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DOI: 10.56812/2953-7851-2022.1-64

### **The political exile of the Transcaucasian Republics in 1920-1930-s: common interests and contradictions**

After the Sovietization of the Transcaucasian republics (Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan), the non-communist political elite of those countries (mainly the Armenian Dashnaktsakans, the Georgian Mensheviks and the Caucasian Turkic Musavatists) had to take the path of exile. Transcaucasian political organizations and figures were quite active in exile, especially in the 1920-1930s. All of them had separate and common arenas of activity. Common Transcaucasian problems, the prospect of a joint struggle for the restoration of lost independence, the question of choosing common allies and other related issues could unite the Transcaucasian political exile.

In 1921 the exiled leaders of the Transcaucasian republics and North Caucasian mountaineers signed a memorandum to jointly fight against the Soviet power. From 1926 in Paris, Caucasian political exiles (Georgians, mountaineers and Caucasian Turks) began to publish the magazine "Prometheus", the propaganda target of which was the creation of a unified independent Caucasian state based on the following principles: joint struggle against Bolshevik tyranny, united foreign policy, army, financial, monetary and customs system, communication, railway, post-telegraph union. In 1934 the Prometheans signed the Covenant of the Caucasian Confederation with almost the same goal, in which a place was allocated for Armenians. However, ARF Dashnaktsutyun refused to join the Covenant.

The Prometheans served especially anti-Sovietism as a common interest of the Transcaucasian countries. However, this approach besides being ineffective, also caused controversy. Pro-Turkism was offered as an alternative to anti-Sovietism, which was unacceptable for Armenians. In the same way in 1934 a place was also allocated to Armenia in the Pact of the Caucasian Confederation. However, ARF Dashnaktsutyun refused to join the Covenant, because the neighbors still did not want to accept the rights of Armenians regarding the Armenian territories under the control of Turkey.