

**SOKHUMI STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF HUMANITARIAN SCIENCES**

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**ABKHAZIA IN RUSSIAN-OTTOMAN RELATIONS**  
(From the second half of the XV c. to the first quarter of the XXc.)

**A B S T R A C T**

of the Dissertation presented for obtaining the Academic Degree of the Ph.D. in  
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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

**Actuality and importance of the research:** history of Abkhazia – the oldest and indivisible part of Georgia, from ruining the kingdom of united Georgia till becoming an autonomous unit within Democratic Republic of Georgia, is connected with the intentions of two great and aggressive neighbors of Georgia – Ottoman and Russian Empires trying to establish their domination over Abkhazia, as well as whole Georgia and Caucasus.

At the modern stage, existence of Russian occupation regime in Abkhazia turns out to be the hampering circumstances in restoring the territorial integrity of Georgia and regulating Abkhazian question. At the same time, Abkhazian issue is connected with Georgian-Turkish relations, stemming from the factor of Abkhazian Diaspora in Turkey and its attitude towards the developments in Abkhazia.

Modern Georgian historiography raises demands to researchers in order to learn objectively and profoundly. An important part of political history of Abkhazia is the struggle of Ottoman and Russian Empires for dominating in Abkhazia. In the process of restoring the territorial integrity of Georgia one must foresee those events, which would cause Abkhazian role in relations between Ottoman and Russian Empires. So, today, when the Russian occupation regime is dominated in Abkhazia, and Republic of Turkey backs Georgia's territorial integrity and wishes to participate in regulating the Abkhazian conflict, it's important to demonstrate Abkhazian role in Ottoman-Russian relations properly.

**Aims and tasks of the research:** aim of the research is monographic studying of the role and place of Abkhazia in Russian-Ottoman relations. In the work I have described junction problems regarding Abkhazian question in Russian-Ottoman relations: Ottoman expansion and political domination in Abkhazia, Russian-Ottoman struggle for Abkhazia in XIX century, struggle of pro-Ottoman groups against the Russian governing, events in Abkhazia taking place during the Crimea war, exiling Abkhazians in Ottoman empire after annulling the Principality of Abkhazia and military interventions of Ottoman in Abkhazia.

**Scientific novelty of the work and the main results:** This is the first attempt in Georgian historiography to study position and the role of Abkhazia in Russian-Ottoman relations. This issue is elucidated from the different point of view on the basis of the latest special literature and document sources. Scientific news and the main results of the work are in close relation with actuality of the researchable theme. In the work, which is written on the basis of learning the archive materials reserved in Georgia and Turkey, scientific and memoir literature, as well as press materials, first in Georgian historiography, it's described role and place of Abkhazia in relations between Ottoman and Russian Empires on the monographic way. Ottoman expansion and political domination in Abkhazia is shown and its displayed activity directed towards creating the springboard in Abkhazia with the purpose of military-political domination over Western Georgia by the Ottoman Empire. It's described formation of anti-Russian, pro-Ottoman groups in Abkhazia by Ottoman and supporting Western European States (Great Britain and France) as a result of settling Russian Empire in Georgia and entering Abkhazia under Russian patronage, its learnt details of anti-Russian demonstrations of the local population as a result of Ottoman military interventions in Abkhazia, measures implemented by the Democratic Republic of Georgia directed against Ottoman military invasion in Abkhazia.

The novelty of the work is to cover all spheres regarding the struggle of Russian and Ottoman Empires in Abkhazia, mainly focusing on one major problem – military political domination in Abkhazia. We can draw the conclusions based on proven scientific novelty:

1. There is profoundly needed to be learnt the reasons of political and military rivalry of Ottoman and Russian Empires in Abkhazia, ways and methods of their struggle, role of the local Georgian and Abkhazian population in this struggle, activity of pro-Ottoman and pro-Russian groups in Abkhazia, plans and particular measures of Ottoman and its supporting Western European states towards Abkhazia.

2. On the basis of critical discussion of the works of Turkish historians and searching Ottoman archive materials before unknown in Georgian historiography is has given unlearnt events of Abkhazian history, as are materials proving military-political domination of Ottoman in Abkhazia, specifically, receiving finances from Ottoman state treasury for constructing Sokhumi ship-building by the main the head of the Principality of Abkhazia (*Abkhazetis Mtavari in Georgian*) Kelesh-Bey, Ottoman archive materials about the ship built by the request of Sultan. By introducing this fact is denied the dominating view in the historiography, according to which the military ship was given to Sultan as a present by Kelesh-Bey.
3. There is detailed analysis of the matter regarding anti-Russian struggle of pro-Ottoman groups directly caused by entering the Principality of Abkhazia under Russian patronage. By bringing before unknown Ottoman archive sources to Georgian historiography, there are illustrated the details of anti-Russian campaign in the first third of XIX century in Abkhazia, and also are shown unknown details of secrete negotiation of the head of Abkhazia Giorgi Sharvashidze (Sefer-Bey) with Ottoman government, quantity of military-financial support from Ottoman to the leader of anti-Russian struggle Aslan-Bey and details from his biography.
4. Here is studied the activity of the Western European States, especially Great Britain with the purpose of provoking anti-Russian demonstrations in Abkhazia. On the basis of searched new materials its described activity of “Circassian Political Center” established by English diplomats and intelligence officers in Istanbul, which must carry the political and military leadership for Abkhazians and Northern Caucasians struggling against Russians.
5. There are analysed the developments connected with the Ottoman military interventions in Abkhazia, involvement of local Georgian and Abkhazian population into this process and the outcome of it. There are introduced in Georgian historiography new archive materials, saved in the works of Turkish historians, describing the plans of military-political groups governing Ottoman during the First World War regarding Abkhazia, found the note about the disagreement related to military intervention of Abkhazia in 1914 between “*Committee of Independent Georgia*” and government of Ottoman Empire. As a result of critical discussion of the works of Turkish historians is basically learnt the question of the struggle against the ottoman military landing in Abkhazia in 1918 by Democratic Republic of Georgia.
6. We have first brought “*Caucasian Memories*” (*Kafkasya Hatıraları in Turkish*) by Mustafa Butbay, Ottoman writer of Abkhazian origin, in Georgian historiography, containing valuable notes about the plans of Ottoman during the First World War towards Georgia and particularly Abkhazia.

**Methodological base:** methodological base of the work is method of analyzing events and facts elaborated and established in historical science.

**Chronological Frame of the Work:** This dissertation has described Ottoman politics in Abkhazia from the second half of the XV c. to XVIII c., Russian-Ottoman struggle for Abkhazia in XIX century and Abkhazia in the foreign politics of Ottoman Empire in the first quarter of XX century.

