
The America's Role in the Georgia Crisis

Morteza Ebrahimi
Somayeh Abbasi
Hamzeh Ganji

Assi. Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran.

M.Sc. Student, Department of Humanities, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran.

M.Sc. Student, Department of Humanities, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran.

Abstract

The Background of the emergence of the crisis in Georgia for a long time due to ethnic and geographic and political conditions existed in Southern Caucasus. Since the independence of the Republic of Georgia so far, the crisis caused by territorial disputes and two region of Abkhazia and Vavstya several times get out of control and have led to war. The aim of this study was to draw a pattern of America behavior in the current political developments in the Caucasus, especially in the Georgia crisis. What Georgia really can play a role in the United States of America geopolitical calculations that the West has been so highly regarded?

It seems that importance of geopolitical and geo of Georgia for America is that Georgia allows the possibility of connecting pipelines of Azerbaijan to Turkey. As well as for America, existence of political stability in Georgia and coordinate security is of utmost importance. Achievement of Heartland region and marginal areas of the Russian defense shield in order to prevent the re hegemony of this country's gate locations in the North Caucasus, prepare the ground for the presence of West, in the north of Iran in order to harness and further isolation and so on are reasons that seems Georgia's position on geopolitical calculations West, especially for the United States of America is critical important.

Key words: the crisis in Georgia, America, the regional situation

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1. Introduction

Perhaps it could be called the 2008 crisis in Georgia, one of the most important events after 2000. The crisis that led to the limited war between Russia and Georgia resulted in swordplay two old superpowers (Russia and the US) as well as new European players against each other (Soleymani, 1386, p. 18). During the velvet revolution in Georgia lot of discussion was raised about the amount and how America's involvement in the transfer of power among analysts. Soviet collapse divided Caucasus into two parts. Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia in the South Caucasus and remaining territories as the North Caucasus were within the borders of Russia. North Caucasus is located in remote and undeveloped area, but has a strategic importance (kazemzadeh, 1386, p. 30). The climax the presence of America, in the field of political and security should be especially considered in developments in Georgia after the tulip revolution in this country, especially in the August 2008 crisis. Result of these developments is proximity of Georgia to America that the strategic partnership pact between the two countries is the symbol of proximity. During the Tulip Revolution, America provided broad support from West-leaning Georgian leaders.

This support was enough that in the mind of Mikheil Saakashvili makes this believe that Georgia enjoys for obvious security guarantees from America. Contrary to the impression of Saakashvili, Washington in the crisis of Georgia and Russia in August 2008, did not provide certain operational support from Tbilisi (www.eurasianet.org). Problem statement: In 1922, the three countries of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia formed "federation of socialist republics of the South Caucasus," and this regional union lasted until 1936. (Cis statistical committee year book 1998)). In addition, Georgia has the extensive participation of Nagorno-Karabakh peace talks that with mediation between the two countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia restores peace and stability and security into the Caucasus. (Vahedi, 1382, p. 247). Caucasus region is considered as a critical point and at the same time one of important points of world due to geographic, political, and geopolitical, political, historical, sociological and military matters. Republic of Georgia due to being located in the Caucasus region has always paramount importance. Great powers tried to dominate these areas in order to exploit from its resources. Conflict of interest of Russia and America, along with internal conflicts in Georgia, faced the country with multiple crises. Whatever happened in August 2008 was resulting from internal conflicts and also opposed the interests of America and Russia in this small Caucasus country. The crisis had many causes including the most important of them was the America's role in provoking Russia, and finally, Russia's entry under the pretext of supporting of Ossetian into the arena of conflict. America that had put its preferred government with Rose Revolution in Georgia, with its support of Georgia in August 2008 has played the most important role in the crisis. The aim of this study was not to investigate the incident of August 2008, in this research attempts to investigate the most important actions of America that provoke Russia and the underlying crisis on

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2008 in Georgia. A summary of the geography of the Republic of Georgia: Georgia is mostly mountainous. More than 80 percent of the country's territory is covered by mountains, foothills. Georgia is divided into different areas based on the characteristics of Ups and downs of their land; in the north, the mountains of the Great Caucasus have been drawn as a huge wall. In the south-high volcanic plateau are located along the longitude, strings of volcanic extinguishers and cavities accumulated of lava of Javakheti highlands. Also in Georgia, there are rivers, lakes, glaciers and mineral fountains (Amir Ahmadian, 1376, p.78-79). Georgia, is one of the fragile states in the region, whose economy has been devastated by civil unrest, the hidden economy forms 85 percent of the country's economy. 60% of the population live below the poverty line, this entry illustrates the fact that the South Caucasus is highly dependent on the support of foreign forces and because of that the United States has sent flood of aid to the region (IRAS, 1389).

