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Towards the Ethnic History of the Georgian Nation

Summary

Before becoming a nation, the Georgian ethnos consisted of several Kartvelian units (tribe union of tribes). The establishment of the Georgian nation is a fact since the formation of the unified Georgian state with the attribute such as the common Georgian culture, the Georgian script, the Georgian literary language, the common religion. After the adoption Christianity, which became the Georgians' national religion and which was one of the main components of the Georgians' national self-consciousness, the establishment of the Georgian nation came to an end.

Up to the late feudal period the ethnic processes in Georgia developed in the line of ascent. After the collapse of the unified Georgian state, the start was given the disintegrational phenomena of the Georgian nation. They were caused by several reasons of them two moments should be mainly identified: a) group migration by foreign ethnic units on territory of the Georgians and, subsequently, the change of the ethno-demographic situation in various parts of the country; and b) the confessional disintegrative processes were under way in the northern part of Georgia where some groups of Georgians became the Abkhazians and the Ossettians in the surroundings of the foreign ethnoses which had come to Georgia since the 16th-17th centuries.

Since the 20th century the disintegrative processes in the Georgian nation stopped and the integrational phenomena took place. Hence, the principal condition for the unified Georgian ethnos, for the progressive development of the Georgian nation is the Georgian statehood. Though nowadays there occur a very dangerous phenomena, as the intensive emigration of the Georgians.