

## **GERMAN SETTLEMENTS (COLONIES) IN THE XIX CENTURY GEORGIA**

### **ABSTRACT**

Following the conquer of the kingdom of Kartli-Kakheti by the government of Tsarist Russia, it started the colonization of this region. Russian government strived to transform Georgia and Transcaucasia into the market of its manufactory and a source of raw materials. For this purpose, it was necessary to have a reliable basis in the form of the loyal elements of Tsarism. To mitigate the unrest in the country and make it compatible with Russian economic interests, Tsarism started to settle foreign colonists in Transcaucasia. First of all, it tried to settle Russian colonists here, the attempt which ended unsuccessfully. Then it proceeded with settling of (mostly) German colonists in Georgia and the Transcaucasia.

The settlement of German colonists in the Russian Empire started becoming particularly active during the reign of Ekaterine II. They were given a number of privileges. In the years 1817-18, during the office of the viceroy Ermolov, settlement of Germans began in Transcaucasia. The number of colonies has reached eight. Six of them were located in Georgia. In total, their number reached 23 by 1870s.

Russian government believed that the Germans would teach locals to cultivate the land and handicrafts, however, since time immemorial the Georgian people have been working and cultivating farming adjustable to the local climate. The Germans learned a lot from them. Georgians also learned from German the European way of producing sausages and Swiss cheese, European wine making, etc. During these two hundred years, the Germans have created particular culture and history in Georgia and Transcaucasia which will enhance our bilateral relations with the Germans.

Today, a totally new era has begun in terms of relations between Georgia and Germany. The German nation expresses sympathy and support towards Georgia who has embarked on the way to freedom and independence, leading to even greater friendship in the future.

**Keywords:** History of Georgia, Tsarist Russian policy in Georgia, German settlements in Georgia.