The importance of the South Caucasus in regional politics America: South Caucasus is important for several reasons for America's national security interests, of which it can be pointed to energy security, access to Central Asia, the fight against terrorism. In terms of geopolitics of the region's proximity to Russia, Iran and the Middle East are at the forefront of importance (Cornell, 2005). America early action in this area was moderate and cautious. America's positions on regional issues were limited to protecting democratic values, with fear of the Islamization of the Muslim republics of the region and nuclear weapons but gradually the interests of this country became more in the region (Baba 1374: 129). It seems two major concerns of America after the collapse of the Soviet Union was to prevent the spread of fundamentalism and Islamic extremism. To do this, the Clinton administration decided to strengthen relations between countries in the region with its regional allies, particularly Turkey and Israel.

The US approach to the Caucasus: after the independence of the Caucasus, oil companies, who were the first US group that entered the region and the presence of rich oil and gas resources, attention of the US government get more to countries in the region and it was the first time that the United States had the opportunity to direct intervention in this area. Some of the factors that according to US government give importance to the region include:

1. Due to the increased requirements of future energy, existence of resources of oil and gas has increased the importance of this area
2. The oil producing countries in the region have no way to open sea and this is an obstacle in the way of delivering oil and gas to other parts of the world that have complicated the political situation in the region.

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3. Competition of regional and trans-regional power for participating in and influencing on region, including countries: Russia, Iran, Turkey, Israel and some European Union countries.

4. Geopolitical importance of the region, particularly after the September 11 attacks and the US invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, the region in terms of military and security has become a special place in US politics.

According to material presented, goals and instruments of the US in the Caucasus can be categorized as follows:

A) access to oil and gas and controls of extraction and export; b) access to regional markets and expand business in it; c) Maintain the status quo and strengthen the institutions of the region countries towards long-term goals; d) to counter the influence of Russia; f) counter Iranian influence; n) support the expansion of Turkish influence n) strengthening security ties with regional countries; e) long-term presence in the region; y) the exploitation of political institutions, economic and strategic western security to achieve strategic goals; US grand objective is widespread influence and the reliable and long-term presence of in the Caucasus (Kazemzadeh, 1386, p. 42).

United States of America approach to the the Georgia: Central Asia and the Caucasus as part of the Eurasia was political and Geopolitics territory of Soviet in the Cold War era. The area constituted southern part of the territory of the Heartland in Theory of Makender, it is possible that it is the dimension of balance of power and power system in the world. With the collapse of the bipolar system of the said areas, by means of independent states they found independent geographical-political identity. And with form of space that experiencing power vacuum, emerged an arena of multi-level competition. Contraction of Soviet space and its adaptation on Russia's borders and the advent of open spaces with the power vacuum provided opportunities for expansion space power rival America (Basiri and Yazidi, 1383: 101).

In the second term of President Clinton, America's goals and policies in these areas was somewhat transparent and increased importance of this area with American politicians, the presence especially in Georgia despite the absence of fossil energy resources, so that significant if not, cannot be overlooked. Financial and military aid, train and equip military forces by the US and Israeli advisers, accept this country as a member of NATO's Partnership for Peace and assistance promised to accept in NATO, the country's selection as the main route for Central Asian oil and gas regions - the Caspian and Caucasus (although other routes, such as Iran and Russia that sometimes is safer and cheaper as well) are some of aids. This attention especially after the Rose Revolution and the establishment of the pro-Western Mikhail Saakashvili has been more, so that Rumsfeld was the America's first high-ranking official who arrived in Tbilisi after the resignation of Shevardnadze and the opposition

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victory and expressed strong support for America in the political, economic and military dimensions stated that Georgia enjoys a strategic position in the foreign policy of America (Asgari, 1384: 87).

Conclusion

Based on what Brzezinski have wrote in his book, we can say that the purpose of America's presence in Georgia is not only energy transfer, or the fight against terrorism, but the important point is that the Republic of Georgia in the geopolitical arena, has a unique position. Republic of Georgia due to a key position in the Caucasus is the center of gravity in the relationship between the East and South West. Achievement to Heartland region and marginal areas, defend shield of Russia to prevent its re hegemony of this country in the region, controlling interests of containing hydrocarbon and oil and gas pipelines, a buffer between Russia and South areas, particularly Armenia and Iran, the gateway and the expansion of NATO toward the East, the establishment of the North Caucasus entry gates, prepare the ground for the West's presence in North Front of Iran to contain and further isolation, prepare the ground for linking allies such as Turkey and Israel with the aforementioned area, prepare the ground for the exit of Azerbaijan from geographical isolation, untapped regional potential market, and most importantly, prevent the creation of strategic alliances with combinations such as Russia, China, India or Russia, China, Pakistan, India and Iran all are reasons seems to have made vital the place of Georgia in the geopolitical calculations of West, especially the United States.

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