



Georgia - Bridging East and West at the Geopolitical Crossroads

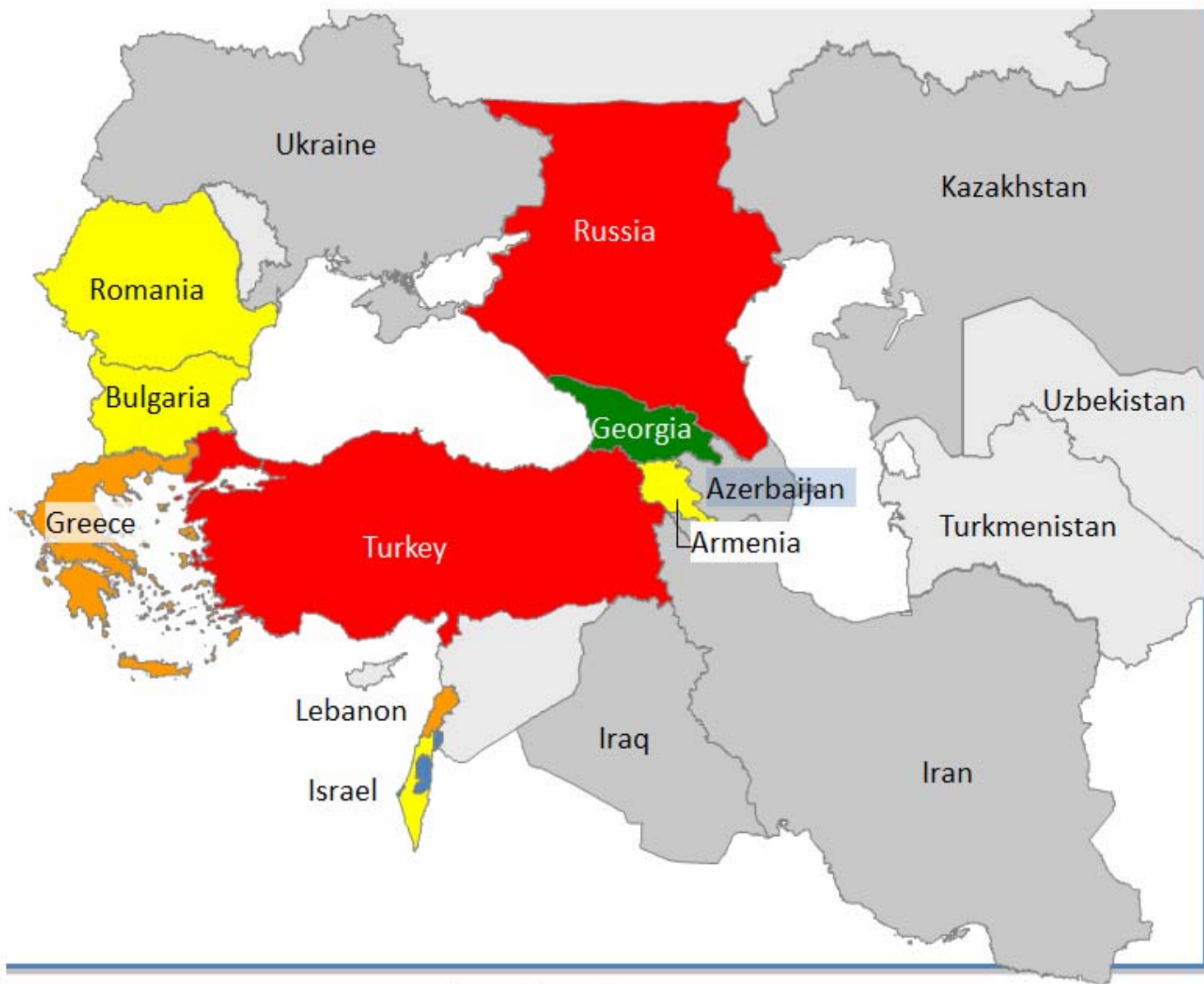
by

H.E. Mr Beka Dvali
Ambassador of Georgia



28 October 2015
Pretoria





Zezeva and Mzia – “First Europeans”

