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### POLEMICS BETWEEN GIORGI ZDANOVIC AND NOE ZHORDANIA ON THE KUTAISI NOBILITY BANK

In the late half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Georgia's credit providing institutions, - various kinds of banks, - played great roles in the social and economic life of the country. Tbilisi and Kutaisi Nobility (or Land) Banks, whose activities were not confined to only economic spheres, enjoyed particular importance over the others.

Kutaisi Nobility Bank (1876-1917) was the first European type lending institution that had greatly promoted the economic and social and cultural life of the west Georgia. Although the bank's official name was "Kutaisi Nobility Bank" but, in fact it was in charge of the money reserves of the entire west Georgia. The representatives of the nobilities of Imereti, Racha – Lechkhumi, Svaneti, Guria and Megrelia took active parts in the management of the bank. The bank was essentially different from the analogous bank in the Russian empire. Kutaisi Nobility bank was in the center of attention of the Georgian people as it was not only a financial stronghold but also an inseparable part for the national liberation movement in the west Georgia. Kutaisi Nobility Bank financed the Nobility Gymnasium and some other school, Georgian Theatre, publication of Georgian books, and with this activities provided invaluable service to the fight of the Georgian people for their independence.

The present paper discusses the polemics, related to the Kutaisi Nobility Bank, between Giorgi Zdanovic (1854-1917) a famous Georgian publicist, statesman, and a revolutionary - populist and Noe Zhordania (1868 – 19 53) an ideology leader of the "The Third Group" of the social democrats