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**FOR THE POLITICAL PORTRAIT
OF ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIA
(BASED ON THE ARTICLES PUBLISHED
IN “NEW YORK TIMES” IN 1991-1993)**

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ABSTRACT

Unfortunately, in the years before the restoration of Georgia’s state independence and at the first stage of this historic event, the role of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the leader of the Georgian people’s national liberation struggle has been mostly portrayed in a negative way in Georgia-related articles in the New York Times, while the country was striving in the direction of restoring state independence. This circumstance has primarily occurred because the authors of the above-mentioned publications were not properly aware of the situation in our country at that time and received the necessary information in this regard mainly from the Moscow bureau of the New York Times.

In terms of assessing the circumstances in our country, the situation is starting to change for the better after the arrival of Eduard Shevardnadze in Georgia.

From this time on, the authors of newspaper articles no longer refer to Georgia as a separatist republic, neither do they identify those in power at the time in our country as separatist leaders. Such a radical change in the attitude of American journalists and political scientists towards this phenomenon was, first of all, because the Soviet Empire had long since officially dissolved and mention of union republics in old terms made no sense. Based on the above materials, we can conclude that the then-existing negative attitude of American political scientists and journalists towards Georgia and its first president has significantly aggravated and further intensified the processes that have substantially hindered a real solution to the problem of restoring our state independence.

Keywords: Contemporary history of Georgia, The policy of the Soviet Union in Georgia, The work of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, The American Press.