsikhe from the Ottomans. After the Russian soldiers left Imereti and went to Kartli, the Ottomans united with the Leks and marched against Imereti. The Ottoman army numbered 4,000 soldiers. On January 10, 1770, the two sides collided, and the king of Imereti Solomon won the battle and drove the Ottoman troops from Imereti.

The Georgian kings, who received Russian support, used the war between Ottoman and Russia and got into action. On May 15, 1770, King Solomon recaptured the Tsutsvati fortress, held by the Ottomans. Later, he took the Shorapani fortress as well. On August 2, 1770, with the help of the Russian general Totleben, the Imeretian troops recaptured the Baghdadi fortress from the Ottoman Empire, as a result of which three important fortresses, which were occupied by the Ottomans, fell into the hands of the Kingdom of Imereti. Then they approached the most important fortress of Western Georgia and Imereti - the Kutaisi fortress. Russian soldiers and Solomon's army laid siege to the Kutaisi fortress and on August 7, it was taken. Several Turkish soldiers were killed and some were taken prisoner.

In 1772, by order of Russia, the Russian army was withdrawn from Georgia. After this, the Ottomans attacked Georgia again. During this period, they captured Lower Guria and Kobuleti. In October 1773, the troops of Imereti and Kartli-Kakheti marched on Javakheti, which was also under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. In response, in January 1770 the pasha of Akhaltsikhe sent an army of 4000 Ottomans and Leks against Solomon. King Erekle sent 2,000 soldiers to Solomon. The two armies met at Chkheri. The Ottomans suffered a heavy defeat in this battle.

After the Battle at Chkheri, King Solomon sent an ambassador delegation to Russia with special powers under the leadership of L. Kvinkidze. He asked Russia for protection and help from the Ottomans. However, at this time, the Ottoman-Russian war ended. For this reason, Imereti again received a negative answer, as Russia did not want to spoil relationships with the Ottoman Empire after the recent war. On July 26, 1774, the Kuchuk-Kainarji peace treaty was signed between the Ottoman Empire and Russia. The 23rd clause of the Kuchuk-Kainardji treaty mentions western Georgia, in particular, the Kingdom of Imereti. According to this clause of the treaty, Western Georgia remained under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. At the same time, it was forbidden to punish the Georgian kingdom and its leadership, who fought on the side of Russia; the Ottomans were not supposed to interfere in the issues of Christianity in Georgia; they were not supposed to levy taxes in the form of money and slaves from Imereti in any way. Although, at that time Imereti remained under the rule of the Ottoman Empire and considering other conditions of the clause, we can say that compliance with this clause was an achievement for Imereti as well. Moreover, under the agreement, the Ottomans had the opportunity to return the fortresses of Kutaisi, Shorapani and Baghadt. However, they were unable to take advantage of this because Solomon destroyed these fortresses (1770). The fortress was simply not worth it for the Ottomans to fight for.

Before the conclusion of the Kuchuk-Kainarji peace treaty, on January 21, 1774, changes took place on the Ottoman throne. Mustafa III died, and his throne was succeeded by Abdulhamid I (1774-1789). We can say that the tension between the Ottomans and the king of Imereti Solomon has somewhat eased. In addition, the Ottomans wanted to establish friendly relations with king Solomon, since Russia's dominance in the region was gradually increasing. The Ottoman Empire even issued an order stating that Achikbashi Melik (king) Solomon (Kingdom of Imereti) had been pardoned and reappointed king, and that no hostile actions should be taken against him and nobody was supposed to interfere in his affairs. From this document we see how important it was for the Ottomans to establish good relations with Solomon. The Ottoman Empire did not want to lose the most important place of its domination in the South Caucasus - the Kingdom of Imereti.

After the Kuchuk-Kainarji peace treaty in 1774, Solomon took action to resolve the problems in Western Georgia. He conquered Guria and Samegrelo. Samegrelo Church again submitted to the Catholicos of Western Georgia, at the same time a group of feudal lords in Imereti continued to oppose Solomon on certain issues. And again, he suffered the betrayal he had experienced after his first accession to the throne. Thirty years after his reign, members of the royal family again formed an alliance against him. Their goal was to overthrow the king, and they wanted to put Prince Aleksandre on the throne. At first, the rebels achieved great success and took the side of Lomsia-Thevi, the Chkheri fortress and a significant part of Satseretlo. However, eventually they were defeated, and they gave up on their goal. Solomon gathered a large army from the peasants and with the help of Tsulukidze and Tsereteli inflicted a heavy defeat on the rebels. After this success of King Solomon, his authority increased even more.

