

E 90546  
30



GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
302, PRINCE STREET

# Georgia and the Georgian Race.

---

Restoration of Independent Georgian State  
after 117 Years' Domination by Russia.

---

PUBLISHED BY  
GEORGIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE,  
22, Albemarle Street, London, W. 1.  
1919.

# Map of Georgia.

Scale:

0 15 50 100 Miles.



This Map shows Ethnographic and Historical Frontiers of Georgian Republic.



All along the Black Sea shore oranges, lemons, bamboos, cork trees, etc., grow. At a height of 9,400 feet there are wonderful rhododendrons, and alpine grass is met even at a height of 11,500 feet. On the high mountains there are still to be met bison, wild goats, hogs, reindeer, antelopes, etc. There are also 400 varieties of birds.

The climate and beautiful scenery make Georgia very attractive—the Riviera on the Black Sea.

**Population.**—The total population of Georgia is about 4,000,000 (of whom 3,650,000 are of the Christian Greek Orthodox faith and 350,000 Mohammedans).

The capital of Georgia is Tiflis, which was founded by the Georgian King Vakhtang in the fifth century. The number of inhabitants in Tiflis is 450,000.

**Railways and Ports.**—The railway lines of Georgia are 970 miles long. The trunk line, leading from Batum through Tiflis to Baku on the Caspian Sea, is 556 miles long.

The sea coast of Georgia along the Black Sea is 345 miles long. The principal ports are : Batum, Poti, Anaklia, Soukhoun, Goudaut, Tuapse and Rezeh.

The port of Batum is the terminus of the Transcaucasian railway line and also of the petroleum pipe-line from Baku to Batum. Batum is the transit port for the whole of Georgia, Transcaucasia, Turkestan and Persia

**Mineral Wealth.**—Georgia is very rich in minerals, such as manganese, iron, copper, silver-lead, petroleum, coal, etc. The manganese industry of Georgia is famous all over the world, and a very large quantity of manganese ore is exported to all the principal countries of Europe. The development of the very rich mineral resources of Georgia offers very profitable opportunities for foreign capital.

Georgia has about 500 mineral springs, partly unexploited, among them many containing sulphur and radium, and in time her watering-places will become very popular meeting centres for European travellers.

**Agriculture.**—The agricultural resources of Georgia are considerable. The following products are grown : wheat, barley, maize, cotton, tobacco, tea, rice.





There is extensive wine-growing, and the quality of the wine is as superior as that of the French and Italian varieties.

There is also extensive fruit-growing, such as oranges, lemons, olives, peaches, plums, pears, apples, and all kinds of vegetables.

Among other branches of agriculture, silk production and bee keeping are the ancient occupations.

There are about 12,000,000 domestic animals, and the country has vast possibilities for cattle breeding.

**Trade and Industry.**—The principal ports for the foreign trade of Georgia are Batum and Poti.

From 1884–1914 the following products were exported to the countries of Western Europe from the port of Batum :—

Petroleum, 22,661,532 tons ; manganese ore, 1,676,824 tons (the bulk of this ore has been exported from the port of Poti, which is situated north of Batum on the Black Sea) ; wool, 99,832 tons ; liquorice root, 369,563 tons ; grain, 406,265 tons ; silk cocoons, 23,451 tons ; oil cake, 76,100 tons ; tobacco, 2,796 tons ; albumen, 7,520 tons ; hides, 5,363 tons ; lucerne seed, 9,460 tons ; salt, 3,650 tons ; almonds, 5,692 tons ; cotton seed, 40,661 tons ; walnut logs and boxwood, 65,053 tons ; carpets, 23,800 ; other articles, 331,998 tons.

During the same period the following articles were imported from countries of Western Europe into the port of Batum :—

Tin plate, 526,605 tons ; timber, 650,118 tons ; bricks and tiles, 113,539 tons ; sulphur, 52,857 tons ; metals, 106,537 tons ; machinery, 45,315 tons ; chemicals, 30,392 tons ; silk-worm eggs, 55 tons ; hardware, 58,518 tons ; cement, 19,215 tons ; tea, 14,986 tons ; other articles, 195,066 tons.

From 1884–1900, 75 per cent. of both export and import trade of this port was controlled by Great Britain, but she was overtaken by Germany, who for ten pre-war years controlled 65 per cent., Great Britain only participating with 7 per cent., the other countries being Austro-Hungary, France, Italy and Turkey.

