

Alexander Rusetsky,

Doctor of Psychology, PhD student in Political Science, Professor, Head of the Geopolitical Modeling Laboratory at Caucasus International University, International Political Science, Member of the International Association of Political Psychology, Coordinator in Georgia of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, Founder of Caucasus Institute for Regional Security, Georgia, 0192, Tbilisi, Chargli St., # 73

E-mail: alex\_scirs@yahoo.com

Olga Dorokhina,

Doctor of International Relations, Researcher, Geopolitical Modeling Laboratory at Caucasus International University

E-mail: scirs2002@gmail.com

## **Role of Georgia in the settlement of “Artsakh/Karabakh” conflict**

### **Abstract**

**Objective of the paper:** to support the process of settlement of “Artsakh/Karabakh” conflict and formation of Caucasus community security

**Specific objective:**

To apply opportunities provided by metacognitive theory of conflict resolution

- Multilayer structure of the conflict;
- Analysis of the threats posed by the “Artsakh/Karabakh” conflict for Georgia and the Caucasus region as a whole;
- “Concept of a System of Perceived Common Threats of the Caucasus”;
- “The Model of Caucasus Security Community”;
- The structure of the new peace process.

The study applied the technique of “participant observation” of formation and developing informal peace formats in Georgia and the Caucasus region.

**Structure-content of the materials presented in the study:**

- The notion, genesis and structure of the “Artsakh/Karabakh” conflict.

- The "Karabakh precedent", which contributed to the disintegration of the USSR and created ethno-nationalist secessionist movements and armed conflicts in the post-Soviet space.
- The division of the Georgian population into "Georgians" and "non-Georgians" - the danger of creating an "Interfront" in 1989-1991. The position of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.
- From "Peaceful Action" on the "Red Bridge" (1991) to the "Transcaucasian Dialogue" project (1992).
- Illegal landmines-laying along Georgian borders by Azerbaijan and Armenia.
- Fight for the heights of military importance along the border – "the precedent of David Gareji".
- Attempts to bring the conflict to the territory of Georgia - to provoke a confrontation between ethnic Armenians and Azerbaijanis.
- Terrorist acts and kidnappings of Georgian Azerbaijanis and Armenians posed by the conflict. Missiles and drones crashed on the territory of Georgia. Chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear hazards.
- Cooperation between the secessionist authorities of Artsakh, South Ossetia and Abkhazia.
- Fight for energy and corridors. Threats arising from the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan project.
- Fight between Azerbaijan and Armenia for military/transit communications via Georgia.
- The connection of the 2008 war with the "Artsakh/Karabakh" conflict.
- Confrontation of "Pan-Osmanian" and "Pan-Armenian" geopolitical projects on the territory of Georgia.
- "Armenian" and "Azerbaijani" lobbying policy in Georgia.
- Georgia in the confrontation between the geopolitical axes of "Armenia-Russia-Iran" and "Azerbaijan-Turkey-Israel" and the consequences of the 2008 war.
- Anticipated forecast of the influence of September 2020 War on the Abkhaz and Tskhinvali Conflicts.

As a result of our research, we came to conclusion that Georgia is a victim of the "Artsakh-Karabakh" conflict. The ongoing processes in the neighbourhood in various ways undermine the peaceful development of both Georgia and the Caucasus region.

Georgia is the only country in the South Caucasus that is not involved in the Artsakh/Karabakh conflict and can have the status of a mediator rather than a passive neutrality country. Namely - to be represented in the Minsk Group, or to present an independent "Tbilisi Initiative".

**Key words:** Common threats; Conflict structure; The structure of the peace process.