

Demographic Balance in South Caucasus and Georgia's Demographic Security

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Abstract

Demographic balance and Demographic security are essential parts of the Geopolitical space of the South Caucasus security. The security of the country to a certain extent is based on the population rate. Georgia took the first place by the number of the population until 1966 afterwards Azerbaijan gained the first place. According to the forecast in 2050 number of the population can reach several millions, in Azerbaijan-11,6 in Georgia-3,3, Armenia-3,3. Demographic balance of region will be violated to the detriment of Georgia. Violation of the demographic balance in the South Caucasus will complicate the Geopolitical and Geo-economical solution of objectives of Georgia, which will cause the weakening of the role of Georgia as a peace guarantor between Armenia and Azerbaijan which have tense relationship. Political situation is much more complicated If we take into consideration current situation in the North Caucasus.

One of the determinants of geopolitical space security of south Caucasus is demographic balance. Demographic security based on the number of population, must be taken into account even in conditions of modern scientific-technological age as country's demographic potential significantly determines military-political and economical security.

Demographical balance can characterize Demographic security of South Caucasus, which includes quantity of population, natural growth, and average lifespan. Georgia always played the dominant role in Geopolitical space of South Caucasus expressed in its political-economic and cultural influence.

Russia made the first blow to Georgia's demographic security by invading the City of Sochi in 1920s. In the same 1920s Russia ceded one third of Georgia's territory to Turkey. Russia gifted Georgia's small territories to Azerbaijan and Armenia. However, these small territories were great loss for Georgia.

Russia provoked and executed the second greatest demographical loss itself by ethnic conflicts in 1990s ended in 2008 by the occupation 20% of Georgia's territory in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions.

The 20th century ended too bloody for South and North Caucasus. Russia recognized Abkhazia and so called South Ossetia as independent countries. Abkhazia's recognition as an independent country means that Russia will collapse Abkhazians physically or by assimilation. Attempt of collapsing Abkhazian people already took place in 1878 Russia – Turkey war, when Abkhazians were blamed in alliance with Turkey. They started collapsing them physically and made them leave Abkhazia. As a result, Abkhazians number reduced from 60 thousand to 30 thousand. Abkhazians were included in number of prejudicial nations. If not the leading Georgian Society, defending the Abkhazians, they would be collapsed as a nation a long time ago. We have to do

all the best to save the Abkhazians from the destruction.

Development of demographic character significantly stipulated Georgia's dominant role in south Caucasus. The point is that Georgia's population reproduction and growth went on much more economically than in neighboring countries. This means that in spite of low birth rate in comparison with neighboring countries but at the same time, lower was also the death rate and this fact stipulated the highest natural population growth and more rapid increase in comparison with its neighbors. For example, in 60s of 19th century 19% of the sum total came on birth and death rates, while this index in Azerbaijan was 16%. In the end of 19th century, this index in Georgia was 24%, 20% in Armenia, and 15% in Azerbaijan.

The number of South Caucasus population in 1897_2050 (million people) is given in the following chart

Year	Georgia	Azerbaijan	Armenia	Entire South Caucasus	Percentage			
					Georgia	Azerbaijan	Armenia	Entire South Caucasus
1897	1,9	1,8	0,8	4,5	42,1	40,2	17,7	100,0
1913	2,6	2,3	1,0	5,9	44,1	39,0	16,9	100,0
1959	4,0	3,7	1,7	9,4	42,6	39,4	18,0	100,0
1966	4,5	4,6	2,2	11,3	39,8	40,7	19,5	100,0
1979	5,0	6,0	3,0	14,0	35,7	42,9	21,4	100,0
2009	4,4	8,9	3,2	16,5	26,7	53,9	19,4	100,0
2025	4,2	9,7	3,3	17,2	24,4	56,4	19,2	100,0
2050	3,3	11,6	3,3	18,2	18,1	63,8	18,1	100,0

As the chart shows, dominant numerical situation in South Caucasus was kept until 1966. Since that period, the first place was conceded to Azerbaijan. This fact was caused by reducing the birth rate and natural growth of population in comparison with the neighboring countries. To be more exact, in 1950-1970s natural growth in Azerbaijan was 1,5—2 times higher than in Georgia. Index was higher in Armenia as well.