**Practical Value of the work:** the material searched, analysed and used in the work, is significant for studying history of Abkhazia and generally Georgia. Results of the research may be used in practical pedagogical activity –while preparing course of lectures, seminars at the universities, and generalizing works about the history of Georgia. In the dissertation work is objectively shown the role and place of Abkhazia, as indivisible part of Georgia in relations between two aggressive neighbors of Georgia, Russian and Ottoman Empires, which is especially important for estimating scientific-historical aspects of regulating Abkhazian conflict completely.

**Approbation of the work:** The dissertation was carried out at the Department of History at Sokhumi State University. The final consideration of the work took place at the session of the mentioned department. (July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009; Record of Proceedings No 1). Part of the Work has been presented at scientific conferences of students and aspirants, several chapters have been published as articles in scientific magazines and collections.

**The main regulations of the work are described in the following publications:**

1. **Some question of Abkhazian history in Turkish historiography – Historical Researches.** Georgian Historical Society by Ekvtime Takaishvili Abkhazian organization. Annual, V. Tb. 2002, p. 122-133. [http://sites.google.com/site/saistorio dziebani/dziebani2002](http://sites.google.com/site/saistorio_dziebani/dziebani2002) (in Georgian).
2. **One Ottoman document about shipbuilding in Sokhumi.** – Journal “*New Bridge*”. N2. Tb. 2002, p. 61-63 (in Georgian).
3. **Abkhazia in the works of modern Turkish historians – “Historical-ethnographical studies”** Iv. Javakhishvili Institute of history and ethnology,. N8. Tb. 2004, p. 145-160 (in Georgian).
4. **Politics of Ottoman Empire in Abkhazia** - Journal “*Abkhazeti*”, N1. Tb. 2004, p. 48-55 (in Georgian).
5. **Political domination of Ottoman in Abkhazia in XVIII century.** – *Historical Researches*. Georgian Historical Society by Ekvtime Takaishvili Abkhazian organization. Annual, X-XI. Tb., 2008, p. 200-221. <http://sites.google.com/site/saistoriodziebani/dziebani2007-2008> (in Georgian).
6. **Ottoman landing party in Abkhazia in 1918.** – *Sokhumi State Universitys Proceedings*. V, Humanities, Social and Political Sciences Series. Tb. 2008, p. 564-576.

**Structure of the Dissertation Work:** Dissertation work consists of the preface, three chapters and the conclusion. Volume of the dissertation work is 181 pages. The work is enclosed by the list of historical sources and scientific literature.

## THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION WORK

In the preface there is documented the actuality of researchable theme, historiography of discussed issues and the scientific base of the sources.

**Historiography and Source Basis of the Work:** source scientific base of the dissertation work are the published documents as well the ones displayed by us and carried into the scientific circulation. The documentary materials of this work are taken from The Georgian National Center of Manuscripts and The Georgian Central State Historical Archive, where there are materials about the plans of annulling the Principality of Abkhazia by Russian Empire and exiling Abkhazian population in Ottoman Empire.

We have searched the documents saved in the Ottoman Archives division of the Turkish Prime Minister's Office, lightening some unlearnt question of Abkhazian history – about political domination of Ottoman in Abkhazia, forms and obligations of vassalage Kelesh-Bey to Ottoman Sultan, military interventions of Ottoman in Abkhazia and activity of pro-Ottoman groups. It's remarkable that Ottoman documents saved in the Ottoman Archives division of the Turkish Prime Minister's Office and carried by us in Georgian historiography, include before unknown notes.

In the work I have also used materials of *The Acts of the Caucasian Archaeographic Commission* and Georgian documentary sources. From Georgian narrative sources in the work there are anonymous chronicle of XVIII century “*Life of Georgia*”; “*The Description of the Kingdom of Georgia*” by Vakhushti Bagrationi and “*Georgians life*” by Niko Dadiani, including materials about foreign political relations of Western Georgian Kingdom and principalities in XVII-XIX centuries, history of Principality of Abkhazia, its borders, Ottoman domination in

Abkhazia and fighting against it.

Among the foreign sources is one to note the Ottoman sources. From the narrative sources we have cited writings of Evliya Celebi (the first half of XVII c.), Katip Celebi (the first quarter of XVII c) and Mehmed Rashid (beginning of XVIII c.), including the valuable notes about Abkhazian-Ottoman relations, spreading Islam in Abkhazia, fighting Abkhazians against Ottoman military garrison. European and Turkish sources about the mentioned period of Abkhazia in Georgian historiography are carried in the works of M. Tamarashvili, I. Tabagua, E. Mamistvalishvili, N. Shengelia, M. Svanidze, G. Alasania, T. Beradze and D. Paichadze.

We meet the interesting materials about Abkhazia in the works of political figures participating in the events of that time, European and Russian ambassadors, diplomats, travelers and missionaries A. Veranchich (XVIc.), A. Lamberti (the first half of XVIIc.), Jean Chardin (1672), Jacques François Gamba, F. Dubua de Monpere (the first third of XIXc.) Eduard Eihvald (the first half of XIXc.), J. Bell, K. Borozdin (the first half of XIXc.) gives us he notes about Russian and Ottoman orientation groups in Abkhazia, participation of Abkhazian kingdom in anti-Ottoman coalition and struggle against political influence of Ottoman in Abkhazia.

In lightening the question regarding exiling some part of Abkhazian people in Ottoman after Ottoman military intervention in Abkhazia we have used the materials from Georgian and Russian press of that time – newspapers “*Droeba*”, “*Golos*”, “*Caucasus*”, “*Tbiliski Vestnik*”.

From the memoir literature it's remarkable recollections of Osman-Bey, D. Kipiani, Sh. Maghlakelidze and G. Mazniashvili. It is important to mention “*Caucasian Memories*” written by Mustafa Butbay, Ottoman writer and pedagogue of Abkhazian origin, in which there are important notes about relations of political societies of Circassian and Abkhazian Muhajirs from Istanbul with Abkhazia.

**Historiography of the issue:** Place of Abkhazia in Ottoman-Russian relations was not the subject of separate study. This circumstance and existing actuality of Abkhazian question caused selection of the presented dissertation. Modern stage of the historical science development and working over the foreign sources gave us possibility to comprehend the place and role of Abkhazia in relations with Ottoman-Russia on a new way.

Modern Turkish historian Enver Zia Karal, Fahrettin Kırzioğlu, Ismail Hami Danişmend, Ismail Hakkı Uzunçarşılı, Cemal Gökçe, Ismail Berkok, Ahmet Canbek, M. Sadık Bilge, Hayri Ersoy, Aysun kamacı, Hanefi Bostan, and Halil İnalçık give us the important notes about Ottoman politics in Abkhazia. There are Ottoman documents from the archives of Turkish republic in their works, some part of which is brought by us to Georgian historiography. In spite of tendency characteristic to Turkish historians, their works attach the great interest while searching Abkhazian history.

