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Abkhazia in 1918-1921 (political aspects)

Today, Abkhazia has the status of an autonomous republic, although it is actually occupied by the Russian Federation. Abkhazia is governed by the *de facto* government. Its independence was recognized by Russia and, in exchange for various deals, by Nicaragua, Venezuela, Nauru and Syria.

Russia has been trying to separate Abkhazia from Georgia since the 19th century. For this, it used all possible methods: it stirred up separatism in Abkhazia, hatred between Abkhazians and Georgians, engaged in anti-Georgian, aggressive policy. The historical past of Georgia is being actively misinterpreted and falsification as it happened in the past. Many tendentious scientific works (S. Lakoba, O. Bghazhba, T. Achugba, D. Dbari etc.) were published in different languages. The *de facto* Abkhazian government opens Abkhazian cultural centers in various countries (e.g. Italy). Association "Europe-Abkhazia" was created. In July 2019, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, made a statement. According to him, Abkhazia and the so-called "Samkhet Ossetia" were historically independent countries and Georgia occupied Abkhazia and carried out the genocide of the Ossetian people in 1918-1920. The falsification of history continues aiming the recognition of Abkhazia, the separatist region, as an independent state and presenting it as the restoration of historical justice. Naturally, all this has a long-term goal - to finally separate Abkhazia from Georgia.

Historians face the need to objectively and thoroughly study the history of Abkhazia; therefore, the purpose of our work is to present the political situation in Abkhazia during the first democratic republic of Georgia (1918-1921). This article will touch the following questions: 1. The policy of the Russian Empire in relation to Abkhazia was the separation of the region from Georgia and the integration of the Abkhazian people into the political and socio-economic space of Russia; 2. Pro-Ottoman and pro-Russian forces carried out anti-Georgian separatist activities in Abkhazia; 3. General Giorgi Mazniashvili did not annex Abkhazia in 1918, as the Abkhazian and Russian historiography proves. 4. In 1918-1921, Abkhazia was part of the Democratic Republic of Georgia as an autonomous entity.