

## MAMUKA MENABDE

### FROM THE HISTORY OF INTERNAL POLITICAL RELATIONS OF THE GEORGIAN KINGDOMS AND PRINCIPALITIES IN THE 40-50S OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

The unfavorable foreign policy situation for Georgia in the 40-50s of the 16<sup>th</sup> century had seriously strained the relationship between the Georgian kingdoms and *principalities*. The chief heir of united Georgia's statehood was Kartli Kingdom, which appeared in the center of internal political relations and which by that period had to repel five whirlwind invasions of Iran. Shah Tamaz' (1524-1576) of Iran's invasions' main military target in Georgia was always Kartli Kingdom. In that compounded circumstances King Bagrat III (1510-15654) of Imereti and King Levan (1518-1574) of Kakheti paid homage to Shah Tamaz. Consequently, King Luarsab I (1527-1556) had to resist Iran invasions almost without any assistance from the other Georgian kingdoms. The king of Kartli, unlike the other Georgian kings of this period, never confined himself to only the interests of his kingdom and eagerly offered his assistance to other Georgian kingdoms and principalities in spite of the fact that their rulers had often left him behind single-handed exposed to danger.

Though the king of Kartli faced the enemy mainly all alone, the Shah of Iran could not succeed in subjugating the Kartli kingdom. Such an outcome of events had profound significance in the strengthening of the Georgian national spirit.