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FROM THE HISTORY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KAKHETI AND IRAN IN 20S OF THE 17TH CENTURY

During one of his campaigns in Georgia Shah Abas I, the ruler of Iran, appointed Bagrat Khan, the elder son of King Simon's brother Daud Khan, to rule over Kartli. By this time Bagrat Khan (David XI) had been converted to the Muslim faith. By this period Luarsab II, king of Kartli had already been a hostage in Iran. It should be noted here that Shah Tamaz I appointed Daud Khan (being *already converted to Muslim faith*) as the ruler of Kartli, in the 60s of the 16th century.

Bagrat Khan was an obedient official to Iran in Kartli, and the stability of his power was completely dependant on the Iran royal court. Shah Abas I did not spare efforts to encourage Bagrat Khan's power in Krtli. However, he could not accomplish his aims as the local population did not recognize the renegade Bagrat Khan as their King.

Bagrat Khan held his position in Kartli for three years. He died in 1619. The period of Bagrat Khan's ruling was distinguished for the Iran crown with the fact that after the half of the century it succeeded to put the monarch in the Kartli and the kingdom who ruled in complete obedience to the Shah's authority.