Works by W. E. D. Allen and Bedri Habiçoğlu include important notes about participating European countries and especially Great Britain in Russian-Ottoman relations in Abkhazia and Western Caucasus of XIX century.

As we have already mentioned role and place of Abkhazia in the rivalry of Russia-Ottoman empires in Caucasus was never been the subject of special research yet. Also one must be remarked, that in the works of investigators of Abkhazian history, N. Berdzenishvili, Ir. Antelava, Z. Anchabadze and G. Dzidzaria there are many interesting notes about Ottoman and Russian influence and fight in Abkhazia.

During the Crimea war (1853-1856) questions of the processes ongoing in Abkhazia and Ottoman military occupation in Abkhazia are discussed in the works of D. Afanasiev, E. Tarle, E. Burchuladze, Kh-M. Ibragimbeili, S. Bushuev, N. Kiniapina, M. Bliev, V. Degoev, N. Takalandze.

The matters of anti-Russian social-political agitation, annulling autonomous government in the Principality of Abkhazia and becoming Abkhazian population Muhajirs as a result of it are discussed in the works of Ad. Berzhe, B. Khorava, S. Janashia, A. Saydam, N. Smirnov and O. Alpaslan.

The Events taking place in Abkhazia during the Russian-Ottoman war in 1877-1878 are discussed in the works of Sh. Megrelidze, B. Akhvlediani, P. Shchastlivtsev, A. Diachkov-Tarasov,

A. Vereschagin, A. Kurat and Kemal H. Karpat.

Social-political processes taking place in Abkhazia in 1917-1920, activity of political groups with Russian and Ottoman orientation are mentioned by A. Chochua, M. Tarnava, E. Eshba, N. Lakoba, A. Menteshashvili, J. Gamakharia, B. Gogia, Z. Papaskiri, G. Paichadze and D. Chitaia.

At the beginning of the First World War, plans of military raid in Abkhazia and Ottoman landing party in 1918, military-political plans regarding Ottoman government with Abkhazia are mentioned by Turkish historians S. Beyoğlu, V. Keleşılmaz, İ. Kurtcephe and Serpil Yılmaz. It's remarkable, that V. Keleşılmaz presents Ottoman archive documents, in which one shows how "*Committee of Independent Georgia*" interrupted plan of Ottoman military leaders regarding landing in Abkhazia in 1914, and in the work of Serpil Yılmaz are represented archive documents describing position of Ottoman and its supporters – Germany and Austria-Hungary around the Ottoman landing in Abkhazia at the end of June 1918.

The first chapter: "*Ottoman politics in Abkhazia from the second half of the XV c. to XVIII c.*" Here is shown Ottoman military expansion in Abkhazia and process of political domination as a result of it. The chapter consists of two paragraphs.

In the first paragraph: "*ottoman expansion in Abkhazia from the second half of the XV c. to XVII c.*" is illustrated Ottoman aggression in Abkhazia parallel to the processes in the western Georgia of that time. In the second half of XV century, simultaneously with the process of destroying united Georgia foreign-political situation of the country was hardened extremely. In 1453 Christian Byzantine Empire was overthrown and its place was taken by Ottoman Mohammedan state. Georgian rulers, in spite of hard inter-feudal disagreement inside the country, managed to join and participate in anti-Ottoman coalition, which according to the initiative of Pope aimed to join Europe and the countries of the Middle East. Because of the refusal of the heads of European countries, anti-Ottoman coalition failed. Actual participation of Georgians in creating anti-Ottoman coalition was caused by that danger, which was coming from a new and aggressive neighbor Ottoman. This danger became clear just on the second year after capturing Constantinople, when Ottoman fleet attacked Tskhumi (nowadays Sokhumi) in Georgia on the coast of Black Sea, damaged and robbed the city and coast of Abkhazia. This part of Georgia became the first sacrifice of Ottoman aggression.

The domination on the Black Sea coast was an internal policy of Ottoman empire finally aiming to transform the Black Sea into an "Ottoman lake". As a result of attacking Sokhumi, subordinating Crimea and banishing Genoa from the region of the Black Sea, Ottoman annihilated Georgia's connecting way with Europe. Just in this period for 70th years of the XV century, appeared the trace of "Abkhazian alienates" from Georgian environment firstly. The Beginning of changing political, social and ethnical situation in Abkhazia was caused by failure of Georgian, Christian central government, what was used by Ottoman Empire and supported, encouraged and managed aggression of neighbor mountainous tribes of Abkhazia against Georgia. Abkhazian Eristavi Sharvashidze supported Giorgi VIII king of united Georgia in the process of creating anti-Ottoman coalition, but after failure of it and damaging united country, Abkhazian Eristavi (Prince) and his principality became under the military-political and ethnical-cultural influence of neighbor Abazin tribes including the Jikhs (Jikebi according to Georgian sources).

In the beginning of Caucasian mountaineers invasion, encouraged by the Ottoman Empire, the most of the modern territory of Abkhazia was part of Odishi (Samegrelo) principality. In XVI century Tskhumi was included in Odishi principality, and in north the border of Odishi was on the river Psirtskha. Domain of Georgian feudal house of the Sharvashidze – Abkhazian principality was spread from the river Psirtskha to north-east bordering Jikhs and was in vassal relation with Odishi.

In XVI century one important direction of Ottoman Empire aggression towards Georgia was to encourage and organize mountaineers from northern-west Caucasus to fight against Abkhazia and Odishi. Ottoman occupied Anapa simultaneously with domination in Crimea and got important base for expansion towards the western Caucasus. The Aim of mountaineers attacking on western Georgia was not only robbery and selling the slaves. Ottoman support gives birth to

movement of mountainous tribes of western Caucasus to settle in Abkhazia and fightings for gaining the territories there. Ottoman tried to create stable military-political base in western Georgia. With this purpose in 1578 a beylerbeyi or governor-general was appointed to Sokhumi. In 1579 Ottoman made the stone castle in Poti. Osishi rulers led to protect Abkhazia and Odishi against Ottoman. As an answer of Jikhs attack, encouraged by Ottoman, Georgians destroyed Ottoman Empire borders, but the attacks of Jikhs was so strong, that the head of Odishi Levan I Dadiani has to address with request to ottoman and finally in return for stopping their attacks took Ottoman patronage and declare supremacy of Sultan. In 10th years of XVII century, Abkhazians used the difficult inter-political situation in Odishi and became free from vassal attitude of the Dadiani. So, separate Abkhazian principality with the center in Zufu (Likhni) was formed. Abkhazia, as the country under vassal status, paid Ottoman the tax - “harach” reckoned by head of the Principality of Abkhazia.