The return of shipping of all nationalities which entered and cleared in the foreign trade of the port of Batum from 1883-1914 are :—

	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British .. .. .	4,287	7,362,320
Russian .. .. .	7,375	4,487,255
French .. .. .	2,002	3,324,480
Austro-Hungarian .. .. .	1,914	2,271,220
German .. .. .	1,074	1,760,250
Greek .. .. .	2,172	1,225,345
Belgian .. .. .	647	1,145,390
Italian .. .. .	531	604,720
Norwegian .. .. .	110	158,800
Dutch .. .. .	68	146,600
Danish .. .. .	125	143,540

It can be seen from this that the traffic of the port of Batum is considerable. It must also be noted that for the ten pre-war years the bulk of the German trade with this port was carried in British bottoms.

The returns of the shipping of all nationalities which entered and cleared in the foreign trade of the port of Poti (for the same period) are :—

	Vessels.	Tons.
British .. .. .	1,383	2,400,800
Austro-Hungarian .. .. .	215	420,000
German .. .. .	132	240,820
French .. .. .	150	230,470
Greek .. .. .	135	190,830
Dutch .. .. .	40	96,300
Italian .. .. .	60	94,400
Norwegian .. .. .	55	93,820
Belgian .. .. .	20	50,120
Spanish .. .. .	9	20,360

This shipping was exclusively devoted to the export of manganese ore.

The industry is very small at present, with the exception of that of manganese, petroleum and copper smelters—one of which belongs to the Caucasian Copper Company, Ltd. (British property); but there is a vast opportunity for building up a huge industry, as raw materials are available in abundance.

**Education.**—The seat of the Georgian University is Tiflis, with 35 professors and 1,000 students. There are also two

Nobility Colleges, one in Tiflis and another in Koutais ; two Theological Colleges, 25 Grammar Schools, 4,000 so-called People's Schools, 15 Agricultural Schools, 18 Technical Schools, and 28 Ladies' Needlework and Carpet-weaving Schools. A considerable number of students receive education annually at the Universities and Colleges in France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and Austria.

**Literature and the Press.**—Georgia possesses very rich ancient and modern literature, and there are translations of modern classic; of all countries. Nearly all of Shakespeare's dramas are translated into Georgian. There are about 24 daily papers and weeklies, and about 350 books published every year in half-million copies. Ninety per cent. of the total population of Georgia can read and write, and the many schools and libraries satisfy the needs of the Georgian population, which is very eager for education.

**Church.**—The Georgian Church is one of the ancient Eastern Christian Churches of the world. It is second to the Greek Orthodox Church in antiquity. The head of the Church is the Catholicos-Patriarch, who is elected by the entire nation. The present Catholicos-Patriarch is His Holiness Leonide. The hierarchy includes three Metropolitans—the first of Tiflis, the second of Koutais, the third of Chkondidi—and twelve Bishops. The residence of the Catholicos-Patriarch is in the capital of Georgia—Tiflis. The ancient cathedral and throne of the Catholicos is at Mtsketha (ancient capital of Georgia till the fifth century), near Tiflis. The Georgian Church is independent from the State, and its funds and properties are administered by the Laymen's Committee, and the clergy is elected by the parishes.

**Societies.**—The capital of Georgia—Tiflis—is the educational, literary, commercial and social centre of Georgia. Many Georgian societies have their head offices in that city, amongst them particularly important are : the Georgian Literary Society, with its 35 branches and 20,000 members, this Society being chiefly engaged in distributing popular literature amongst the peasants and establishing schools ; the Georgian Charitable Society, with its 24 branches, was started in 1914 in connection with the war, and has done great work in helping the families



of the soldiers and poor people in general; the Georgian Agricultural Society; Georgian Historical and Ethnographical Society; Georgian Geographical Society; Georgian Journalists' Society; Georgian Teachers' Society; Georgian Artists' Society; Georgian Technical Society; Georgian Mining Engineers' Society; Georgian Pharmaceutical Society; Georgian Medical and Naturalist Society.

There are also various Co-operative Unions; the co-operative movement in Georgia is very strong. There are about 400 co-operative societies—85 per cent. of the Georgian peasantry are organised co-operators.

