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ON RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND GEORGIA IN NIKOLOZ BARATASHVILI'S LITERARY LEGACY

Nikoloz Baratashvili's poem *Fate of Georgia* provides a well-defined issue of Georgia's foreign orientation. The poet's attempt is to contemplate from a distant perspective and articulate the idea to a wider audience on how appropriate was allowing the alliance between Georgia and Russia. Through the analysis of considerations articulated by Erekle II, the King of Kartli and Kakheti, and Solomon Lionidze, the Vice-Chancellor, the poem reflects the attitudes towards the Russian-Georgian relations held by their contemporary Georgian society.

On the part of Erekle II, Nikoloz Baratashvili demonstrated the position of those for whom the alliance with Russia was highly desirable, while portraying Solomon Lionidze as a politician with anti-Russian tendencies.

It is notable that the author's position in strophes of the poem is at times either pro-Russian or anti-Russian. It should be noted that Nikoloz Baratashvili, who had been an official serving the Russian Empire at the beginning of the 19th century could not give himself more freedom to assess the the Russian-Georgian relations in all respects.

The problem indicated by Nikoloz Baratashvili has been critical since the turn of the 18th-19th centuries, continued to be so in the first quarter of the 20th century and still remains crucial in the 21st century.