

## Interrelations between Georgia and Turk-Seljuk State as Described in the Georgian Historical Sources (up to 70-ies of the XI century)

საქართველოსა და თურქ-სელჩუკთა სახელმწიფოს ურთიერთობები ქართულ საისტორიო წყაროებში (XI-ის 70-იან წლებამდე)

**Vasil Mosiashvili**

Associate Professor, LEPL Samtskhe-Javakheti State University  
106 Rustaveli str. 0800, Akhaltsikhe, Georgia  
ORCID:0000-0002-3975-2723  
vasilmosiashvili@gmail.com, +995555386493

### Annotation

Many significant documentary materials can be found among the Georgian historical sources on interrelations between Georgia and Turk Seljuk State. The historical sources which are discussed in the represented work consider the interrelations between the Georgians and Seljuk Turks within the XI century. Among the historical sources which are discussed in this work the earliest is the document dated by the year 1029 in which the Georgian king Bagrat IV delivers the details of the fight against the Turkish sultan.

The details of the invasion of Turk Seljuks in 1057 can be found in the old historical writings. They are also described in one of such writings which are named also as the deed, delivered by Bagrat IV to Shio Mghvimeli Lavra. This deed concerns the serious damages caused by the wars inspired by the Turk Seljuks fighting against Georgia, the facts of ruining the estates of the Lavra and also, how the king of Georgia delivered some estates to the Lavra as donations.

Two historical scripts were found in the historical regions of Georgia: in Javakheti (known as the script of Mirashkhan) and in the inside part of the region of Kartli (in Georgian: Shida Kartli) known as the script of Trekhvi. Both of them consider the battles headed by Turkish warrior Alf Arslan aiming to occupy the Kartli region which represents quite a large part of Georgia.

The XI century hagiographical piece of work “The life of Giorgi Mtatsmindeli” gives us the description of circumstances of life in Georgia in the 60-ies of the XI century; one of the most important and interesting issue of the mentioned work is the description of the hard times for the town Akhalkalaki which became absolutely devastated during the above mentioned times, by Alf-Arslan, the sultan of Turk Seljuks.

In the process of studying the interrelations between Georgia and Seljuks State the historical work of the XI century “Historical Review of Georgia” (in Georgian “matiane kartlisa”) is of great historical importance. The author of this work apparently is familiar with the political circumstances of those times in Georgia, namely of the 40-ies - 70-ies of the XI century. The important historical events of the Turk Seljuks times are described and discussed.

The last source which is discussed in the represented paper is the work which is titled as “Description of the Georgian Kingdom” (in Geo: “aghtsera sameposa sakartvelosa”) is written by Georgian historian

of those times, Vakhushti Batonishvili. The author discussing the interrelations of Georgia and Turk Seljuks points out the dates and the interesting facts which were taking place in those times. The mentioned historical work is unique because of its historical importance, namely, giving the historical events in details and supported by real facts and sources.

The authors of the mentioned sources (except Vakhushti Batonishvili) were the contemporaries' of the described events. This makes the preserved historical facts to be more believable. The Georgian historians not only described the historical facts but quite often they analyzed those events as well and gave them the appropriate evaluation.

**Key words:** Georgia; Turk Seljuks; historical sources; Alf Arslan; Bagrat IV.

ვასილ მოსიაშვილი

სამცხე-ჯავახეთის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტის  
ასოცირებული პროფესორი. მის: 0800,  
საქართველო, ქ. ახალციხე, რუსთაველის ქ. #106  
ORCID:0000-0002-3975-2723  
vasilmosiashvili@gmail.com, +99555386493

### ანოტაცია

საქართველოსა და თურქ-სელჩუკთა სახელმწიფოს ურთიერთობების შესახებ მნიშვნელოვანი ცნობებია დაცული ქართულ საისტორიო წყაროებში. წინამდებარე ნაშრომში განხილული წყაროები ეხება ქართველებისა და თურქ-სელჩუკების ურთიერთობებს XI ს-ის 70 -ან წლებამდე.

სტატიაში განხილულ საისტორიო წყაროთა შორის ყველაზე ადრინდელია 1029 წლით დათარიღებული ცნობა, რომელიც ბაგრატ IV-ის სულთანზე თავდასხმას გადმოგვცემს.

სელჩუკთა საქართველოში ლაშქრობას გადმოგვცემს ბაგრატ IV-ის მიერ 1057 წელს შიო მღვიმის ლავრისთვის გაცემული შეწირულობის სიგელი. იგი ეხება სელჩუკთა მიერ შიო მღვიმის ლავრის მამულების აოხრებასა და საქართველოს მეფის მიერ აღნიშნული ლავრისთვის მამულების შეწირვას.

