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### **FROM THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNAL POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GEORGIAN KINGDOMS AND PRINCIPALITIES IN THE BEGINNING OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

In the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> c. Georgia witnessed a very grave political situation in the country. Small kingdoms and principalities formed as a result of disintegration of the unitary state. The crumbling process was compounded by vying between the units. Foreign policy was painful. Ottoman Turks and Iran threatened with the invasion of the country. Mzechabuki, Atabag of Samtskhe (1500-1515) tried to take advantage of the troublesome situation and cut off the Samtkhe dioceses from the Mtskheta Catholicosate, however, owing to the great honour of the Patriarch Mzechabuki could not succeed in his attempts.

During the years 1505-1525 Kartli was ruled by David X. He did not exercise strong authority of the initial years of his reign. Using David X's weakness for their own benefit Kings of Imereti and Kakheti carried out military raids against the Kartli Kingdom. More than that Kings of Imereti and Kakheti retained the same titles as those of the King of united Georgia as a political speculation to justify their actions. In fact they were separatist kings who undermined the idea of the unitary state. They failed to ally themselves with each other against Karli and their independent attempts proved insufficient to subjugate the kingdom without the assistance from the alien forces. In this state of affairs when Ottoman Turks and Iran gathered ominous clouds over the country for its complete occupation, the animosity between the Georgian kingdoms and principalities greatly endangered the common national interests.