**Constitution of Georgia.**—Georgia has been an Independent Republic since November 22nd, 1917. At the head of it is an elected President, and Cabinet Ministers are elected from amongst Members of Parliament. The seat of Parliament is Tiflis.

**Army.**—The Georgian Voluntary Army has a force of 70,000 men, comprising all arms, and fine corps of officers and experienced generals; amongst them 120 staff officers; one Staff College, and two Military Schools for officers.

**Political Life.**—There are the following Parties: National Democratic, Radical, National Socialistic, and Social Democratic. All parties are strongly democratic in their attitude, and the population takes a lively interest in their conduct. The election system is based on the broadest franchise for both men and women.

**History.**—The origin of the race dates from 1,000 years B.C., when it was one of the dominant races in Asia Minor. It gradually emigrated towards Caucasia, where it has now been fixed for the last two thousand years.

Numerous theories exist as to the affinity of the Georgian race to other races originally inhabiting Asia Minor. Professor Lenorman declares that the Georgians are descendants of that great Hittite race which was master of Asia Minor. One of the recent theories by Professor Marr, classifies Georgians as belonging to the Japhetic branch. With further scientific investigations more light will be thrown on that question.

Anthropologically, the Georgian race is brachycephalous, as is proved by all the skull measurements as obtained by excavations in the Caucasus.

Georgia's geographical situation, as a bridgehead between Europe and Asia, has made her from ancient times a battleground for many invading races. The Romans, Byzantians, Persians, Arabs, Mongols and the Turks have all in turn tried to dominate the country.

The Georgians have a distinct language of their own and their own distinct character as a race, which they have preserved through centuries of struggle.

Christianity was preached in Georgia as early as the first century by the Apostle St. Andrew and St. Nino, and it was adopted as a religion of the State in 323, when the Byzantine Emperor Constantine sent Greek bishops to convert the King of Georgia and the people to Christianity. Persia and Byzantium began to rival each other for influence in Georgia.

In 643 Georgia was invaded by the Arabs and the country was dominated by them up to 750. Towards the second half of the eighth century Georgia began a stubborn struggle for unity and independence, but was invaded by the Turks, who destroyed her capital—Tiflis, and devastated the country.

With the ascendancy of King David in 966 Georgia was able to unite and became a powerful kingdom.

Under the celebrated Queen Tamar, 1184–1212, Georgia became a powerful empire in the Middle East, with strong military organisation; beautiful monasteries, fine specimens of Georgian architecture, were built; many schools and centres of learning were created and civilisation attained its high level. Georgia built many monasteries in Palestine and on Mount Athos, and many of her celebrated sons received education in Greece, where they studied Greek philosophy.

In 1224 Georgia was invaded by Mongols, who at the same time conquered Russia, India, Persia and a great part of Asia Minor. The Mongol hordes worked fearful devastations, and remained in Georgia till 1318, when they were expelled by King George VI., the Brilliant.

For about forty-two years Georgia had time for reconstruction, but she was again invaded by Mongols in 1360, under Themur Lang. Georgia offered very stubborn and heroic resistance to the Mongol hordes, so that they could not proceed further westwards. Thus little Georgia prevented the Mongols from carrying their devastating campaign far into Europe. In 1395 the Mongols were finally expelled, and Georgia extended her frontiers down to Persia.

With the fall of Constantinople in 1453, Georgia was deprived of the only connecting link with Europe, and she was left alone as an isolated Christian kingdom, pressed on all sides by Persia, Turkey and Mohammedan mountaineers from Northern Caucasia.

From that day the supreme struggle for the defence of the independence of Georgia began. She was constantly invaded by Persia and Turkey. Her heroic struggle was subject of admiration of many European nations. Turkey invaded the southern provinces of Georgia around the Black Sea coast, and with her customary brutality began to introduce Islam forcibly. The Georgians offered very stubborn resistance, and defence of their religion continued for three centuries. In this struggle more than one-half of the population in the southern provinces perished, and the rest were converted to Islam, particularly children, although fully preserving the Georgian language and consciousness of their race up to the present time.

Hard pressed, Georgia began to look for help towards the North—to Russia, who had the same religion as herself, and which country was gradually extending towards the South.

On July 24th, 1783, King Heraclius II. of Georgia concluded a Treaty of Voluntary Alliance with the Russian Empress Catherine II. This Treaty guaranteed Georgia complete independence in her internal affairs.

