

## NINO VASHAKMADZE

### THE FIRST SOVIET ELECTION IN KUTAISI MAZRA (ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT), IN FEBRUARY 1922

In February-March 1921 the Bolshevik Russia invaded the Democratic Republic of Georgia and extended its influence on the South Caucasus one more times. By that period the Democratic Republic of Georgia had managed to develop certain institutions of western orientation but now it was bound to accept the institutions characteristic to authoritative regimes.

Though the country was proclaimed as the Soviet Socialist Republic of Georgia, the Soviet councils, formed in 1917, had been already abolished by the Democratic Government having replaced them with constitutional organizations. Thus, there were no soviets to hold the power. The Soviet government organized revolutionary committees (*Revkoms*) in the centre so in peripheries as the transitional form of political governance who should prepare the foundation for the delivery of power to councils. New regulation, specially cut out for carrying out the election campaign, and the administrative resources were to grant the victory of the non-popular Bolshevik party. Moreover, in this condition the non-communist parties chose to boycott the elections and only the leftist, Social-Federalist party decided on collaborating with the government. Social-Federalists were welcomed by the government as the admissible option for that period.

I have shown the process of the first Soviet election campaign on the example of Kutaisi administrative district. In spite of the specific cases the given situation was analogous for the country reflecting its general picture: Under the most severe terror and persecution of anti-Soviet and anti-Russian groups the election provided the victory for the Communist Party. The Soviets formally were granted the legislative authority but in fact its real function was to mask the dictatorship of the proletariat and the communist party.