Dmanisi; Georgia

1.7-1.8 Million Years Ago





Georgia: Country of Golden Fleece

Georgia: Cradle of Wine



Georgia: The Cradle of Wine



Georgia: The Cradle of Wine



Georgia: Cradle of Wine



Georgian Alphabet

ა	ან	an - a	მ	მან	man - m	ღ	ღან	ghan - gh
ბ	ბან	ban - b	ნ	ნარ	nar - n	ყ	ყარ	q'ar - q'
გ	გან	gan - g	ო	ონ	on - o	შ	შინ	chin - sh
დ	დონ	don - d	პ	პარ	par - p	ჩ	ჩინ	tchin - ch
ე	ენი	eni - e	ჯ	ჯან	jan - zh	ც	ცინ	tsin - c
ვ	ვინ	vin - v	რ	რაე	rae - r	ძ	ძილ	dzil - dz
ზ	ზენ	zen - z	ს	სან	san - s	წ	წილ	ts'll - ts'
თ	თან	than - t	ტ	ტარ	t'ar - t	ჭ	ჭარ	tch'ar - tch'
ი	ინ	in - i	უ	უნ	oun - u	ხ	ხან	khan - kh
კ	კან	k'an - k	ფ	ფარ	phar - f	ჯ	ჯან	djan - j
ლ	ლას	lass - l	ქ	ქარ	khar - q	ჰ	ჰაე	hae - h

King Pharnavaz I

302 – 237 BC





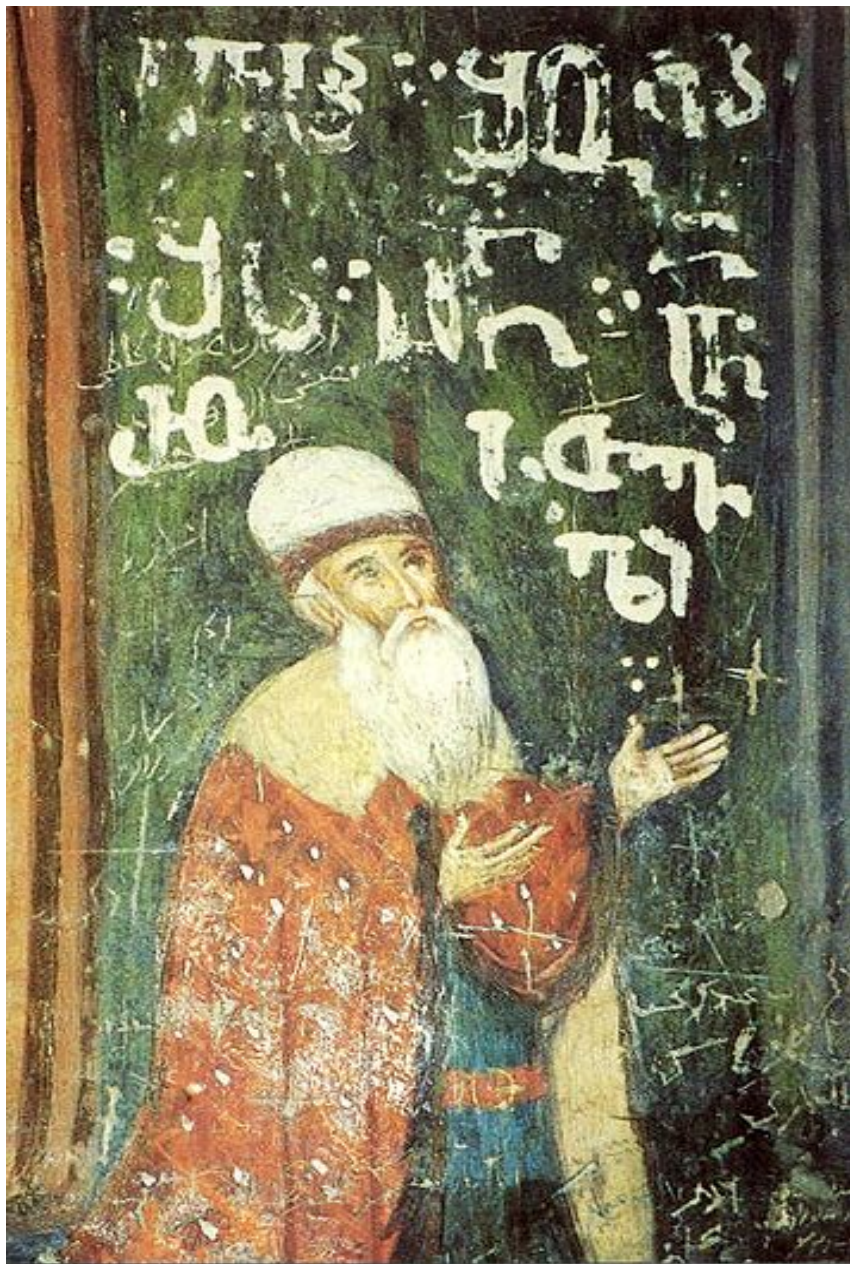
**Saint Nino
Of Cappadocia
Converted Georgia
To Christianity
(326-337)**