During XVII century Abkhazia broadened its territory on the costs of Odishi. Feudal anarchy dominating in western Georgia, permanent wars and Ottoman involvement in it, weakening Odishi principality gave Abkhazia possibility to broaden own territory and conquered land from Odishi. At the end of XVII century border of Abkhazian principality was already lying on the river Enguri.

In the second paragraph: *“Ottoman political domination in Abkhazia in XVIII century”* is described the formation of Abkhazia as vassal country of Ottoman Empire. In XVIII century Ottoman could reach the goal – creation of military base in Abkhazia as Sokhumi castle (Sokhumkale) and establishment of its political domination over Abkhazian principality house. In 1701 Sokhumi and Poti castles are mentioned as the most important military boundary bases for the Ottoman Empire. In 1723 Sultan sent head of Abkhazia Rostom the robe as award and big quantity of salt to population. Ottoman considered Abkhazia as its vassal and occupied country. So, Ottoman conquered the places along the Black Sea. Abkhaz and Georgian population was against Ottoman violence. Abkhazians sorounded from the sea and land Ottoman askers and preventing them building the castle in Sokhumi.

According to the documents of the Ottoman Archives division of the Turkish Prime Minister's Office, groups of local population served military service in Sokhumi castle and Ottoman government paid them for it. According to these documents, dated as February 25<sup>th</sup> 1745, Sokhumi castle was protected by two hundred and twenty local hired soldiers and Ottoman state treasury gave them annual sum as compensation. In the middle of the XVIII century, Abkhazian border passed along the river Ghalidzga in south-east, where it was bordered by Odishi. In north-west – on the river Bziph Abkhazia was bordered by *Jiketi* ( land of Jikhs in Georgian).

In the second half of XVIII century in western Georgia struggle against Ottoman conquerors was activated, which was supported by that circumstance, that leaders of Imereti-Odishi-Guria were united against the same enemy. Solomon I, (1752 –1784) King of Imereti (western Georgia) was well aware of the fact, that for decisive success his own forces were not sufficient, that was why like the King of Kartli and Kakheti Erekle II (1762-1798), Solomon I tried to become Russia’s allies.

In summer of 1771 during Russian-Ottoman war, Levan Sharvashidze, owner of Samurzakano, with his detachment fought in Poti as Russia’s allies against Ottoman. At the same time Abkhazians rebelled against Ottoman. Head of Abkhazia Zurab Sharvashidze and Prince of Samurzakano Levan Sharvashidze, occupied Sokhumi castle as a result of stubborn fighting and banished Ottoman, but soon misunderstanding appeared between Zurab and Levan Sharvashidze and Levan gave the castle to ottoman in return of money. After these events Ottoman did not trust Zurab Sharvashidze any more and supported his nephew Kelesh-Bey and prepared him for the power.

From 80 years of XVIII century Caucasus and especially Georgia, had the most important place in the foreign politics of the Ottoman Empire, what was caused by conquering Crimea by Russia and entering eastern Georgia (Kartli and Kakheti kingdom) under the patronage of Russia. The Russia’s entrance Georgia threatened Ottoman interests in Abkhazia. Ottoman, for creating a strong base in Abkhazia, ordered head of Abkhazia and Ottoman vassal Kelesh-Bey to turn



Sokhumi into the Ottoman military-marine base. By the order of Sultan Selim III shipbuilding was founded in Sokhumi, where by leadership of Kelesh-Bey Sharvashidze they built military ships for Ottoman fleet. One ship of Ottoman military fleet built in Sokhumi, by the name “*Kilid Ul Bahir*” was the sailing fighting vessel of “Galleon” type, “Kalyon” according to Ottoman marine terminology. Documents, saved in the Ottoman Archives division of the Turkish Prime Minister's Office, make clear the questions of shipbuilding in Sokhumi for Ottoman military fleet. In the letter dated August 26<sup>th</sup> 1793 one mentions, that in return for the wooden material gathered for constructing the shipbuilding, Mirliva (corresponds the military status of general) Kelesh Ahmed Bey was paid 34 thousand 600 kurus (*Ottoman currency*).

On the basis of this note 1793 must be considered as the year of beginning construction of shipbuilding in Sokhumi for Ottoman military fleet. Financial aspects regarding construction of ship-building in Sokhumi and the ship for Ottoman military-marine fleet was the subject of trade and misunderstanding between the Sultan chancellery and Kelesh-Bey for years. Kelesh-Bey demanded money permanently, what caused mistrustfulness and dissatisfaction in Ottoman government. In the order dated November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1794 Sokhumi head Kelesh-Bey mentions, that great quantity of sum was provided for building the military ship. Due to this other request for additional provision of money would not be satisfied. Two years later Sultan chancellery still studies the issues of financing shipbuilding in Sokhumi. Kelesh-Bey demands a great deal of money again and Ottoman government had to apportion this financing. In the order dated September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1796 it is mentioned, that the decision was still made about financing shipbuilding in Sokhumi and 7 thousand 500 kurus provided. Ottoman government paid a great attention to financing its vassal Kelesh-Bey, as necessary factor for maintaining the Ottoman military existence in the region. In 1793 Kelesh-Bey demanded sixty thousand kurus for repairing Anaklia Castle from ottoman and in 1795 Ottoman government gave another order to Kelesh-Bey to carry out the works necessary for fortification Sokhumi Castle.

The second chapter: “*Russian-Ottoman struggle for Abkhazia in the first half of the XIX century and Crimea War*” includes three paragraphs.

In the first paragraph “*Abkhazia's entering under the patronage of Russian Empire*” is described the questions regarding entrance of Abkhazian principality in Russian patronage. After joining eastern Georgia, aim of tsarism politics towards western Georgia was clearly shown in 1802, when Commander-in-Chief of Georgia and Astrakhan general-governor, General P. Tsitsianov (1802-1806) was charged to try his best for joining principalities of western Georgia and strengthening on the coast of the Black Sea.

In December 1803 head of Samegrelo Grigol Dadiani signed “Patronage” agreement and sworn for devotion of Russian imperator. At the same year Grigol Dadiani let P. Tsitsianov know, that “Kelesh-Bey Sharvashidze searched for patronage in Russia”. At the beginning of XIX century, after strengthening Russian positions in Caucasus, Kelesh-Bey Sharvashidze began changing his foreign political orientation. head of Abkhazia was not satisfied of being vassal of Ottoman any more.

Russian positions were hardening in Georgia step by step, and Ottoman Empire was in a great crisis. After dominating in western Georgia soon Abkhazian turn will come, as Abkhazia was part of Georgia. Strengthening of neighbor Samegrelo principality and entering Samurzakano owners in Russian patronage, caused uneasiness in Kelesh-Bey. He was well informed about the political crisis of the Ottoman Empire, that's why he chose the way of open confrontation with Ottoman. Radical changing of Kelesh-Bey's political course said about the end of Ottoman hegemony in Abkhazia.