ორი ძველქართული წარწერა, აღმოჩენილი საქართველოს ისტორიულ რეგიონებში-ჯავახეთსა (მირაშხანის წაეწერა) და შიდა ქართლში (თრეხვის წარწერა), ეხება ალფ-არსლანის საქართველოში ლაშქრობებს.

XI საუკუნის ქართულ ჰაგიოგრაფიულ თხზულებაში „გიორგი მთაწმინდელის ცხოვრება“ აღწერილია სელჩუკთა ლაშქრობების გამო საქართველოში შექმნილი მდგომარეობა XI საუკუნის 60-იან წლებში, მათ შორის სელჩუკთა სულთნის ალფ-არსლანის მიერ ახალქალაქის აოხრება.

საქართველოსა და სელჩუკთა ურთიერთობის შესწავლის საქმეში განსაკუთრებული მნიშვნელობა ენიჭება XI საუკუნის საისტორიო თხზულებას „მატიანე ქართლისაჲ“. ამ თხზულების ავტორი კარგად ერკვევა ახლო აღმოსავლეთის პოლიტიკურ ვითარებაში, საინტერესოდ გადმოგვცემს XI საუკუნის 40-70- იანი წლების საქართველოსა და დიდ-სელჩუკთა სახელმწიფოს ისტორიის მნიშვნელოვან მოვლენებს.

ბოლო წყარო, რომელიც განხილული გვაქვს ნაშრომში, არის XVIII ს-ში მცხოვრები ქართველი ისტორიკოსის, ვახუშტი ბატონიშვილის, ნაშრომი „აღწერა სამეფოსა საქართველოსა“. ვახუშტი ბატონიშვილი საქართველოსა და სელჩუკთა სახელმწიფოს ურთიერთობების გადმოცემისას, თარიღებითა და საინტერესო ფაქტებით ავსებს მატთანე ქართლისაის ავტორის ცნობებს. მისი ნაშრომი დიდი სამეცნიერო კვლევის შედეგია და განსაკუთრებულ ყურადღებას იმსახურებს.

ზემოაღნიშნულ წყაროთა ავტორები (გამონაკლისია მხოლოდ ვახუშტი ბატონიშვილი) აღწერილი მოვლენების თანამედროვეები არიან, რაც კიდევ უფრო სანდოს ხდის მათ მიერ გადმოცემულ ისტორიულ ამბებს. ქართველი მემატაიანეები არა მარტო აღწერენ ისტორიულ მოვლენებს, არამედ ხშირად აანალიზებენ კიდევ და ეპოქის შესაბამის შეფასებასაც აძლევენ.

**საკვანძო სიტყვები:** საქართველო; თურქ-სელჩუკები; საისტორიო წყაროები; ალფ-არსლანი; ბაგრატ IV.

## Introduction

Creation of the State of Turk-Seljuks played important role in developing the historical events in the Near and Middle East as well as the countries of the Near East and Caucasus, among all, their influence on Georgian State historical development. The interrelations between Turk Seljuks and Georgian State are correspondingly reflected in the Georgian historical sources.

Critical discussion of the Georgian historical sources and comparing them with the foreign historical sources made it possible to specify that till the sixties of the XI century Seljuks did not have any political interests and goals in relation to Georgia. They aimed to conquer Armenia and Azerbaijan. As about Georgia, the armies of Turk Seljuks attacked Georgia only in shape of the random fights such as raids.

The situation changed after Alf-Arslan became the ruler of Seljuk state (in 1063). He aimed to occupy and submit Georgia. To fulfil this goal, he attacked Georgia twice (1064, 1068). At that time Georgia was the only independent state in Trans Caucasus. According the Georgian historical written sources Alf Arslan could not achieve his goal. He left the country without reaching his aim to receive the throne of Georgian king Bagrat. The contradiction between the Turkish and Georgian governors ended in the diplomatic interrelations. We suggest that achieving the level of diplomacy rescued Georgia of the third wave of the Turk Seljuks full invasion.

Nevertheless, the final results of the several invasions of Turks ended in the very hard results for Georgia. The Seljuks devastated the South of Georgia and the part of the West Georgia (the territory up to Sveri castle). They captured the population and large amount of trophies. This resulted in hard economic situation and hindered to achieve the ultimate goal of uniting the whole country, which had begun successfully earlier to this invasion.

### Methodology

When investigating the represented issue, we used the following methods: description, comparing, methods of critical and systematic analysis (dividing the material into some parts, evaluating each part, reaching the result). The works of the well-known Georgian and foreign historian scientists became the basis of our work.

