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TURKISH-GEORGIAN TRADE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE LATE HALF OF THE 18TH CENTURY

(Traders' guilds)

"Books of Merchant Guilds" provide important information of the foreign trade relationships useful for the study of the 18th century social and economic conditions in Georgia.

Georgian records show that there were significant differences in the possession of wealth between the association members. The well-to-do businessmen invest the principle, and the minor merchants carried trading operations. In the late half of the 18th century the guilds seem to take leading positions in the foreign trade. Records of "the guilds" tell about the merchants of Tbilisi and Gori to have the active role in the trade relationships between Turkey and Iran. The member merchants import goods to Turkey from Iran and the Trans-Caucasian towns.

The guild of Kutaisi merchants has trade relations with Turkey. They have trading posts (Khula) in Akhaltsikhe. The book of guilds gives lists of goods being imported from Turkey, as well as the lists of Georgian productions to meet the demands of the Turkish market.

The activities of the associations of the Georgian merchants show that the trade and monetary relationships of the Georgian kingdoms with Turkey became markedly active in the late half of the 18th century.