Having used the matter of giving shelter to Tayyar Pasha from Trabzon, pursued from Sultan, Kelesh-Bey used pursued pasha as a formal cause to break off relations with Ottoman Empire.

In May 1806 Kelesh-Bey addressed the Russian administration of Caucasus with request to take Abkhazia in Russia patronage and protect it from Ottoman. At the same time Kelesh-Bey had friendly relation with Samegrelo principality house. By mediatory of Russian general I.Rikhoff

heads of Abkhazia and Samegrelo, who at the beginning of XIX century were in contrast with each other, reconciled Abkhazian principality house made related with Samegrelo principality. Kelesh-Bey's son Safar-Bey was secretly christened (by the name Giorgi) and married to Tamar, sister of head of Samegrelo Levan Dadiani. This dynasty connection supported political connection of Abkhazia to Samegrelo, being under Russia "patronage" and showed change of Kelesh-Bey's political orientation. Ottoman tried to subordinate disident vassal by military force, but in summer 1806 Ottoman military-marine fleet could not attack Sokhumi, Ottoman also abstained themselves from invading Abkhazia from the land, passing through Samegrelo, as it meant fighting against Russia.

In 1806 began the war between Russia and Ottoman. Kelesh-Bey was not involved in it, but he prevent Ottoman for landing on the coast of Abkhazia and made this place as the bridgehead of war activities. The head of Abkhazia was preparing to enter under Russian patronage, but on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1808, his son Aslan-Bey, Ottoman agent, killed Kelesh-Bey and tried to seize the power. This murder was staged by Ottoman and was also in the very interest of the killer. From that day Aslan-Bey began fighting for becoming the head of Abkhazia by the support of Ottoman. Son of the head Giorgi Sharvashidze (Safar-Bey) could not resist father killer and moved to Samegrelo, where he asked Nino and Levan Dadiani to be mediators before the emperor about taking Abkhazia under Russian patronage. Text of so called "Requesting points" of patronage agreement of Abkhazia with Russia was written in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, and then it was translated in Georgian and as an original, was presented To Giorgi Sharvashidze. On August 12<sup>th</sup> 1808 Giorgi Sharvashidze and representatives of Abkhazian nobles signed Georgian text of "requesting points". According to "requesting points" Giorgi Sharvashidze took some obligations before Russia, as his father Kelesh-Bey done it earlier for the sake Ottoman Empire.

On February 17<sup>th</sup> 1810 emperor Alexander I appointed Giorgi Sharvashidze as a head of Abkhazia, under two conditions: recognizing the internal autonomy of Abkhazia and acceptance of supremacy of Russian authority. On July 10<sup>th</sup> 1810 Russian squadron conquered Sokhumi castle and cleaned it from Ottoman garrisons. Domination over Sokhumi castle meant to dominate over the whole Abkhazia. The fact of Appointing Christian head in Abkhazia had a great importance for political domination of Russian Empire in this region. Fighting between Giorgi Sharvashidze and Aslan-Bey represented fighting between Russian and Ottoman influence. Conquering Sokhumi by Russians and banishing Aslan-Bey did not mean Giorgi Sharvashidze's winning on Aslan-Bey, but Russian winning over Ottoman in Abkhazia.

In the second paragraph "***Struggle of pro-Ottoman group for power in Abkhazia in the first third of XIX century***" is described fighting, taken place among the pro-Ottoman and pro-Russian orientated groups for establishing in Abkhazian principality house simultaneously after Russian establishment in western Georgia. The entrance of head of Abkhazia under the patronage of Russian Empire meant the ending of Ottoman influence on Abkhazia. The Ottoman did not recognize entering Abkhazia under Russian patronage and supported his agent Aslan-Bey to instigate fighting against Russia by supplying him with arms, money and political support. Ottoman still considered Abkhazia as Sultan's vassal country. Russian command in Caucasus considered that Ottoman pretension on Abkhazia, as voluntary joined place, would not be accepted by Russia and as Sokhumi always maintained to be the residence of head of Abkhazia, silence to Ottoman demands, would undermine the reputation of Russia, because Abkhazians could estimate this as a compromise shown by Russia towards Ottoman. At the end of 1815 fighting of pro-Ottoman groups in Abkhazia for power almost got success. According to the Ottoman documents, at the beginning of December of 1815 Ottoman government took information from "*Atalik Haji Ahmed*", educator of Giorgi Sharvashidze, as head of Abkhazia was "*ready to repent his crime and return under the Sultan's patronage again*". From Haji Ahmed Ottoman government learnt, that after Aslan-Bey killed his father, Safar-Bey was afraid of being killed by his brother, that's why he had to ask Russia for support. Safar-Bey was ready to redeem his guilt before Ottoman so, to banish Russians from Sokhumi castle and obey to sultan again. Giorgi Sharvashidze tried to play double standard politics. He was afraid that finally Russia would give Abkhazia to Ottoman and

was getting ready for it.

On February 7<sup>th</sup> 1821 head of Abkhazia Giorgi Sharvashidze died in Likhni. It was time for Ottoman to move on and get involve into Abkhazian affairs by using Aslan-Bey's factor. In June 1821 Aslan-Bey came in Jiketi from Ottoman. Aslan-Bey asked Tamar, widow of Giorgi Sharvashidze, hostages and entered Abkhazia freely. Tamar Sharvashidze, in presence by Sokhumi castle commandant major Mikhin, received Aslan-Bey's representatives in Sokhumi castle and declared, that would never let father's killer in Abkhazia. In August, according to imperators order, Giorgi's heir Dimitri Sharvashidze was given the degree of colonel and was appointed as the head of Abkhazia. Ottoman emissary Aslan-Bey was planning to prepare a great military demonstration against Russia. He gathered army to rush in Abkhazia by the help of Pasha of Anapa. Aslan-Bey sent letters to his supporters and appealed population to rebel. In the middle of August Ottoman supporting group in Abkhazia began military campaign. Aslan-Bey declare, that he had Sultan's Ferman, (imperial order) according to which he was appointed as Abkhazian head and Russia gave Sokhumi him too. Russian government in Caucasus used drastic measures for defeating Ottoman supporting groups in Abkhazia, in November Russian troops dispersed Aslan-Bey's supporters and gave Dimitri Sharvashidze the throne, though young head soon died, as they say, he was poisoned by Aslan-Bey. In 1823 Dimitri's junior brother Mikheil was declared as the head of Abkhazia.