Soon after this battle, on April 23, 1784, Solomon left Kutaisi for Khoni for the feast of St. George. While riding a horse, he lost his balance, fell and tragically died at the age of 49. So, an important epoch in the history of Imereti ended up with this death. The king, who all his life was fighting for the independence of Imereti and Western Georgia, died. In his time, the relations of the Kingdom of Imereti with the Ottomans were mostly hostile. We tried to tell about the period mentioned on the basis of Georgian and Ottoman sources and provide information that was not in Georgian sources. Summing up, it should be noted that all the kings of Imereti before Solomon appealed to the Ottomans with a request to help maintain their power in the country, while King Solomon did not follow this path. Explaining the justified reasons for the struggle against the Ottomans, he forced the Ottomans to recognize him as the legitimate king of Imereti. At the same time, during this period Imereti repeatedly tried to get closer to Russia, but constantly could not achieve this. The policy of Russia's interests was later revealed in the Georgievsk Peace Treaty of 1783. With this agreement, Russia began to prepare a plan for the occupation of Georgia. In general, we can say that the second half of the XVIII century was the period of the greatest clashes in relations between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire.

The struggle for the throne in Imereti and the intervention of feudal lords and princes in this battle lasted for centuries in the Kingdom of Imereti. This time, the reason for the controversy was the situation after the death of Solomon I, since he did not have an heir. His son Aleksandre, who rebelled against him, died in 1780. Aleksandre had an illegitimate son named George, but he had no right to ascend to the throne. After Aleksandre's death, King Solomon proclaimed David, the son of his brother Archil, as his successor. When Solomon died in 1784, his nephew David was 12 years old. He grew up with the king of Kartli-Kakheti Erekle II. However, the nobles did not want 12-year-old David, whom Solomon had proclaimed heir, to become king. Through their efforts and intervention, on April 30, 1784, they elevated to the throne David, the son of another King Solomon's uncle, George.

David, the new king of Imereti, promised to pursue the policy of King Solomon. He tried to strengthen his authority in order to act independently within the country. In order to get away from the Ottoman influence, the Kingdom of Imereti wanted to continue relationships with Russia. The Ottoman

Empire did not want to cede its influence, which it had on the Kingdom of Imereti for several centuries, to Russia. The Ottomans decided that it was necessary to overthrow King David, who categorically wanted to establish closer relations with Russia, and to appoint to the throne someone who would accept Ottoman rule and pursue the policy needed by them.

And again, the king of Imereti was betrayed by his own entourage. The nobles and the feudal lords of the country, who did not like the king, entered into an alliance against him. Those who opposed King David in 1786 gathered again in 1789 and tried to overthrow the king. On June 11, 1789, in a battle between the two sides in the village of Mathozi, King David was defeated. Archil's son David ascended the throne of Imereti. The defeated King David fled to Akhaltsikhe. On June 11, 1790, the deposed king of Imereti, David, with the help of the Pasha of Akhaltsikhe together with the army of Leks and Ottomans invaded Imereti and defeated Archil's son, David. However, the latter soon regained the throne of Imereti, and the defeated king fled to Akhaltsikhe again. In the same year, the former King David tried to attack Imereti to regain the throne once more, but he was defeated by Archil's son, King David again and he was forced to flee to Akhaltsikhe. As a result of these battles, the king of Imereti remained the son of Archil David, who was named after his uncle Solomon II. Former king David, who twice tried to win the throne of Imereti in 1792 and 1794, could not achieve his goal.

The old king took refuge in Akhaltsikhe, where he fell ill and died in 1795. As we can see, the Ottomans actively participated in the struggle for the throne in Imereti. David II, who previously pursued a policy against the Ottomans, in a difficult situation took refuge in Akhaltsikhe, asking for protection there. The Ottomans, who supported David II, even provided him with military assistance to make him king again, but to no avail. If successful, David II would be in debt to the Ottomans and, having returned to the throne thanks to the Ottoman Empire, would have passed under Ottoman rule.

During this period, as usual, there were disagreements between the princes and the king in the Kingdom of Imereti. At the same time, Russia's influence in Western Georgia was gradually increasing. The Kingdom of Kartli-Kakheti was under the protection of Russia. The goal of Russia was to take under its protection, unite and rule all of Georgia. On December 4, 1803, Odisha came under the patronage of Russia. This shook the authority of the Kingdom of Imereti in Western Georgia. The circle around Imereti was getting narrower.