**Russian Domination.**—Persia and Turkey, infuriated by this Alliance, invaded Georgia in 1795, and the promised help from Russia not forthcoming, she was subjected to new fearful devastations. In 1801 the Russian Emperor Alexander I. violated the Treaty and annexed the Kingdom of Georgia.

Britain and France protested, but in vain. In 1811 the independence of the Georgian Church, which had been maintained since 542, was abolished by Russia, and the Georgian Church was placed under the Exarch of Georgia appointed by the Russian Holy Synod.

Dr. E. J. Dillon, in his remarkable book "The Eclipse of Russia," reveals the cynical methods of the Russian Government in treating Georgia when he quotes a Russian diplomat as follows: "We have only two ways of dealing with weaker nations, and they are exemplified in our treatment of Georgia and Bulgaria. The Kingdom of Georgia came to us and asked for an Alliance. We made it. Some time afterwards the Georgians fell upon evil days. Being attacked by Persia, they *claimed our active help as equals and allies*. But we answered that we were too busy elsewhere, and left them to their fate. Thereupon the Persians fell upon them and killed two men out of every three, so that the nation was literally bleeding to death. Then the Georgians came to us a second time, now no longer as equals and allies, but as humble suppliants."

There we have the Russian "method" in its naked state, and, as Dr. Dillon rightly says, "the system carried out in Georgia was the same as was being tried in Turkey and elsewhere." (See page 225.)

During the first half of the nineteenth century Russia gradually abolished all privileges guaranteed to Georgia, like the law courts, administration, the monetary system, and introduced harsh administration. Georgia offered stubborn resistance to all these measures, but all was in vain, as she was surrounded by hostile Persia and Turkey, and the ever-increasing penetration of Russia did not give her a chance to restore her independence.

The national institutions of Georgia have been abolished, the language suppressed in the schools, and every chance of individual development crushed. Forcible Russification has been introduced, and the young generation has been refused education in its own native tongue. The national Georgian army was disbanded in 1874.

In this way the small Christian nation which expected protection has received heavy blows one after another, and



97.8.067  
30



this during the nineteenth century, when Russia posed as a liberator of the small Slav people in the Balkans and the protector of Christianity in the East.

In spite of this harsh treatment, Georgia has been the mainstay of all the wars of Russia against Turkey in 1829, 1855 and 1877, mainly because she wanted to liberate her lost provinces from Turkish domination.

Since 1880 the Russian Government began a colonisation campaign in Georgia, and the hard-pressed Georgian peasantry had to give way in many places to the Russian peasants, who were liberally assisted by Government funds to populate the rich lands of Georgia. The fertile rich Black Sea shores of Georgia were taken away from the industrious Georgian peasants and shared out amongst the Russian Generals and Ministers, who acquired enormous estates and summer residences all along the coast.

The educated Georgians were not given the chance to occupy prominent positions in their own country, and in their stead most corrupted Russian officials were given positions in order to maintain a system of organised tyranny.

The Revolution of 1905 awakened the hopes of the Georgian nation for better treatment, and the entire nation unanimously demanded Home Rule. But this noble movement was drowned in oceans of blood, and thousands of the best Georgians were banished to Siberia—never to return. Such was the treatment of Georgia throughout the nineteenth century up to the present war.

**Georgia's Share in the Present War.**—At the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Germany, Georgia mobilised about 200,000 of her best manhood, who had never been allowed to defend their native country against their hereditary enemy the Turk, but had to perish in the far fields of East Prussia and Galicia. Nevertheless, the nation as a whole cherished the indomitable belief that the victory of the Allied cause would bring a better future for Georgia, and the lives of hundreds of thousands of Georgians who lay slain thousands of miles away from their native country may not be sacrificed in vain if their justified hopes are realised.

**Georgia and the Revolution of 1917.**—The outbreak of the Revolution in Russia again raised the hopes of the nation for regaining her liberty—but all in vain ! The new Government of Russia soon gave her to understand that it meant to follow the centralistic system of the Tsarist régime with regard to the many nationalities inhabiting the former Russian Empire. All attempts to organise Georgian life along national lines were hampered shamefully by Kerensky's Government.