In 1824-1827 Aslan-Bey still tried to establish his presence in Abkhazia, but in vain. The struggle of pro-Ottoman groups for power in Abkhazia, in the first third of XIX century, failed. What was a direct result of Russia's victory at wars over the Ottoman. According to Adrianopol agreement signed in 1829, Ottoman declared Abkhazia and western Caucasus as part of Russia. In spite of this declaration, Ottoman has not given up hopes for Abkhazia. Ottoman pretensions on Abkhazia and western Caucasus were supported by Great Britain. The Great Britain embassy in Istanbul organized anti-Russian demonstrations in western Caucasus and Abkhazia. Instigated and incited by English diplomats and intelligence officers, in 1830 "Circassian Political Center" in Istanbul was formed. It had to take a political and military leadership of northern Caucasus fighting against Russia.

In the third paragraph "*Abkhazia during Crimea war (1853-1856)*" is described Ottoman military intervention in Abkhazia, representing part of fighting activities by Ottoman and its supporters in Europe against Russian Empire. Sokhumi became base of expedition corpus of Ottoman during Crimea war, where Commander of Ottoman army Omer Pasha, Zanuko Safar-Bey as representative "Circassian Political Center" and Shamil's emissary Mohamed Emin, planed to gather mountaineers of western Caucasus and take the military raid towards Tbilisi.

Russian government was thankful to Mikheil Sharvashidze because of taking Russian army away from Abkhazia on time, for what he was awarded by emperor. At the same time, Ottoman decided to address Abkhazian head with request, because he was still considered to be under their patronage. Head of Abkhazia did not answer to a letter sent by Ottoman pasha. Mikheil Sharvashidze showed his devotion to Russia. He used his influence to raise distrust in Abkhazian neighboring tribes toward ottoman. Mikheil Sharvshidze notified Russian army about the specific plan of fighting against Ottoman in Abkhazia, foreseeing protection of Kodori line by police of Abkhazia, Samurzakano, Samegrelo, Imereti and parts of the regular army. Sharvashidze did not get real military support from Russia, he could not stay in Samegrelo too and in may 1855 returned to his homeland. Mikheil Sharvashidze let the commander of Ottoman occupation army to know, that he has not arrived in Abkhazia to fight against them. The head wanted to maintain neutrality waiting European allies military forces in Abkhazia and then carry the joint attack together with the mountaineers would begin on western Georgia. In this case head of Abkhazia was making firm promise to join the European allies and assured them, that in case of joint attack they would not meet a serious resistance. That time, when Abkhazia was occupied, Russian administration of Caucasus had the basis for mistrust towards the head, and moreover, blamed him for betrayal, but Sharvashidze could manage his double, dangerous game successfully. He tried to save time, at the same time, as it turned out; he had a secret contact with Russian commanders and let them know about movement of Ottoman army. In decisive moment,

when the Commander-in Chief of Ottoman army Omer-Pasha gave guarantees to head of Abkhazia in the name of Sultan and European allies not only leaving him as a head, but also offering to give unoccupied territories of Georgia in return of acting in Ottoman favor. Mikheil Sharvashidze refused. After ending the war betrayal allegation against Sharvashidze was not approved. Russian government considered Mikheil Sharvashidze as a necessary person for future success and establishment of empire in Abkhazia and western Caucasus. On July 10<sup>th</sup> 1856 Russian army entered Sokhumi. They were led by Mikheil Sharvashidze.

**The third chapter: “Russian-Ottoman struggle for Abkhazia from the second half of XIX century to the first quarter of the XXc.”** consists of three paragraphs.

In the first paragraph “*Annuling Abkhazian principality and Muhajirism of Abkhazians in 1867*” we discussed process of annulling the principality and exiling some part of Abkhazian population in Ottoman Empire. On July 12<sup>th</sup> 1864 Russia annulled Abkhazian principality and established the direct governing in the region. Russia has created Sokhumi military department, which was obeyed to Kutaisi general-governor. Head Mikheil Sharvashidze was compulsorily exiled in Russia, where he died in 1866. Mikheil Sharvashidze’s life, full of resistances and prolonged governing passed in turbulent conditions with Russia-Ottoman for domination in Abkhazia. Mikheil Sharvashidze, during forty years of his governing, tried to maintain Abkhazian autonomy in Russian Empire. In critical moments of Russian-Ottoman opposition during Crimea war, in Sharvashidze’s action one could see, that for him the main idea was not a blind devotion to Russia, but the highest interest of his own land Abkhazia. Tsarism could not forgive him just for this.

In 1866 in Sokhumi military department peasant rebellion took place. Russia immediately sent parts of army in Abkhazia and in August the rebellion was failed. After this the empire considered exiling Abkhazians in Ottoman as the most important measure. Agreement between Russia and Ottoman was signed that Ottoman would not settle Abkhazian Muhajirs in the boundary places of Russia. Exiling Abkhazians in 1867 mainly had an oppressive character; Abkhazians were converted to Christianity in order to stay. In 1867, 3. 358 families, 19. 342 persons were exiled from Abkhazia in Ottoman Empire.

It is remarkable, that Russia, as well as Ottoman, was equally interested in exiling disobedient population from northern Caucasus and Abkhazia to Ottoman Empire. From 1859 Ottoman government hold intensive negotiations with Russia, as a result of which they come to a conclusion about accepting 50 thousand exiled persons at the first stage. Ottoman arranged that it would not settle exiled Circassians near the Russia border. On January 16<sup>th</sup> 1860, the special “Muhajirs commission” was created at the Ottoman government, which was led by Trabzon governor Haphiz Pasha, Circassian by origin. The commission later moved under subordination of Ministry of Internal Affairs. Its competence was to control the ports during arriving Muhajirs, to register them just on the place and send to their settlements.

Russian government was so in a hurry to excile Caucasian mountaineers, that allowed Ottoman marine contrabandists to stay with their ships in Batumi, Sokhumi, Sochi, Tuapse, Novorossiysk and Anapa and carry gathered people illegally. According to official data of Russia, 470 thousand persons were exiled from the northern Caucasus in 1858-1864. Ottoman official data was different. In 1870, Sultan presented a special report about the mountaineers exiled from Caucasus to Ottoman Empire, according to which for summer of 1865, 682 thousand persons were exiled.

So, in 1867 the first great “Muhajirism” of Abkhazians took place, which was caused by annulling Abkhazian principality by Tsarism as a result of ending Caucasus war and failed Abkhazian rebellion against Russia in 1866.

“Muhajirism” of Circassian and Abkhazians to Ottoman Empire formed a new ethnic and social factor. According to characteristic got in Ottoman “Circassian” or by the second name “Caucasian” factor was created. Politics of Ottoman government towards Abkhazian and Circassians, foreseeing bringing North Caucasians in military structures and state apparatus, caused strengthening of “Circassian” influence in every sphere of the country governing.