### Discussion and Results

The useful notes are preserved in several historical sources such as Georgian, Armenian, Arabic, Syrian and other historical writings about the interrelations between Georgia and Turkey. The most important and interesting are the documents and narratives in Georgian historical sources.

Among the Georgian historical documents, the earliest one, in which the interrelations between the Turks and Georgians were mentioned, is dated by 1029. It represents the document which mentions the fact of King Bagrat offensive action against the Turkish Sultan. “Here Bagrat Kurapalat began the offensive actions against the Sultan” – this is written in the document (zhordania, 1892: 169). According to the source, Bagrat IV participated in the war actions against the Turk Seljuks supposedly on the territories of Azerbaijan and Armenia. We have doubts about the participation of King Bagrat who at that time was very young and had been just chosen to be the King. In spite of this opinion, the date which is mentioned in the Georgian document, about King Bagrat’s participation in the fight against the Turk Seljuks, seems reliable. We think that despite Bagrat was very young at that time it had been two years already as he became the King so it was absolutely possible. Even if because of his young age he could not fight himself he could be the author or the ideologist of fighting. The author of the historical document could write purely symbolically that king Bagrat “fought” or Bagrat “invaded”. It seems possible that the author of the mentioned document could symbolically say “Bagrat attacked.” The date given in the Georgian document (1029) can be supported by the note of Munejim Bashi which tells us that in the year of 420 (1029) the Seljuks invaded the territory of Azerbaijan, ruined many populated areas. In this region the invaders were known as Turkish army (lashqari) (shengelia 1968: 172). „It can be said that in this period Bagrat IV was very active taking part in the war actions against Turks in Armenia and Azerbaijan.” (mosiashvili, 2017: 102).

The earliest document related to the periods of the Turk Seljuks military actions in Georgia supposedly is the historical paper informing about the endowment made by Bagrat IV to Shio Mghvime Laura in 1057, in which the damage resulted from Turks invasion to the estates owned by this Laura is described. According to the sources, King Bagrat made endowment to the Laura giving them some estates. (enukidze... 1984: 35-36). We suppose that the document of the mentioned endowment dated as 1057, concerns the raid by Turk Seljuks against the Trans Caucasian states which took place in 1054 (here we suppose that the wave of the invasions of Turks reached Georgia as well. This date is mentioned by (arist'ak'es last'ivert'etsi, 1974: 87-88). He was an eye witness of the mentioned fact and he described everything in details: the route, development of the events and the results). This military campaign taking place in Anatolia and Trance Caucasus is dated as taking place in 1054-1055, by Matheos Urharetz and Munejim Bashi. (shengelia, 1968:202-203). The Byzantian source evidently belong also to the above mentioned war campaign. According to Byzantian source, which says that the campaign of Tohrul-Bei represents the result of the rebel against him led by Khutulmush. Sultan chased him and

thus he reached Iberia with his military units. When Khutulmush knew about this he ran away to Saba and then to happy Arabia. When the sultan came to Iberia he ruined everything on his way. Thus the king urgently called Mikhail Akulutos from the West and sent him to Iberia. When he went there he gathered francs or French warriors from Khalda and Iberia, also Varangs and he hurried up to make obstacles in order to delay Sultan's attacks as strongly as possible. The Sultan left that place and went away. When reached his destination he gathered the units of francs (french) (in the meaning of European – French) and varangs and tried to make obstacles against the Sultan's offensive actions. Sultan went away to Tavriz. (k'edrene, 1963: 83).

In the Georgian historical sources of the XI century, both narratively and documentarily, the important information is kept about the interrelations between Georgia and Turk Seljuk state. Those materials were found out in the historical regions Javakheti and Shida Kartli. These writings belong to the XI century, the author is unknown. Two Old Georgian scripts belong to the documentary materials. Namely, the writing of the unknown author "Matiane Kartlisa" ("Historical writings of Kartli (Georgia)") and the hagiographical literature piece named "Tskhorebai Giorgi Mtacmindelisa" ("The life of Giorgi Mtatsmindeli"), the author of which is a writer of the hagiographical literature, whose name was Giorgi khutses-monazoni – which means monk. These authors both lived in the XI century and lived in the same period of time which was described in their writings. That is why their writings are of the special interest and at the same time more reliable.

