

MANANA CHICHINADZE
THE RED DIRECTORS ACCORDING
TO MIKHEIL JAVAKHISHVILI'S "DAMPING CHAIN" AND
NIKO SHIUKASHVILI'S "DIRECTOR SURMADZE"

There is a lot in common between the stories "Damping Chain" (1925 – 26) and "Director Surmadze" (1936). First, the main characters are "red directors", second, – in both stories the writers express their protests towards the Bolshevik regime, third – none of them were published by the authors.

The stories of Mikheil Javakhishvili and Niko Shiukashvili clearly show a real portrait of totalitarianism, which painfully influenced nearly all spheres of human life: economics, education, culture, religion, etc. The play reveals Bolshevism's antihuman nature when considering it to be the socio-political or ideological doctrine. It destroys human psyche, equally destroying sympathy, love and loyalty. The author exposes the epoch, which judges people according to their worldview, and tries to show the human existence in a different way.

The stories "Damping Chain" and "Director Surmadze" reveal the negative aspects of government, showing how that epoch lacked moral ideals.

Mikheil Javakhishvili wrote the story in 1925–1926, "Director Surmadze" was written later, in 1936. With these works they protested against the violence of the Soviet Union as other Georgian writers, showed the characters of the red directors in their works, which admired revolutionary ideals. They worked for the government and did not even have their own goals or desires. They were like robots, not men.

Both writers' goal is to show that the most important thing is to ensure the prosperity of people rather than become slaves of party interests. Respecting the principles or traditions maintained for centuries is also very important.