

EVGENI BLIADZE

THE ISSUE OF GEORGIA'S FOREIGN POLITICAL ORIENTATION IN NIKOLOZ BARATASHVILI'S POEM *"FATE OF GEORGIA"*

It has been two centuries since Nikoloz Baratashvili's birth but his legacy still remains a central focus for scholars from various fields. The Soviet period was especially fruitful for such discussions which primarily concentrated on Georgia's foreign political orientation so vividly articulated by N. Baratashvili in his poem the *Fate of Georgia*: "Georgia will be protected by the Russia, it is a matter of time".

The Soviet scholars enthusiastically discussed the above citation, praised and applauded Russia as a savior of our country. Therefore, they complimented N. Baratashvili for such an intelligent assessment and for foreseeing Russia's attitude towards Georgia by articulating the essential idea. However, nobody was posing a question: why should Russia be Georgia's protector?

The poem was written in 1839 when Georgia was divided into two governorates and was recognized as part of Russia. The very issue could not escape our notice leading us to provide an opposing answer.