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THE QUESTION OF GEORGIA'S AUTONOMY AND THE GEORGIAN INTELLIGENTSIA

The question of restoring Georgia's statehood was first deposed in *Iveria*, edited by Ilia Chavchavadze. Later energetic polemics about the issues autonomy and federative systems appeared in the newspapers *Tsnobis Purtseli* and *Sakartvelo*.

The idea of autonomy was promulgated by Grigol Rtskhiladze, Mikheil Javakhishvili, Vasil Tsereteli, Kita Abashidze, Aleksandre Agladze, Vladimer Lortkipanidze and others. In 1900s even the Russia's imperialistic government supported the idea of Georgia's autonomy.

The chief point of publicists publishing in Georgian press was the demand of restoring the Georgian as the official language of the autonomy. As for the other ethnic groups living here they should be provided legal grounds for the preservation of their language, culture and customs, the a possibility for the unencumbered freedom of development.