Natural growth in 1999-2004 was equal to zero in Georgia, while in Azerbaijan, this index reached to 9-10 (calculating for 1000 people) and in Armenia, the same index was equal to 3-4. In 2005-2009 natural growth in Georgia was extremely low and was 2 for 1000 people while in Azerbaijan it reached 13,1. This is 6 times higher than Georgia's one. In the same period, this index in Armenia is 4, this means that it's 2 times higher than Georgia's one. Such an important index as children's possible average number that comes on a woman, in the conditions of keeping existing birth rate, nowadays in Georgia and Armenia is 1,6 and 2,6 in Azerbaijan, or 1,6 times more. Accordingly, by the given data, Georgia's positions in South Caucasus are very weak.

In the countries of South Caucasus, indicator of such demographic potential as average lifespan is 74 year.

The UN forecast for Georgia in 21st century prepared according to the demographic tendencies shows a negative picture. To be more exact, by 2050 the number of Georgia's population will be equal to Armenian's one and will be 3,5 times less than the number of Azerbaijan's population. In 2050 Azerbaijan's population (11,6 million) will exceed the number of Armenia's and Georgia's (6,6 million) ones 1,8 times. By 2050, 63,8% of population in South Caucasus will be Azeri, and Armenians and Georgians - 18,1% each.

Current demographic development has changed not only South Caucasian balance in general, but also ethnic-demographic one. In 1989-2000 Georgians' major share in South Caucasus reduced from 27,3% to 25,25, while Azeri's major share increased from 44,6% to 51,5%, and Armenian's major share also reduced from 28,1% to 23,3%.



After 1990s current ethno political conflicts and foreign migration changed national structure of region's countries. They became much more mono ethnic, especially in Armenia. According to the researches in 1989-2001, major share of Armenians in Armenia increased from 93.3% to 97,9%. According to the researches in 1989-1999 Azeri's major share in Azerbaijan increased from 82,7% to 90,6%. According to the researches in 1989-2002 Georgian's major share increased from 70,1% to 84%.

Georgians were always among the low migrate mobility nations. Likely, in today's world more than 4 million Georgians live in the world, of these, 3,66 million, or about 90%, live in Georgia. The most statistically registered number of Georgians live in Russia: 400 thousand _ 1 million; in Turkey: 150 thousand _ 300 thousand; in Iran: about 60 thousand.

The following circumstances must be highlighted: Georgia's number of statistic importance was registered nor in Armenia, neither in Azerbaijan while 5% of South Caucasus' Azeri lived in Georgia in 1989, this number reduced to 3,8% in 2000s. In 1989 11,2% of South Caucasus' Armenians also lived in Georgia, this number reduced to 7,3%, what is an important size in spite of its reduction.

The main demographic and Political danger for Georgia is a demographic vacuum taking place in the history of our country repeatedly, as demographic vacuum, insufficiency of population causes immigration and decreasing the major share of native population.

According to the UN forecast, density of population in Georgia in 2009, 2025, 2050 will be correspondingly: 66, 60 and 47 men a square kilometer. In Armenia accordingly: 104, 111 and 111. In Azerbaijan: 101, 112 and 135. Therefore, the density of population will be reduced significantly in Georgia and on the contrary- in neighboring countries.

The existing and expected complicated disproportion between countries' territories and number of population can form a sharp demographic misbalance causing distribution of migration among the countries of South Caucasus in the conditions of current globalization. Because of the existing demographic vacuum can make migrating streams migrate to Georgia, particularly, when the densely populated Armenians and Azeri support them in Georgia.

Based on the above said, the country must find its place and function, we should fit to global interests foreseeing the national interests as well. To protect our interests, we should solve the problem of population reproduction ourselves; we must remember that no one will take care of it.

Major share of Georgians, 84%, in Georgia from the point of ethnicity is a considered demographic optimum. In the conditions of such sharp decreasing of this index, Georgia will hardly be able to solve its strategic geopolitical, Geo-economical and national interests in common; its spiritual and collapsed territorial unity will be in danger.

Disorganization of demographic balance in south Caucasus may cause weakening Georgia's role as a guarantee of peace in the situation of complicated relationship between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Geopolitical situation will be more complicated if we also foresee the complicated political situation in North Caucasus.

There is a danger that Georgia's demographic weakening will reduce Georgia's Political security as well. As a result, some of the countries may try to obtain Georgia's territories.

First of all, this is related to the ancient territory of Georgia, Javakheti in South Georgia, where Armenian natives of separatist mood were settled down there in 19th century. Furthermore, they are supported by neighboring Armenia, which has historically been Georgia's first enemies, Russia's strategic partner.

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