Abstract
Georgia and Caucasus have been one of the targets of the world politics that caught special attention at all stages of the human history. This tendency was especially intensified at the end of the 70-s of the XVIII century. At that time representatives of the Capuchin Order having an anti-Russian predisposition got close to the Bagrationi Court; at the same time, to suppress the European predispositions of the King Erekle, Saint Petersburg sent to Tbilisi a German adventurist doctor Jacob Reineggs.

The confrontations of the Austrian and Russian special services acquired a very intensive character after the King Erekle sent a catholic priest Domenique to the Emperor of Austria in 1781.

The article provides information on the studies of Erekle’s ambassadors sent to the Austrian Emperor. It has been confirmed that the two ambassadorial missions sent by him were parts of a single process as both these missions served one goal. Having sent these ambassadorial missions to the Emperor of Austria the King Erekle made an attempt of getting involved into the Greek Project implying division of Europe anew. Erekle the Second attempted to make the Greek Project complete too, for which he offered Joseph the Second to review the project in point of the Persian Project, this being a guarantee of creating a safe environment for Caucasia.

The Capuchin Ambassador Domenique died in Constantinople. The historical archive of Propaganda Fide in Rome maintains a document which confirms that some incognito person tried to get hold of the letters sent by Erekle.

Based upon the 1782 December communique by Catherine the Second, at the same time giving due consideration to the suspicious chronological coincidence of the fact of sending a German agent of Saint Petersburg - doctor Reineggs to Tbilisi, the article provides an opinion that the incognito person interested in getting hold of the King Erekle’s letters after the death of his ambassador Domenique was the same Reineggs – the German agent of Saint Petersburg.

The article also provides a review of the international model that the Russian Emperor’s court used for voicing its imperial goals in Caucasia. Besides Reineggs these imperial wishes of Russia were voiced by Armenian political and religious persons as well.

This international strategy which was built on the ground of intrigues brought Russia to the desired by it reality – the King Erekle was made to execute the Treaty of Georgievsk.

Key words: Erekle the Second, the Empire of Austria, the Russian Empire; the Kingdom of Kartli and Kakheti; Vienna, Maurus a Verona; Padre Domenico, Persian project; Greek project

Introduction
In the late 70s of the 18th century, the Royal Household of Kartli and Kakheti were turned into a battle arena for foreign special services. In the Caucasus, the traditional model of West and East confrontation, in a modified form, has been transformed into the opposition between the special services of Russia and Western Europe.

On the one hand, these were the Capuchin monks, whom Heraclius considered mediators in...
relations with Europe, and on the other hand - agents of different nationalities sent from St. Petersburg.

Against the background of this contradiction, various diplomatic or political processes are developing in the Caucasus, which were supposed to decide in which direction Georgia would go - whether it would become an organic part of European civilization or would fail to resist imperial tricks of Russia, would lose its independence and fall into the trap of monotheism.

The Capuchin monks and Western Europe, as well as the Russian Empire, had their own specific political interests in the Caucasus. Heraclius acts according to the formula that later became the main postulate of diplomatic relations. There are no permanent friends in politics, there is a constant interest in politics.

The geostrategic political vision that had Teimuraz, the father of Erekle, and which meant confronting the Western world in favor of the interests of Orthodox Russia, was unsuccessful. Consequently, Heraclius chose a completely different conceptual line - rapprochement with Europe, primarily with the Catholic world, which the Capuchin monks in Tbilisi had to ensure in the conditions of limited communications at that time.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this article is to show the political and ideological contradictions in the Royal Household of Bagrationi in the late 70s of the 18th century, which destroyed the European prospects of Heraclius and forced him to sign the Treaty of Georgievsk.

**Research methods**

We rely on the methodological principles of objectivity, historicism, determinism, alternativeness, reconstruction, developed in the theoretical studies by the following scientists: Charles-Victor Langlois, Charles Seignobos; Robin George Collingwood [5]; Marc Léopold Benjamin Bloch [4]; Peter Lambert and Philipp Schofield [18]; Abrams Lynn [1]; Brundage Anthony [3]; Gregory Ian, Ell Paul [9]; Hughes-Warrington [10]; Igers George, Wang Qiang Edward [11]; Akira Iriye [12]; Kaldellis Anthony [13]; Koselleck Reinhart [14; 15]; Lukacs John [16]; Munro Doug, Reid John [19]; Quigley Carroll [26]; Raaflaub Kurt [29].

**Research results**

The peak of the political confrontation of Russia and Europe is associated with the European ambassadors of Heraclius. In 1781, Heraclius sent Domenic on a special mission to the Austrian emperor in order to personally convey the "hidden thought" [30:100]. Officially, this mission has a different motive - to find the funds needed for European training of two regiments [30:104-112].

