

The 19th Century Russian Historians About Colonial Policy of Russia in Georgia¹

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Abstract

Study of Russian colonial policy in Georgia started in the 19th century. This was a period when Georgia became part of the Russian Empire. The members of Russian historiography actively examined the military history of their nation.

The 19th century Russian historiography mostly was concerned about military campaigns of the Tsar's regime. Hence, military and political processes were discussed in length. In this regard we also observe issues of ethnic and demographic changes in Georgia, as a result of the Russian imperial policy. Consequently, special attention was paid to the colonial policy of the Russian Empire, which comprise politics, military campaigns, conquests, ethnic and demographic changes and colonialism.

First and foremost, it is necessary to overview of special literature on the Russian colonial policy based on analysis of contemporary Russian historiography, which is the 19th century historiography. Most of the historians who studied this issue were Russian army officers and they served the interests of Tsarist Russia. Their position concerning the Russo-Caucasian relations coincides with the political interests of rulers of the Russian Empire. Among the historians who lived in the Russian Empire were as follows: Platon Pavlovich Zubov, Rostislav Andreyevich Fadeyev, Nikolay Fyodorovich Dubrovin, Vasily Aleksandrovich Potto, Anton Lyudvigovich Gizetti, and the Georgian by origin but one more member of the Russian imperial army – Simon Spiridonovich Esadze.

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