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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GEORGIA AND RUSSIA IN LEVAN GOTUA'S *THE GRIEF OF HEROES*

In the novel the "Grief of Heroes" Levan Gotua once again posed the question of political orientation of Georgia with particularly tense severity. The epoch (16-17 cc.) described in the novel became far more tense after establishing the diplomatic relationship between the two countries. Alexandre the king of Kakheti, tried to find his shelter under Russia's protection and with this step save kingdom from the most critical situation. But his endeavors, instead of reaping benefit, deepened the aggravated relationship with Iran and Turkey.

Levan Gotua features the whole lot of the situation with historical truth. Based on the comprehensive knowledge and critical reasoning of the question the author provides objective judgment of the Georgian--Russian relationships, considering the future prospects and expediency of the question and as different from the Soviet ideology he gives rather skeptical assessment of this union.

Levan Gotua, who was writing the novel locked up in Vorkuta concentration camp, with his vision definitely opposed to the Soviet biased ideological international policy seeing the Russian protection as a hopeless undertaking in preserving Georgia's political independence.