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BREST-LITOVSK PEACE TREATY AND THE QUESTION OF BATUMI ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

The situation that developed after the Russian revolution of 1917 in the geopolitical region of the Caucasus turned out favorable for Turkey. It faced the reality that offered a unique opportunity not only to claim back the Russian occupied Anatolia territories but also to strengthen its positions in the Caucasus and the Central Asia. At the Brest-Litovsk conferences (held in 22nd December, 1917 and in 3^d March 1918) the Ottoman delegation took advantage of Russia's weakness and put forward the claims for the territories of the Southern Caucasus. According to Brest Treaty Russia was to withdraw its military forces not only from Anatolia territories but from Qars, Artaani and Batumi administrative units as well; as for fate of these administrative units it should be resolved by way of self-determination of their populations.

Obviously, the delegation of the Trans-Caucasus could prove the groundlessness of the Turkish claims at the conference, but the commissariat did not consider it necessary to send its representative at the negotiation; in other words, the Trans-Caucasus government made no efforts to defend Georgia's interests at the official surrender conference.

In the 15th March, 1918 the Fourth Congress of the Russian Council ratified the Brest-Litovsk Treaty. The decision made in Brest-Litovsk put Georgia's territorial integrity at stakes and threatened the stability of the Batumi administrative unit.