The study of the first sources, on the one hand, and the political processes of that time, on the other, led us to the conclusion that the main purpose of the ambassador was related to the Greek project developed by Catherine II and the Austrian Emperor Joseph II, which was completed in September 1781 [27:281-291; 2:143-157]. It was a specific project to neutralize the Ottoman Empire and redistribute Europe, which envisaged the restoration of the puppet states Byzantine Empire and the Kingdom of Dacia [28:1-4].

The Greek project was a kind of model for the globalization of the Christian world, aimed at creating a secure political environment. In this regard, Heraclius has a specific plan - the "Persian project", which was on the agenda of his father, Teimuraz II, back in the 60s of the 18th century [21:453-455], which meant the appointment of the person desired by Russia to the throne of the Shah of Iran. This project was supposed to lead to minimization of the expected threat from Iran and the management of the ongoing political processes in Iran according to a scenario favorable for Georgia and Russia.

Heraclius proposes to the Emperor of Austria a more improved form of the Greek project in terms
of preventing security and consideration of the project developed by the Imperial Household of St. Petersburg and Vienna together with the Persian project. Correcting the Greek project with the Persian one is an absolute guarantee of the security and political independence of the Caucasus.

The political processes of the 50s and 90s of the 18th century makes clear that neither a secure Caucasus, nor its independence suit the Imperial Household of St. Petersburg [6:35-59]. Accordingly, an ambassador who is to come to the Austrian emperor with a specific proposal is perceived as an anti-Russian phenomenon.

It is noteworthy that the European vision of Heraclius is absolutely unacceptable for Russia, since the Imperial Household of St. Petersburg consider the Caucasus an easily conquered space due to the existing confessional and ethnic conglomerate. It does not need any political unit in the Caucasus with strong, even slightly pronounced state features.

In parallel with this Russian imperial vision, the Capuchin monks also have their own political goals, however, these goals at this stage are associated with their tolerant attitude towards religion and do not concern the state institution. Due to these circumstances, Heradius position is unambiguous - he considers the Capuchin monks to be a reliable force and ally in establishing relations with Europe. Attached to this are the plans of the Austrian emperor to strengthen the Holy Roman Empire and formally establish political relations with the Orthodox world. This confessional-political model is in fact a form and an interesting option for the restoration of the Roman Empire, which, in turn, was the dream of every European monarch of all times.

Such a different Russian-European political vision should have been reflected in a real confrontation. A noteworthy detail - in 1779, Heradius II asks Patr Dominique to stay in Georgia, whose service term had expired, and he decided to return to Europe [7:182-183].

It is clear that such an insistent request should not be driven by purely personal sympathy. The most important detail explaining these circumstances lies in the fact that in the same year 1779, the German Jacob Reinegs, an agent of the Russian Empire, who is sent from St. Petersburg, arrives to Heraclius II with a specific task - convince Heraclius to sign a treaty with the Russian Empire.

Therefore, for Dominic, Heradius request must have some kind of political motivation. For its part, it was important for Dominic and the Catholic Church to establish themselves in Georgia, so Patrick agrees not only at the Heradius request, but also in accordance with his own interests. This is another detail confirming the coincidence of the political interests of the Austrian emperor and Heraclius.

According to Georgian materials stored in the Propaganda Fide archives, in 1781, Domenic suddenly had to leave for Europe [7:185]. Heradius sends him on an important mission. The ambassador left for Vienna, however, on July 3, Domenic died on the way to Constantinople [7:185]. Consequently, the mission set by Heraclius was not fulfilled.

The King of Kartli and Kakheti sends another ambassador to Europe, at the Imperial Household in Vienna. In connection with this circumstance, the most important detail should be noted - this is the report of the Second Ambassador. The Second Ambassador is an organic continuation of the First Ambassador. Mikheil Tamarashvili writes about the ambassadors sent by Heraclius: "The King (Heraclius – M.N.), impatiently awaiting the results of Patr Domenic's trip, was very saddened by his death. Since the matter was urgent, Heraclius assigned the same mission to Patr Mauro Veronelli [31:698]. According to Tamarashvili's evaluation - "The matter was urgent".

Also noteworthy is the fact that Mauro Veronelli, who was sent as the second ambassador, is well acquainted with Patr Domenic and is actively involved in the preparation of his European visit and further takes care that this diplomatic activity would be successful [7:183-184].

Therefore, it is obvious that we are dealing with a rather bound and united team of the Imperial Household of Vienna. This detail clearly shows that Dominic plays a much more important role than the delivery of the letter. He has to convey the most important commission personally to Joseph II. We can see a good mechanism, systemic links, which should be considered as confirmation of the desire for bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Kartli and Kakheti and
the Austrian Imperial Household.

It is therefore not surprising that this cohesive team is also systematically opposed by the Imperial Household of Russian. We think that Dominic became the victim of this confrontation.

