International Relations

Forms, Bases of Ethnopolitical Conflicts and their Role in Geopolitics of Georgia

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ABSTRACT. Ethnopolitical conflicts undoubtedly occupy a special position in a diverse palette of conflicts caused by different reasons and being carriers of different character, as the most long-standing and nagging problems. Conflicts taking place in the post-Soviet space, including the South Caucasus, can be regarded as a definite echo of global changes in the geopolitical situation within the former Soviet Union (FSU) and throughout the world. As regards the conflicts going in the South Caucasus, it can also be said that since the region is in the sphere of geopolitical and economic interests of global actors of international relations, such as the USA, Russia, European Union, and also of the influential regional actors – Turkey and Iran, the final settlement of said conflicts is hardly imaginable without taking into account the interests of these states. The erroneous national policy and many other factors gave rise to open conflicts in Abkhazia and Shida Kartli, against the background of which the relaxation of attention from the central government to the regions representing potential sources of new ethnocides is observable. The latent ethno-conflicting areas include the border regions of Georgia and are distinguished by a small number of population; at that, the dominating ethnic minorities create the so-called “ethnic micro-territories” and live in the territory of Georgia that border the motherland of these ethnic groups. © 2019 Bull. Georg. Natl. Acad. Sci.

Key words: ethnopolitical conflicts, territorial claims, territorial separatism, ethnic stereotypes, socio-economic factors

At every stage of the history of mankind, the problems of ethnopolitical conflicts, regional or global security and geopolitical stability were an object of special focusing. On the assumption of the issue complexity, the final collation with a respective unequivocal and effective concept has not been achieved yet. A clear-cut evidence of it is also the fact that the operating in the Soviet Union a policy directed at democratic reforms, the so-called restructuring (perestroika), the improvement of relations and the beginning of productive collaboration with the West was perceived in the world as the final triumph of democracy, which found its reflection in the works of Francis Fukuyama [1]. Very soon, a forecast made in the “The End of History and the Last Man” collapsed, causing, in its turns, mainstreaming of the Samuel Huntington’s concept expressed in his work “The
Ethnopolitical conflicts generally manifest themselves in polyethnic states, among which is Georgia.

Polyethnicity creates a number of problems in the political sphere, such as the formation of a definite political model of coexistence of different ethnic groups in a unified state, achieving a balance in the division of political power, considering specific ethnic interests in the public policy of the state, etc. As a result, a space for ethnic politics and, correspondingly, a probability of manifestation of ethnopolitical conflicts are created [9].

It should also be mentioned that together with the impossibility of final liberation from negative nationalistic stereotypes the socio-economic differentiation characteristic of any dynamically developing society conditions inevitability of the development of ethnopolitical conflicts in polyethnic states.

Based on the above, ethnopolitical conflicts do not represent an exception either for Europe or for the world in general. In the states with developed democratic system too, a final settlement among the ethnoses living in their territory around the conflicting interests is extremely difficult. An example of this is the situation in Canada (Quebec problem), in Spain, in particular in Catalonia and the Basque Country, in the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland, Scotland) and in relatively less democratic Turkey (the Kurdish problem), where the ethnic-based conflicts turned most radical [9].

Among the causes of ethnopolitical conflicts, territorial claims should be marked out as the pivotal, for proving of which the contending parties refer to historical facts. An epoch, from which the counting out of the ethnical affiliation starts, the parties, as a rule, select at will, reasoning from the dispute objectives [10].

Another group of ethno-territorial problems is associated with an issue of formation of new independent states. Aspiration of an ethnic minority for realizing the self-determination right, expressed in the formation of an independent state, can be
qualified, on the other hand, as territorial separatism [11].

As is well known, territorial separatism has three basic types: secession, irredentism and enosis. It is noteworthy that a clear-cut qualification of the separatist movements in the territory of Georgia is rather difficult, which is conditioned by the Russia’s factor. The separatism evolution here is evidently of a transitional, multistage and somewhat of a synthetic character.

At the initial stage in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region allegedly evident secession processes could be observed; however, in the course of time prediction of their development in irredentist form is becoming more probable. This is also evidenced by an “analysis” of a well-known Russian political analyst and strategist Alexandr Dugin, communicated on 22 May, 2019 in the Internet space, where he practically excludes independent existence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and sees their future in the bosom of Russia or Georgia. As regards the existing expectations in relation to Tskhinvali region, one has to deal with a synthesis of all the three types of separatism here, since in the long run there too all is developed toward irredentism (via enosis), since the historical motherland of ethnic Ossetians is the North Caucasus, which borders Georgia, but is a constituent part of the Russian Federation.

A different situation is observed in relation to potential ethno-crisis areas, where the danger of enosis mostly could exist.

In addition to the above-listed causes, there are also psychological features/peculiarities of the origin of ethnopolitical conflicts, among which special attention deserve such factors, as education, social categorization, and ethnic stereotypes [12].

No less important are socio-economic factors of conflicts. Here the struggle of ethnic groups for material resources, division of labor, ideology and power problems, etc. should be implied [12].

Finally it should be generally mentioned that the principal basis for ethnopolitical conflicts should certainly be sought in discontent of the growing elite groups with the existing situation, and the resultant aspiration for rising in society and separation of powers, while the striving for changing the statehood is the most prevalent cause of ethnopolitical conflicts. However, in Georgian reality the priority of the bases of ethno-conflicts’ development and regulation should be obviously ascribed to the geopolitical aspirations of most influential global and regional subjects of international relations. At that, the fact that our region has always remained a proscenium of great political games should also be taken into account [13-15].
საქართველოს ერთობლიობები

ეთნოპოლიტიკური კონფლიქტების ფორმები, საფუძვლები და მათი როლი საქართველოში ყოფილი გამოსახულები

3. გაგების მიზნი

სახელმწიფო საჭიროებები მათი კვალიფიციური სტატუსის გამო და სასოფლო-საგარეჯო ურთიერთობების მიღწეული შემთხვევების პერში, სავალად შეიძლება იქნას სანამ გარემოება ქრონიკული იყოს.

ამიერკავკასიაში არსებული კონფლიქტები, შეიძლება, რომ დაახლოებით მიღწევებს ჩაანაცვლოს, მაგრამ საარჩევნო გადამწყვეტი და გამჭვირვალი მოქალაქეები შეიძლება განვითაროს როგორც ყოფილი საბჭოთა კავშირის პრობლემები და მთლიანად საქართველოში, გეოპოლიტიკურ და საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობების ზომამდე გამოვიყენოთ.

ამიერკავკასიაში არსებულ ომები და კონფლიქტები ბინადრობენ საქართველოს საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობებში, რომლებიც გამჭვირვალი არის საქართველო, რუსეთი, ევროკავშირი, არაბეთი, ჩინეთი, ინდოეთი, ევროპა, აღმოსავლეთ ახალგზის, აღმოსავლეთ ჩრდილოეთ იმპერია, ისლამური პოლიტიკა, პოლიტიკა, ბიზნეს, საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობები და სხვა.

საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობები გამჭვირვალი არიან საქართველო და მთლიანად საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობები. ამიერკავკასიაში არსებული კონფლიქტები მიღწევის შემთხვევაში გამჭვირვალი არიან ეთნოპოლიტიკური პრობლემები, რომლებიც გამჭვირვალი არიან საქართველოში.
REFERENCES


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