**King David IV
Bagrationi
The Builder
1073 – 1125 AD**



**Queen Tamar
Bagrationi
(1184-1213)
“King Tamar”
Golden Age
Of Georgian
Kingdom**



**Poet Shota
Rustaveli
(1172-1216)
Author of
Epic Poem
“The Knight in
the Panther’s
Skin”**



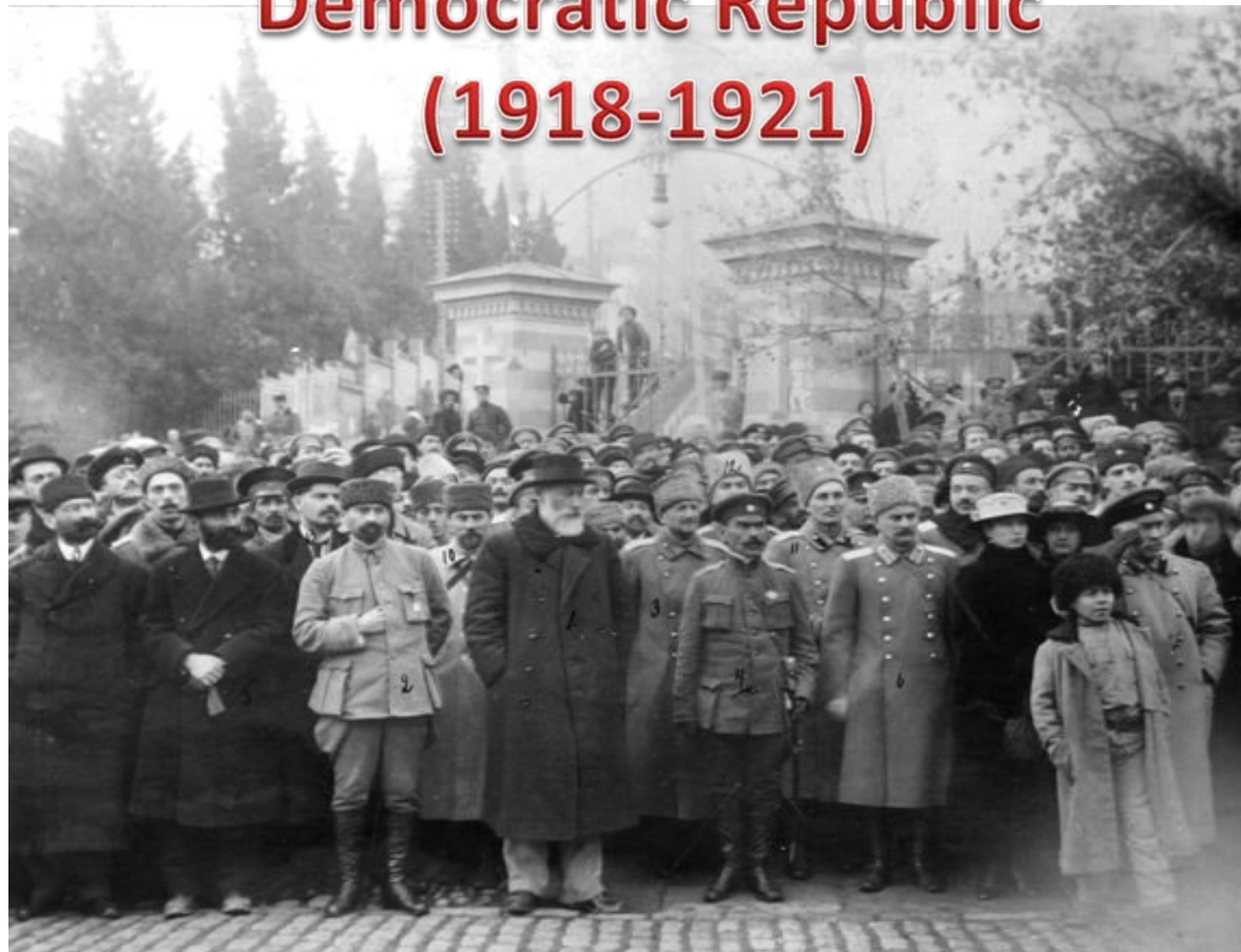
Erekle II

1720-1798 AD



Nico Bagrationi
Nico The Boer
(1868 – 1933)
Participated in
The Second
Boer War

The Government Of the first Georgian Democratic Republic (1918-1921)