**Georgia and the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.**—With the appearance of the Bolsheviks and collapse of the centralistic rule, the Georgians, together with the Tartars and Armenians, formed the independent Transcaucasian Republic, and refused to recognise the Bolsheviks. The Bolsheviks treacherously surrendered the ancient provinces of Georgia—Batum and Ardahan—to Turkey, and the latter immediately took advantage for occupying same. But the Georgian national army only yielded to the brutal force of the Turks, as it was isolated from Allied assistance and left without ammunition.

**Germany and Georgia.**—Realising the geographical position of Georgia as the shortest route to Persia, Afghanistan and India, Germany tried to interfere, like in Finland, as “ saviour ” and mediator between her and Turkey. On 26th May, the Georgian Republic declared its independence, and Germany recognised it immediately ; and on 24th June the German troops landed at the port of Poti and proceeded to Tiflis, the capital of Georgia. In the supplementary Treaty the Bolsheviks recognised the independence of Georgia, but nevertheless continued to molest her as much as they could.

Germany tried, in vain, to impose one of her Princes as ruler of the country, but it failed against the Socialistic majority, which presented a solid democratic front to the schemes of Germany.

From the time of landing of the German troops after the collapse of Turkey, Germany and Turkey had hard diplomatic struggles over Georgia, and on 12th October of 1918 German troops left Georgia as a result of the utter collapse in the West.

**Georgia and Russia.**—Georgia is at present facing her enemies the Cossacks from the North, who want to crush her and the

3-20c

n96/98



whole of Transcaucasia, and in this way continue the disastrous policy of the Tsarist régime for penetrating into Asia Minor and Persia.

1. Russia has no claim to Georgia as a "conqueror," because Georgia was never conquered by her, but concluded a voluntary alliance with her by the Treaty of 1783.

2. Georgia has been *de jure* independent country since 1801, when Russia forcibly annexed her, violating the Treaty of 1783.

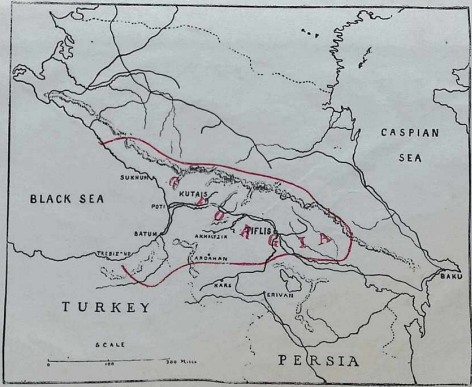
3. Russia has no claims to Georgia on racial grounds.

4. Russia's only aim in being in Georgia is imperialistic—for using her as a jumping-off place for conquering the whole of Asia Minor and Persia.

5. Georgia has determined her fate by *declaring Independence*.

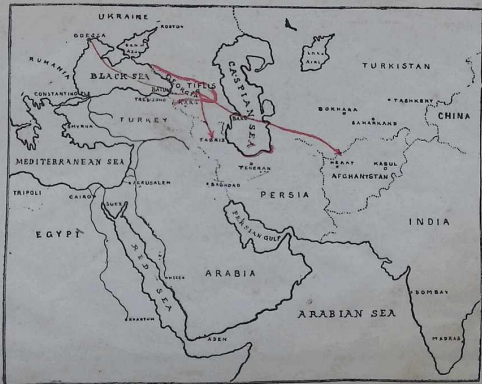
**Georgia and Peace Conference.**—Georgia is insisting upon her independence through her Delegation at the Peace Conference, and cannot trust to place her fate in the hands of Russia. She would live in peaceful friendship with her neighbour Armenia, and be the vanguard for protecting Western ideals in the Middle East just as much as she has been the apostle of Byzantian civilisation from the third century up to the time of the fall of Byzantium in 1453. Russia has never been to her anything else but oppressor, and it will be a crying injustice if she is thrust again, against her will, into that huge colossus which has been a most cruel oppressor of all non-Russian nationalities.

The liberation of small nationalities must be thorough and final, as without that Europe will again be shaken by conflagrations more violent than ever, and it is the moral duty of civilised Powers of Europe to see that an ancient Christian race like the Georgian is not left alone at a time when the fate of small nationalities seems to have the careful attention of all the Great Powers, who are anxious to create the League of Nations.



This Map indicates the position of Georgian State in Caucasia.





This Map indicates position of Georgia as the pivot of the Middle East.

E 90.546  
30

პარლამენტის ეროვნული ბიბლიოთეკა



E 90.546/3 0