**In the second paragraph: “The Russian-Ottoman war in 1877-1878 and Abkhazia”**, its described Ottoman military intervention in Abkhazia during the Russian-Ottoman war in 1877-1878, attitude of Georgian and Abkhazian population towards Ottoman military intervention and repressions by Russian side against rebelled Abkhazian people.

In April-May 1877 Ottoman Askers and Abkhazian Muhajirs were landing on Abkhazian coast. Landing troops of Ottoman and Muhajirs on Abkhazian coast, presented imitation of attack towards western Georgia and binding Russian forces during the actions in Caucasus. With Ottoman landing party came Abkhazian and Circassian Muhajirs, being exiled earlier. One of the commanders of Ottoman Musa Kundukhov was accompanied by the army consisting of thirty Ottoman officers of Abkhazian origin. According to some data, in whole Abkhazia almost three thousand Abkhazian Muhajirs came on the coast. Abkhazian Muhajirs brought 30 thousand rifles to give population. In the days of landing Abkhazian public meeting took place in Gudauta. Ottoman representative read Sultan’s Ferman, appealing Abkhazians to the war against Russia. Gathered Abkhazians approved Sultan’s appeal. After this mullah brought The Koran and made the gathered people to swear for Sultan’s devotion according to Muslim rule. People were excited with religious ecstasy, Christian Abkhazians refused their religion, and they were taking the crosses off, hand on the trees and adored Koran. Muhajirs killed the priest of Likhni church Ivane Gegia. Ottoman arrested monk Besarion (Mikaberidze) and his son-in-law, priest Akhvlediani, Ottoman commander Shevket Pasha decided to shoot them, but Georgian clergymans were forgiven and set free by mediatory of Ottoman officer of Abkhazian origin.

Firstly, Ottoman reached a great success and made Russian military forces to leave Sokhumi. During the fighting activities in Abkhazia Ottoman mainly relied on Abkhazian Muhajirs. Between Kodori and Ghalidzga rivers, units of local rebelled Abkhazians and Abkhazian-Circassian muhajirs were fighting on the side of Ottoman and a big part of Abkhazian police supported them too.

The Muhajirs activities in Abkhazia pleased the ottoman government. They thought that Russians would have to deploy important military forces in Abkhazia because of Abkhazians’ rebel. Ottoman military comanders consider, that war in Abkhazia was operation for swindle, aim of which was to bind important forces of Russia there. It was unexpected for Ottoman military commanders, that some part of Abkhazia was less protected. Only one artillery division was located between Novorossiysk and Poti. According to information of Ottoman military, unit of four thousand men of Russian army was dislocated in Abkhazia, including five hundred local police members too. This military unit was spread all over Abkhazia coast in Bichvinta, Sokhumi, Ochamchire and Kodori.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1877 Ottoman ships attacked Sokhumi. Russian army left Sokhumi. Anarchy, robbery and burglary took place in the streets of the city. Sokhumi detachment, retreating towards the river Machara to the south of Sokhumi, peaceful population of the city, Greek and other Christian population ran from the villages and gathered around Tsebelda village. The detachment could not settle in Tsebelda because of Abkhazians’ attack and began crossing Kodori at the rocks of Bagadi. Sokhumi detachment, leading by the colonel Grigol Sharvashidze, repulsed Abkhazian and Ottoman artillery attacks, during two days, what guaranteed taking the whole personal staff, wounded and refugees to the peaceful place. On May 17<sup>th</sup> Sharvashidze moved to the left side of Kodori and damaged the bridge. Supporter force came by leading general-major Alkhazov (Alkhazishvili), sent for helping in Ochamchire region. Sokhumi detachment was formed as a result of joining Samurzakano detachment “Inguri detachment” by name.

Ottoman main military force was settled in Sokhumi and resisted to involve themselves into direct attacks on Russia. Ottoman commanders tried to use Abkhazian and Muhajir detachments for prevent landing a great contingent of Russian army on Abkhazia and gaining advantage over south Caucasus by this way. Ottoman spent a lot of money to bribe Abkhazians and military equipment for their armament. Ottoman gave Abkhazians modern Winchester rifles bought in the United States of America. Ottoman spread the campaign of gathering volunteers from local population widely all over Abkhazia. As the Russian military source mentions, in Bichvinta region

one man from a family and in Kodori region up to the river Mokvi the whole population came against Russia. Abkhazian units consisted of Muhajirs and police detachments, being led by local influential feudal lords. At the beginning of fighting activities in Abkhazia retreating of Russian military commanders deepened mistrust towards Russians in population. "Not only Abkhazians, but even habitants of Samurzakano did not trust power of our arms and supported Turks" has one said in the report of Russian officer about fighting activities in Abkhazia.

From July some changing took place in the current fighting activities in Abkhazia. Enguri detachment of Russian army, by the support of police consisting of Samurzakano and Samegrelo Georgian population, occupied Kodori region. In August Ottoman left Abkhazia as a result of attack on Sokhumi from the side of Russian army. Thousands of Abkhazians left their homeland with Ottoman ships.

So, in 1877 Ottoman next military expedition in Abkhazia was ended by the second great muhajirism of Abkhazians. To our opinion, from the reasons causing 1877 Muhajirism the most important was propaganda of exiling from Ottoman occupants and the direct violence by arms. Occupants did not give the possibility to population to avoid them and ran to the territory controlled by the governmental troops. In spite of this, Russian tsarism tried to blame Abkhazians in "betrayal" its failure and retreat from Sokhumi, what caused protest of Georgian society – Giorgi Tsereteli, tragedy of Abkhazian Muhajirism connected with retreat of Russian army and leaving population in the hands of occupants. Georgian intelligentsia expressed sympathy with tragedy of Abkhazian people. In the terms of severe censorship, Georgian newspaper "Droeba" described suffering of Abkhazian population: "Majority of Abkhazians, who was brought on the ships to leave for Turkey, was crying, holding their hands, and shouting, let the Russian government know, that we are leaving against our will, by violence and let the government consider us as captives".

Tireless activity of Georgian Christian clergymans, who christened thousands of Abkhazians, avoided them, as Christians, exiling, saved Abkhazian people from massive exiling and danger of physical extermination like Ubikhs.

In 1877, approximately 32 thousand residences of Abkhazia went to exile. On January 27<sup>th</sup> 1879, agreement was signed in Istanbul between Russia and Ottoman, on the basis of which Russian administration of Caucasus permitted partial repatriation of Abkhazians from the day of signing for three years. As a result of it almost half of exiled people, 15 thousand Muhajirs could return to Abkhazia.

