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POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN KUTAISI IN THE 2ND HALF OF THE 19TH C.

The past of Kutaisi is rich in interesting and noteworthy events. Unfortunately, the all-round study of its history is hindered by the scarcity of relevant sources.

The 2nd half of the 19th c. is the period of great changes in the history of Georgia. In the 1860s the process of social and political differentiation was observable in the Georgian public. These changes had their economic foundation.

The main part of the source study basis of the paper is the Georgian press issued in Kutaisi in the 2nd half of the 19th c., namely, the newspaper the "Shroma". It came out in 1881-1883 and covered issues of political and cultural life. The newspaper adhered to the position of the national liberation of the Georgian people. These materials were obtained from various newspapers and magazines published in Georgia at that time. Those editions are chosen which were published stably, though with delays, during one or two years. They are grouped according to practical value, as the world-view crisis of the country at that period defined not only the heterogeneous attitude towards the political and social question, but also reflected the processes occurring in various spheres in contradictory ways. Press articles, critical materials, reviews, news items are one of the main documentary sources of the topic under study, the bulk of which have survived only in the press, not being recorded in archival documents.