

**RELIGIOUS AND NATIONAL ASPECTS  
OF THE SACRIFICE  
FOR THE HOMELAND OF PAATA SAAKADZE**

**ABSTRACT**

This article deals with relations between Georgia and Safavid Iran in the first quarter of the 17th century and fierce struggle of the great Georgian Christian commander Giorgi Saakadze against Shah Abbas. It explores national and religious aspects of the sacrifice for the homeland on the part of Paata Saakadze, the beloved son of Grand Mouravi and its importance for Georgia at the time as well as for the country in general.

Based on foreign documents, for the first time, the article depicts the preparations for Giorgi Saakadze's battles against Shah-Abbas I, and the relationship between Giorgi Saakadze and the Georgians imprisoned in Iran - Ketevan the Martyr, Luarsab II the Holy Martyr and others.

Extensive Georgian and foreign historical documents have led to the logical conclusion that Giorgi Saakadze had long been preparing himself for an uprising against Shiite Iran and Shah Abbas I, and that the sacrifice of Paata Saakadze on the part of himself and his father was a deliberate and conscious step towards saving Christian Georgia.

**Keywords:** History of Georgia, Georgian-Iran relations (XVII century), Paata Saakadze, Giorgi Saakadze.