We specially investigated the details of the murder of both ambassadors and, based on primary sources and analysis of the current political situation, we came to the conclusion that Dominic and Mauro Veronelli were killed. Who killed him was also easily established. We investigated the existing circumstances to find out who might be interested in disrupting the relationship between Heraclius and the Austrian emperor. The report for December 1782, drawn up by Empress Catherine II, and which Bezborodko was supposed to hand over to Grigory Potemkin [32:30-31], clearly showed that the fourth paragraph of this report directly indicates that it is undesirable for the Georgian king to have relations with the Emperor of Austria and Holy Rome, as well as with other Christian kings [32:30].

Consequently, this is already an unconditional lustration of the fact that the death of Dominic in Constantinople and the death of Mauro Veronelli in Berdichevo are a desirable reality for Russia.

In the study we also payed attention to the fact, that while Constantinople is the shortest and proven way for Georgians to communicate with Europe, Heraclius somehow sends Mauro Veronelli through Moscow, which is not tested and is a rather long and inconvenient route to Europe.

Against this background, the most important document was found in the Historical Archives of Propaganda Fide, proving that someone incognito is interested to seize the letters of Heraclius II, which he sends to the European monarchs.

Here is what Padre Fortunat Da Trento writes to Cardinal: "After the death of the former prefect Padre Domenico Triestino, I informed about this to one person and asked him to come on funeral service. I told him about the letters the prefect had with him. Two or three days later, the aforementioned person sent me two letters in succession and ordered me not to send the aforementioned letters until I received a response from King Heraclius. I replied that the aforementioned king’s reply was not necessary and that I should have sent this letter to your Excellency." [7:184-185].

For some reason, Padre Fortunat Da Trento does not consider it necessary to personify incognito in the document, but it is obvious that he has a relationship with him from the Royal Household of Kartli-Kakheti. It is also obvious that incognito is acquainted with Heraclius II and is close to him. Consequently, Fortunato himself knows about it.

The question is, who could be this incognito, why was he interested in seizing Heraclius letters, is this spying a personal initiative, or is there any political force behind it?

First of all, it should be noted that the unity of both Russian and European intelligence services is due to the fact that none of them is numerous. Professor Ilya Tabagua notes that Rainegs has relations with Vienna, as well as with the Vienna consuliate in Constantinople: “Documentary materials prove that Dr. Rainegs and Count Cohar had close ties with Royal Household of Austria,” writes Professor Ilya Tabagua, King of Austria. Count Janosh Kohar was related to Baron Herbert, the Austrian representative in Constantinople, and Rainegs may have had a relationship with him as well. This is how contacts were established between Tbilisi and Vienna through Constantinople.” [Tabagua 1979:61]. Given these circumstances, there is a prerequisite to think that the incognito who is trying to seize Heraclius letters, probably, if not Rainegs, must be from his surroundings.

Rainegs as a character and adventurer is much more refined face of Totleben. He arrives in Georgia with the same adventurous goal as Totleben had, but uses a completely different tactics and attitudes. He establishes a rather close relationship with the Royal Household of Kartli and Kakheti; his medical practice is a kind of visiting card for increasing confidence in him. The German uses this very effectively.

His attitude towards 12-year-old Alexander Batonishvili is remarkable. He knows well how to use the patriotic spirit of a young boy and sets the prince of Kartli-Kakheti for a war against the Ottoman Empire. [8:20-21].
This is a model of self-destruction that the Armenian thinker Joseph Emin wanted to thrust on Teimuraz II in the 60s of the XVIII century, who was also associated with the St. Petersburg Imperial Household. [22:134; 20:260].

A quite characteristic detail is that Russia uses people of different nationalities - Germans, Armenians - to achieve its imperial goals.

The Russian agency is actively using the Armenian high priest against the Capuchins. It seems that the confrontation between the Capuchins and the Armenian high priest should have only a confessional basis, but it is obvious that this is clearly a political confrontation, which is wrapped in a confessional veil ordered by St. Petersburg and is associated with the distribution of spheres of influence in the Caucasus.

**Conclusions**

Thus, the political confrontation between the Capuchin monks and agents of the Russian Empire at the Royal Household of Kartli-Kakheti ended a few years later according to a scenario favorable for the Russian special services. An international strategy based on intrigue has brought Russia to the desired reality. Heraclius had to sign the Treaty of Georgievsk. One detail attracts attention - Russia was not going to fulfill the terms of the agreement. A month and a half after the signing of the treaty, in September 1783 the Austrian Imperial Household was notified of this.

As our recent research has shown, these undesirable political processes failed to force Heraclius II to abandon his political ties with Europe.

A document kept in the Austrian State Archives in Vienna, with an Italian translation of the letter of Heraclius II sent to the Austrian emperor [30:105-107], confirms that after the invasion of the Aga Muhammad Khan in 1795, in late autumn, he again sends another ambassador to the Austrian Royal Household [23:79; 24:7-8; 25:38-44], this time with the demand to sign a treaty. However, the political situation and time, unlike the 80s of the XVIII century, were not allies of Heraclius. Europe lived in accord with the French Revolution.

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