The Georgian kingdoms and principalities wanted to enter under the patronage of Russia voluntarily, but they did not even suspect about the hidden ambitions of Russia. The Kingdom of Imereti sent an embassy delegation to Russia at the beginning of 1804 and asked for protection. This time Russia agreed and with the 174 clause Elaznaur Treaty, signed on April 25, 1804, Imereti officially came under Russian rule. This agreement was a great success for Russia, since it subjugated the most important kingdom of Western Georgia, which had been under the rule of the Ottoman Empire for centuries. It was an important strategic advantage for Russia as well.

On February 20, 1810, in the churches of Kutaisi Russia announced a statement about the deprivation of power from the Imeretian king Solomon II. On the same day, Russian soldiers attacked the Kingdom of Imereti from all sides. At that time, King Solomon was in Vartsikhe with 4000 soldiers. To capture him, Russian soldiers simultaneously moved from Kartli, Kutaisi, Samegrelo, Guria and Lechkhumi. After a month-long battle between King Solomon and Russian soldiers, Solomon was forced to leave Vartsikhe. He tried to escape to Akhaltsikhe, but the road was blocked. The Pasha of Akhaltsikhe sent a message with his people to the Sheriff Pasha, but realized that help would not come in time. The King, captured by the Russians in March 1810, was taken to Tbilisi and imprisoned there. After the arrest of Solomon II, all the prisons in Imereti were seized by the Russians.

According to the plan prepared by Kaihosro Tsereteli, Solomon, who was captured in Tbilisi, managed to escape on the night of May 10-11, 1810. The Russian emperor punished all those responsible for the king's

escape. He ordered to find the king, but to no avail. Fleeing from Tbilisi, the king arrived in Akhaltsikhe and asked for asylum from the Ottoman Empire. He was greeted positively in Akhaltsikhe. During his stay in Akhaltsikhe, he sent a letter to Istanbul in which he stated that they had relations with the Ottomans for centuries, that the Imereti lands belonged to the Ottomans, that for a certain period of time the Imeretians lived peacefully under Ottoman rule, but in recent years the Russians deceived them and invaded their country. Sultan Mahmud II responded positively to this letter from King Solomon II and promised to help. After a while, Solomon II moved from Akhaltsikhe to Trabzon and began to fight the battle from here. He tried to save his country from Russian occupation through contacts with his supporters in Georgia. The Russians demanded the Ottomans to hand Solomon II over to them, but the Ottomans refused. Solomon asked the Ottomans for help, but did not receive the expected help. Meanwhile, the Russians wanted to contact and negotiate with Solomon II, but the governor of Trabzon, Suleiman Pasha, refused. After a while, Solomon contacted the French and asked for help, but did not receive the help he wanted. King Solomon II spent the last period of his life in Trabzon, where he died on February 7, 1815 and was buried in the Church of St. George. The king's body was transported to Georgia in 1990 and buried in Gelati Monastery.

It can be said that the relationship between the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Imereti, which began in 1508 and lasted for more than three centuries, ended with the death of the last Imeretian king Solomon II. In the subsequent period, Russian domination in Western Georgia sharply increased, control over the country completely passed into the hands of the Russians, and the uprisings against the latter were harshly suppressed. Due to economic and military problems, the Ottomans were unable to provide Georgia with the necessary assistance.

Conclusions

In our article, we tried to assess the relationship between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire from the early XVI century to the end of the XVIII century. For this, we have used Georgian, Turkish, Ottoman and English sources. To evaluate the literature and sources, we have examined the content of the sources used in the article and information on their use. The purpose of this is to help Turkish and Georgian scholars and readers. Thus, Georgian researchers will be able to get general information about Turkish sources on the topic, and Turkish researchers will be able to get acquainted with Georgian sources.

The first chapter discusses the beginning of Georgian-Ottoman relations. Georgia, which found itself in a difficult situation due to the attacks of Temur-Leng in the XIV century, began to rally after the death of Temur-Leng. In this regard, it is interesting to study the economic and social situation of the country during the reign of Aleksandre I, who came to the throne in 1412.