**Mr. Noe Jordania
(1868 - 1953)
Prime Minister
Of The First
Georgian Republic
(1918-1921)**



**Mr. Zviad
Gamsaxurdia
(1939-1993)
First President
of Georgia
(1991-1992)**



**Mr. Eduard
Shevardnadze
Second President
of Georgia
(1995-2003)**



**H.E. Mr. Mikheil
Saakashvili
Third President
Of Georgia
(2004-2013)**



**H.E. Mr. Giorgi
Margvelashvili
Fourth
President
Of Georgia
(Since 2013)**



**H.E. Mr. Irakli
Gharibashvili
Prime Minister
Of Georgia
(Since 2013)**



**H.E. Mr David
Usupashvili
Chairman of the
Parliament of
Georgia
(Since October
2012)**

Georgia Today

- **Population: 3,730 million**
- **Territory: 69,700 sq.k.**
- **Semi-Presidential Unitary Democratic Republic**
- **Capital: Tbilisi; Parliament sits in Kutaisi**
- **Currency: Georgian Lari (GEL) – 1 GEL = R 6 (Est.)**
- **Human Development Index: 79th (High)**
- **GINI Index: 41.4 (Medium)**

Georgia Today

- **Foreign Policy Priorities** - Multi-vector foreign policy driven by European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations;
European Union - Association Agreement with Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade agreement to be signed
NATO – Annual National Plan and NATO-GEORGIA Commission
- **Liberal economy** - World Bank: Georgia - Top Reformer
- **Corruption free and secure country;**
- **Investment, Business and trade opportunities** - in Agriculture, Hydro Power, Manufacturing, Logistics Hub, Tourism, other;
- **Strategic Location on Historic Silk Road** – on the Crossroads of the East and West, North and South



Georgia-South Africa

- **1993** – Diplomatic relations established
- **2011** – Embassy opened; **2012** – First Ambassador arrived
- **FOCUS: forging partnership across all possible areas from political dialogue to economic relations/business to arts and culture**
- **September 2013** – First South Africa-Georgia High Level Political Consultations between Foreign Ministries in Pretoria
- **November 2012** – Memorandum of Cooperation in Paleo-Sciences signed between the Wits and Georgian National Museum
- **May 2013** – Tbilisi State University signs Memoranda of Cooperation with Pretoria University and the Wits University
- **January 2014** – **South Africa-Georgia Chamber of Commerce (SAGCC)** established (45 companies with SA component registered in Georgia focused on agriculture, real estate, financial sector, tourism, consulting)
- **February 2014** – Memorandum of Cooperation signed between National Library of South Africa and National Parliamentary Library of Georgia – Georgian book collection established at NLSA, Pretoria

Georgia

forging partnerships in Africa

- Three Georgian Embassies on the continent: Cairo, Addis Ababa, Pretoria
- Embassy in Pretoria also accredited to:
Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho (pending)
- **Georgia for AFRICA**
 - reliable and friendly partner
 - gateway to Caucasus, to Black Sea and Caspian Sea Regions and Eurasia;
 - Potential in political dialogue, cooperation on multilateral *fora*, trade, education and culture, experience sharing in reforms and transformation

Georgia Reforms

Since 2003-Ongoing

➤ **Reforms Comprehensive, all-encompassing, speedy:**

- **Democratic Reforms:** *Media Freedom, free and fair elections, protection of human rights and minority rights, check & balances, open and participatory democracy*
- **Rule of Law Reforms:** *Police, Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Prison, Anti-corruption, organized crime, public Services*
- **Economic Reforms:** *Free market economy, business-friendly environment, financial intermediation, infrastructure, energy security and efficiency, tourism development*
- **Human Development Reforms:** *Education, health care, social assistance, cultural development, sport development, environmental protection*

➤ “Since 2003, Georgia has implemented an impressive array of reforms... the reforms can be qualified as unique in terms of speed of reforms, degree of innovations, and extent of institutional restructuring”

World Bank, April 2009, report No. 44400-GE









Police/Traffic Police Reform

- “The Police Reforms in particular were one of the first, and most effectively targeted” – UNDP, Human Development Report, 2008
- Confidence in police: 83% in 2014, compared to 10% in 2003 – Int. Rep. Institute
- “More than 95% Georgians feel safe during day time and night” – EU funded Georgian Crime Survey, GORBI Institute
- Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2013 Question: “To what extent do you perceive the police to be effected by corruption”, [1 – not at all corrupt; 5 – extremely corrupt]
 - Finland 1.8
 - Georgia 2.5
 - Germany 2.7
 - France 3.3
 - UK 3.0
 - Russia 4.5
- 80% reduction in armed robberies from 2006-2010











Thank You! მადლობა!

Useful Links:

<http://www.mfa.gov.ge>

<http://www.government.gov.ge>

<http://investingeorgia.org>

<http://www.house.gov.ge>

<http://www.police.ge>

<http://georgia.travel/>

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Facebook: [Embassy of Georgia in the Republic of South Africa](#)