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DISTRIBUTION OF FABRICATED HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS IN WESTERN GEORGIA IN THE 19TH C.

The establishment of the Russian rule in Georgia was followed by the distribution of fabricated historical documents. This became especially intensive in the 1870s-1890s, in connection with the approval of the nobility in western Georgia, namely, Samegrelo in the rank. The Russian government, striving to Russify quickly the newly conquered country, decided above all, to verify the social structure of the Georgian people, in order to turn the privileged rank into a reliable support for its rule. For this purpose, written documents confirming the possessions and rank were demanded from all social strata. The nobility, the majority of which had no similar written documents, found themselves in a difficulty. In the period of the independent state of Georgia, such documents were not given crucial importance. The social relationships were based on oral tradition. All this led to drawing up and distribution of fabricated documents, which turned into one of the forms of struggle against the Russian economic and social policy in Georgia. This period in the social life of western Georgia was marked by a rush in search for the rank of nobility.