

## **APRIL 9 (09.04.1989) PHENOMENON IN CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT**

### **ABSTRACT**

One of the directions of information warfare is the falsification of the essence of historical events for political purposes. Despite wide exposure of the modern world wide web, extensive pressure exerted on information may be used to manipulate even the latest historical facts. The proposed article discusses the attempt of fabricating the very essence of April 9, 1989 phenomenon on the part of pro-Russian forces.

For every right-minded Georgian, April 9, 1989 represents a symbol of confronting the Russian empire, after April 9, 1989 when the Soviet troops implemented special operation against peaceful protesters demanding the reestablishment of Georgia's independence outside Parliament, on the central square of the country. It was the circumstances of April 9 that provided the psychological basis for the victory of the national liberation movement and for the successful referendum of March 31, 1991 in Georgia the results of which led to the reestablishment of state independence of Georgia on April 9, 1991. Thus, April 9 represents Georgia's striving for independence and the subsequent victory.

Thirty years passed after April 9, though the very phenomenon has been evaluated as a tragedy by the Government of Georgia, political circles and the majority of historians. The similarly indistinct qualification is widely spread on the web. Such interpretation of an important historical event was only beneficial to Russian Empire to disguise the aggressive behavior against Georgia and, generally, Caucasus.

Thousands witnessed the events of April 9, 1989. Three cameras (operated by G. Khaindrava, Y. Rost, and KGB employee) were recording the night of April 9; lots of other documentary materials are also available. Therefore, the decisive assessment of the event was possible. Despite this fact, the 2019 survey amply reveals that the essence of April 9 is mostly obscure not only for the Wikipedia authors but also for the Georgian youth today, cf. Imedi TV survey entitled "What happened on April 9, 1989?"

The reason for such misunderstanding is simple: the Georgian government, specifically, the representatives of historiography or educational system are disinterested in manifesting the real essence of April 9. Moreover, it is logical to assume that certain political forces in Georgia are interested in internationally suppressing the aggression on the part of the Russian Empire from April 9, 1989 up to the present day.

I believe, the inadequate evaluation of the above phenomenon thus far is an apparent example of operation of the Russian soft power.

**Keywords:** April 9, 1989; Recent History of Georgia; Russian-Georgian Relations; Russian Politics.