However, during this period, the central authority in the country gradually weakened, and a split began in Georgia. In turn, after the conquest of Constantinople, the Ottoman Empire moved to action for dominance in the Black Sea. One of the campaigns carried out for this purpose was the attack of Sukhumi in 1454. This date is especially noted in the dissertation, since we consider the date of the attack of Sukhumi to be the beginning of relations between the Ottoman Empire and Georgia. Another important issue regarding the date of the beginning of relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Georgia is the impact of the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453. After the conquest, Georgia's economic and cultural ties with Europe were severed. This particularly affected Georgia economically. After the conquest of Constantinople, Georgia was invited to join the Crusade Alliance that the Pope wanted to create. The Pope's representatives arrived in Georgia and met with King George. The Georgians, who had a positive attitude to this union, temporarily postponed internal battles and united. Georgian ambassadors went to Rome and met with the Pope, but did not receive the expected support from European states, and the alliance collapsed. Fatih Sultan

Mehmed opposed the aforementioned alliance, planned by the Pope, and conquered Amasra in 1460 and the Empire of Trebizond in 1461. The conquest of the Empire of Trebizond made Georgia even more lonely in this region. The failure of the Pope to create an alliance and Fatih's campaigns on the Black Sea led to the fragmentation of Georgia itself. Internal unrest began in the country. As a result of battles in the XVI century, Georgia was divided into the following parts: Kartli, Kakheti, Imereti and Samtskhe. This division lasted until the occupation by Russia in the XIX century and the unification of Georgia. Therefore, the given chapter describes the situation in the two states in the period, when relations began between them, and tells about the political fragmentation of Georgia.

The second chapter of the dissertation is devoted to the relationship between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire in the XVI century. The estimated dates of the beginning of relationship between the two states are 1508, 1509, 1510 and 1512. In our opinion, the most acceptable of these dates is 1508, because Yavuz Sultan Selim was not a sultan at that time, he took a position of shehzade and sandjakbey of Trabzon. In addition, May-June are the classic months when the Ottomans made military campaigns. When shehzade Selim went with an army to Georgia, his guide was atabeg of Samtskhe Mzechabuk, who led the Ottoman soldiers to Kutaisi, the capital of the Kingdom of Imereti. As a result of this campaign, the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire took new steps to establish relations, which subsequently lasted more than three centuries.

Imereti defeated atabeg of Samtskhe at the Battle of Murjakheti in 1535 and subdued him. After that, atabeg of Samtskhe turned to the Ottomans for help against Imereti. The satisfaction of this request suited the Ottomans themselves, and in 1541 they sent troops against Imereti to establish a stronger dominance in Western Georgia. The Imeretian army won the battle of Karagak in 1543. The Ottomans sent troops second time, and in 1545 the Imeretian army was defeated at the battle of Sohoista. Thus, the dominance of the Ottoman Empire in Western Georgia was achieved.

The Ottomans participated in the battle of Nakhichevan against Iran in 1553. During this campaign in 1555, Iran offered the Ottoman Empire a truce. The first Amasya peace treaty between the two sides ended a half-century war and divided Georgia between the Ottoman Empire and Iran. The western part of Georgia, the lands of the Kingdom of Imereti, Samegrelo, Guria and western Samtskhe fell under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, and the lands of Kartli, Kakheti and eastern Samtskhe were passed to Iran.

According to the agreement, the Ottomans and Iran officially confirmed their dominance over the territories of Georgia. Thus, Georgia, divided in this way, turned out to be even more fragmented. Ottoman archival documents describe the relationship of the Ottoman Empire with Imereti after the conclusion of the treaty. According to the documents, the Ottomans closely followed the situation in Imereti. Also the documents indicate that Iran, in accordance with the treaty and through negotiations with the Ottoman Empire, tried to solve the problems associated with Imereti. We can say that the Amasya Treaty was a turning point in relations between the Ottomans and Imereti. After the conclusion of the agreement, the war between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire was suspended for some time. Ottoman rule intensified in Imereti, the most important kingdom in western Georgia.

After the death of Imeretian king Bagrat in 1565, his son George II ascended the throne; in the Ottoman Empire, after the death of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in 1566, his son Selim II became king. The change of thrones in the two states took place with an interval of one year. The relations of the Ottoman Empire with Imereti during this period were positive. Indeed, as a result of the change of the Ottoman throne, King George II of Imereti sent an ambassador to Istanbul, announcing his loyalty to the new sultan. In response to this, in 1568 Selim II sent a letter to Imereti in which he stated that he did not doubt the loyalty and subordination of Imereti to the Ottoman Empire. During this period, in the Kingdom of Imereti, which had friendly relations with the Ottoman Empire, there were internal unrest. George II had disagreements with Gurieli, Dadiani and the prince of Abkhazia. Some time later, the Ottoman Empire became involved in

these unrest in Western Georgia and intervened in the internal affairs of Western Georgia. This situation suited the Ottomans and strengthened their dominance in the region. According to the treaty of Ferhat Pasha (Istanbul) in 1590, the eastern lands of Georgia also came under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. Thus, Ottoman rule was consolidated throughout the territory of Georgia. In addition, the territories of Azerbaijan and Dagestan also fell under the rule of the Ottoman Empire.