The written papers concerning the raids of the Turk Sultan Alp-Arslan's invasions in the region of Kartli are discovered in the cave in the village Trekhvi, Kareli region. It is dated by 1066 and it tells us about the Turkish raids in Kartli region. The discovered scripts were found on the surface of the stone which has a shape of the cross. It is called Qva-jvari (stone-cross) (gaprindashvili, 1961:246). The script tells about the defensive actions of Georgians against Alf Arslan military units. Some details of political and religious sides of the life of Georgians of those times can be read on the stone surface, which retained the scripts telling us some interesting and important details of the history. When reading the script, it becomes easier to feel the complexity of the situation of those times. Leonti Mroveli, who was historical figure and was a bishop of Ruisi, had to take lead of the hard work of building up the proper situation. The invasions led by Alf Arslan against Georgia are not confirmed by any other historical sources (at that time Alf-Arslan was fighting against Turkmen settlements at the East and North sides of the Aral Sea). The exception of them was only one Arab anonymous author who noted absolutely without any remarks and comments that Alf Arslan invaded Georgia in 459 (1066-1067), he entered the vilayet and destroyed it fundamentally (anonimi avt'ori, 2003:385). It can be suggested that this note concerns the second invasion of Alf Arslan in Georgia which took place in 1068. Anonymous author made one more mistake when dated the death of Alf Arslan by the year 467 (1074) (anonimi avt'ori, 2003 385). In 1066 there began the works on the defensive buildings to protect Kartli region from invasions of Selchuks in the south of Georgia which apparently referred to the carefulness after Akhalkalaki invasion in 1066. We think that building the defensive buildings in Trekhvi was the echo to the fact of Akhalkalaki failure. This is mentioned in the script which was made on the walls of defensive buildings. But we can conclude that it was impossible within just that time of Alf Arslan's invasion in Kartli, in the rough places (it was especially difficult to enter the caves without special alpinist equipment). This task of building the caves could have been fulfilled only by special equipment and that is why the process needed a period of the peace time. But just at that time and in those circumstances, in order to be defended from the invasion, Leonti Mroveli built Trekhvi caves in the hard natural conditions, in the rocky mountains, with all the possible needs of those times, with water

reservoirs and other necessary facilities. The second epigraphic piece of literature is also known very interesting and precious, named as “The Script of Mirashkhan”. This script tells us about the raid of Turk Seljuks in summer of 1064 and devastation of Akhalqalaqi, the story about Parsman Tmogveli who was faithful to the king and the story of his death. Here are some toponymies given, such as the names of the Khorasani, Javakheti, Mirashkhani, M60-ies of the of the XI century. The mentioned script is a kind of historical chronicle type which tells about the first invasion of Turk seljuks in summer of 1064, and gives the details of death of Parsman Tmogveli in the battle for Akhalkalaki (silogava, 200:242).

The important documentary material of the XI century is preserved in the hagiographic writing “Life of Giorgi Mtatsmindeli” (giorgi mtsire, 1967), which tells the readers about the relations between Georgians and Turk Seljuks. Its full name is “The life and civil deeds of the blessed Father Giorgi Mtatsmindeli, Our Saint Father.” In general, hagiographic writings are of great importance as they are characterized by true and honest description of the historical events and acting characters are always the real historical persons. Iv. Javakhishvili regarded the “Life of Giorgi Mtatsmindeli” as very precious and absolutely reliable historical writings. (javakhishvili 977: 157).

The life of Giorgi Mtatsmindeli was described by his nearest and like-minded man and his best pupil Giorgi Mtsire (priest-nun). He followed his holy father to Georgia in 1060, endured all the hard times of the political situation of that time, which resulted from the hard political and military situations and was always following him. In 1065 he followed Giorgi Atoneli back again. (aptsiauri, 1980: 15).

According the writings by Giorgi Mtsire, their hard journey resulted from the fact that Seljuks had invaded almost the whole of the Near East and the ways to Georgia were closed up.

In the times of the Bizantian Caesar Konstantin X Duka (11059-1067) Giorgi Kedrane also mentioned that in the period which he mentioned taking also into his consideration the invasions of the Turk Seljuks in his “Khronography”, taking into consideration also the years of governing of Konstantine X Duka. This raid can be dated as early as in 1059. Turk historian Ianinch also pointed the mentioned raids, and said that the land ways to Georgia were closed were closed and the same is mentioned in the writings of biographer of Giorgi Mtatsmindeli, Giorgi the Junior. We think that one of the causes of the hard situation in Georgia in 1060 when Giorgi Junior met as he came to Kartli. This cause is not mentioned in any sources by Giorgi Mtsire himself.

In the time when Giorgi Mtatsmindeli came to Georgia, the king reached remarkable military success against the family of Abasdze, which were ready to capture and arrest the King (giorgi mtsire 1967, 160). Thus Giorgi Mtsire describes the political events in Georgia and abroad.

During the raids of Alf Arslan, