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NIKO BERDZENISHVILI ON NATURE OF RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT IN GEORGIA

The history of Georgia of the 19th-20th centuries was not among special research interests of a famous Georgian historian Niko Berdzenishvili (1895-1965). His sphere of scholarly inquiry mainly included the issues of the genesis and development of the Georgian feudal society. The political orientation that the Georgian feudal government considered to be a solution for a country surrounded by muslim countries was also another special part of the scholar's research. Unlike his predecessors who claimed that Georgia's only aim was finding a protector and that the Georgian diplomacy was powerless and limited, Niko Berdzenishvili through critical analysis of extensive documentary materials demonstrated that the Russian-Georgian relations were founded on political and economic interests of both countries.

Even though Niko Berdzenishvili's works provide a specifically accurate and in-depth discussion on historical facts and phenomena, it should be noted that he failed to avoid (which is understandable) schematic representations typical to the Bolshevik empire, as such schematic accounts were applied in historical scholarly literature concerned with Russian-Georgian relations. Niko Berdzenishvili's interpretation of the nature of the Russian government in Georgia was in-depth, accurate and objective.