In the first half of the XVII century, relations between the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire took place within the framework of the Ottoman-Iranian War, which lasted at intervals of 1603-1612, 1615-1618 and 1623-1639. During these wars, Imereti's relations with the Ottomans were friendly. The two states cooperated militarily and diplomatically. Such positive relations are confirmed by the embassy delegation from the Kingdom of Imereti sent to Istanbul by George III to inform about his submission to the Ottoman Empire. As a result of the Ottoman-Iranian wars of 1603-1639, there was signed the Kasri-Shirin peace treaty, according to which the Ottomans and Iran returned to the terms of the Amasya Treaty of 1555. Thus, the Ottoman rule over Imereti was further strengthened.

At the beginning of the XVIII century, both the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire faced almost the same social and economic problems. In addition, the feudal anarchy that began in Western Georgia in the second half of the XVII century continued into the first half of the XVIII century. This situation influenced the relations between the two states. In 1724, the Istanbul Treaty was signed between the Ottomans and Russia. Under the treaty, Russia recognized the dominance of the Ottoman Empire in Western Georgia. During this period, the Ottoman Empire gained more control thanks to the fortresses occupied in Western Georgia. In addition, the "captives" were of great importance in terms of taxes that Imereti had to give to the Ottoman Empire. That is why the slave trade grew in the first half of the XVIII century.

In 1752, with the accession to the throne of Solomon I, a new era began in the Kingdom of Imereti. In addition, a new stage began in relationship between the Ottoman Empire and Imereti. The goal of King Solomon I was to unite western Georgia and raise the authority of the Kingdom of Imereti. In December 1757, the Ottomans were defeated at the battle of Khresili. In the second half of the XVIII century, this battle was the first one between Imereti and the Ottoman Empire. After this victory, a church meeting was held in Kutaisi in 1759. According to the decision taken at this meeting, the trade of prisoners was prohibited throughout the territory of Western Georgia. For the first time, the Ottoman Empire had such a strong adversary in Western Georgia.

According to the clause 23 of the Kuchuk-Kainardjin peace treaty, signed between the Ottoman Empire and Russia in 1774, Imereti still remained under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, but the Ottomans were forbidden to punish Imereti for cooperation with Russia, to interfere in any issues related to Christianity in Georgia, and to collect taxes from Imereti. As it can be seen, after the Ottoman-Russian war of 1768-1774, the Ottoman rule in Imereti remained in force only on paper.

In 1784, after the death of King Solomon, his nephew David, who led a pro-Russian policy, ascended the Imeretian throne. This fact terribly worried the Ottomans and they took action to elevate someone to the throne of Imereti who would be their supporter. However, with the intervention of Russia they had to give up this intention. In 1789, another nephew of Solomon, David took the throne of Imereti by force. The new king was named after his uncle and he ascended the throne as Solomon II. The last period of Ottoman-Imeretian relations began during his reign. The official subordination of the Kingdom of Imereti to Russia under the Elaznaur Treaty of 1804 was the most important event, that took place while Solomon II was on the throne. In 1810, Russia abolished the Kingdom of Imereti. Solomon took refuge in the Ottoman Empire. The last king of the Kingdom of Imereti, Solomon II died in Trabzon in 1815.

In our work, we have tried to assess the relationship between the two states, the Kingdom of Imereti and the Ottoman Empire, which, we believe, began in 1508 and actually ended in 1815 after the death of Solomon II in Trabzon. The relationships between the two states, which lasted more than three hundred

years, sometimes took on a friendly, allied character, but at times they were hostile as well. The Kingdom of Imereti periodically approached either Iran or sometimes Russia, and pursued a policy of balance against the Ottomans. However, we can conclude that the Imeretian Kingdom has always been a strategically important state in the South Caucasus for the Ottoman Empire for three hundred years. The Ottomans in no way wanted to lose control over Imereti. The kings of Imereti almost always turned to the Ottomans with a request to keep the throne or when they got into a difficult situation. The Ottomans always took advantage of this disorder, and supported those closest to them and those who asked for their help. The Ottomans received taxes from the Imeretian Kingdom, but did not interfere in their internal affairs. In foreign policy, Imereti depended on the Ottomans. Summing up, we can say that the relationship between Imereti and the Ottomans was mainly based on their mutual interests.

The Published Scientific Papers

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