

**FOR DIFFERENT LINGUISTIC AND ETHNIC
SELF-PERCEPTION OF DESCENDANTS
OF EXILED AND MUHAJIR GEORGIANS**

ABSTRACT

Today, when the society engages in self-identification, national individuality or national identity is understood in two ways:

- National or ethnic identity being perceived in terms of ethnicity, ethnic community;
- National or civic identity grasped in terms of citizenship of a particular state.

The proposed article explores the role and importance of the knowledge of one's own history for understanding of a person's ethnic identity. Namely, the proposed article offers the discussion on self-perception of those citizens of Iran and Turkey who for various reasons left or were forced to leave their country 150-300 years ago. It should be noted that the analysis of reasons for leaving the motherland by those exiled to Iran or the Muhajir Georgians is directly related to the ethnic self-identification process of a certain part of living descendants of their heirs.

The genetic code of the Georgians of Iran still maintains the pain of exile, the pain that prevents them from losing Georgianness.

While in the consciousness of a larger part of the Georgian of Turkey the concept of being Muhajir (referred to as Muhajiroba) is associated with survival. The majority of them still believes that their lives had been rescued by the Ottoman Empire.

Current global tendency (i.e. citizenship equals ethnicity) leads to a dual ethnic identity of Georgians of Turkey.

Indeed, Georgians of both Iran and Turkey should commit themselves to their current states of residence, however, they are to be aware of the tragedy of their ancestors in an unbiased way.

Keywords: Georgians of Iran, Georgians of Fereydan, Muhajirs Georgians, ethnic identity.