**In the third paragraph: *Abkhazia in the foreign politics of Ottoman Empire (the first quarter of XX century)*** is cleared up, during the years of the First World War (1914-1918), activity of Ottoman government with the purpose of military rushing in Abkhazia and creating a stronghold, as well fighting of democratic republic of Georgia against Ottoman intervention and Russian bolshevism.

Ottoman aimed to join Abkhazia, with the northern Caucasus, in Islamic state of the northern Caucasus under the protection of Ottoman, which would be directed against Russia.

After involving in the First World War on Germany side, Ottoman military commanders elaborated the plans to rush surroundings of the Black Sea coast of Georgia and in Abkhazia among them. Ottoman decided to involve Georgian immigrants who were against Russia, in Sokhumi landing party. During the First World War, Georgian patriots tried to restore independence of Georgia by the help of "Committee of Independent Georgia" consisting of Georgian immigrants in Germany, Austria-Hungary and Ottoman. Military formation "Georgian Legion" created by the "Committee of Independent Georgia", fought against the Russian Empire with Ottomans on the Caucasus front.

In November 1914, Ottoman planned to make landing detachment in Sokhumi, but resistance of "Committee of Independent Georgia" failed Ottoman plan. According to Chairman of "Committee of Independent Georgia" Petre Surguladze, in existing military-political situation, such military raid in Abkhazia, would not bring any profit and only would cause its complete damage. So, in November 1914 this planned landing in Sokhumi failed.

After Bolshevik revolution in Russia and destroying Caucasian front Ottoman gained dominated military situation in Caucasus. On May 26<sup>th</sup> 1918 Georgia declared independence and on June 4<sup>th</sup> 1918 in Batumi, occupied by Ottoman, Georgia and Ottoman signed agreement “About peace and friendship”. Agreement was very hard for Georgia and demanded territorial concessions from it, but it must be mentioned that ratification of Batumi agreement failed and it has never to come into force.

It’s remarkable, that after independence of Georgia, declared by the support and patronage of ally Germany, Ottoman leadership continued to prepare military rushing in Abkhazia. On June 27<sup>th</sup> 1918 at the outfall of Kodori river, Ottoman landing party took place in noble Aleksandre Sharvashidze’s patrimony. Landing consisted of Abkhazian Muhajirs and Ottoman soldiers. Will of creating military bridgehead in Abkhazia by Ottoman side, was connected to the plan, elaborated by Ottoman ruler, minister of military Enver Pasha, which foresaw creation of Muslim state of northern Caucasus by Ottoman protection. This state, in membership of which Enver Pasha considered Abkhazia too, had to become buffer between Ottoman and Russia. Government of Ottoman supporters Germany and Austria-Hungary had information about Enver pasha’s this plan. Supporters did not trust Ottoman pan-Turkish and pan-Islamic aspirations. Enver Pasha explained about the decision of landing party in Sokhumi that Abkhazia was connected with northern Caucasus and was not included in Georgia. Really, at that time jurisdiction of Georgian state was spread over Abkhazia. According to the agreement signed on June 11<sup>th</sup> 1918 between Abkhaz People’s Council and Georgian government, Abkhazia was formed as an autonomous unit of Georgia; at the central government they established the position of Minister of Abkhazian Affairs. As a result of the measures taken by general-governor of Abkhazia Giorgi Mazniashvili, Georgian army could localize and suppress military operation began from ottoman landing party.

Some deputies of Abkhaz People’s Council, having pro-Turkish orientation, tried to present landing party as the case of Muhajirs arrived from Ottoman in Abkhazia to fight against Bolsheviks. There is a base to consider actions of Bolsheviks and Ottoman soldiers in May and June of 1918 as coordinated in Abkhazia. In Abkhazia one can see inter-connection of separatist pro-Turkish and Bolshevik groups against central government of Georgia in activity of S. Basaria, the first chief of Public Council of Abkhazia.

S. Basaria’s role in the question of preparing Ottoman landing party in Abkhazia significantly was caused by his connections with “Political society of Northern Caucasus” in Istanbul, representing tool of military-political leadership of Ottoman towards Caucasus. In 1917 S. Basaria was in Istanbul in the membership of delegation of The *"Union of United Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus"*, where there is a note saved, about his meetings, in *"Caucasian Memories"* by Mustafa Butbay. It’s remarkable that S. Basaria had a friendly relation with V. Agrba, head of Bolshevik detachment “Kiaraz” acting in Abkhazia and a famous Abkhazian Bolshevik Nestor Lakoba. From his side Nestor Lakoba was in close relation with Abkhazian Muhajirs living in Ottoman Empire. Establishing Bolshevik government in Russia and activation of Bolsheviks in Abkhazia, made Abkhazian to connect with Bolsheviks against independent Georgia. We consider simultaneous demonstrations of Bolsheviks and pro-Ottoman groups in Abkhazia in May-June 1918, as connecting to each other and coordinated. In 1918 democratic republic of Georgia failed plans of pro-Ottoman partisan groups as well Bolsheviks by military forces. Government of Democratic Republic of Georgia, protected rights of Georgian people as well of Abkhazians. Questions of returning Georgian and Abkhazian Muhajirs to motherland, was presented by Georgia on the international level, being the first at that time – Allied Supreme Council.

In May 1920 Soviet Russia and in February 1921, The Government of Grand National Assembly of Turkey recognition independent of republic of Georgia, in consistence of which Abkhazia remained as an autonomous unit.

**In the conclusive part of dissertation work** is described the research results. It is underlined, that important part of history of Abkhazia, as indivisible part of Georgia, is connected with relations of Ottoman and Russia Empires, their politics, towards Georgia, as well as Caucasus. The dissertation work gives us the possibility to conclude that The Politics of Ottoman and Russian empires aimed to dominate over this strategically significant region. Correspondingly, Ottoman spread Islam in the region and Russia diligently erased influence of the oldest, Georgian Christian culture in Abkhazia. Russian Empire fought against trials of Ottoman to dominate in Abkhazia, suppressed anti-Russian demonstrations and used wars with Ottoman for exiling disobedient population of Abkhazia. For Ottoman Empire, Abkhazia represented military-political ground to guarantee domination on western Georgia from one hand and from another – strategic bridgehead for connecting with mountaineers of northern Caucasus. Stemming from this politics, Ottoman relied on local, anti-Russian forces in the struggle for military-political domination in Abkhazia, implemented military-political and financial support for pro-Ottoman groups and in the war period with Russia it moved fighting front on the territory of Abkhazia directly. During the First World War, military forces of Democratic Republic of Georgia suppressed Bolshevik danger and Ottoman military intervention in Abkhazia. Democratic and united state of Georgia, put full stop fighting of Russian and Ottoman Empires in Abkhazia. Democratic Republic of Georgia protected the rights of the whole population of Abkhazia and granted Abkhazia autonomous status within Georgia.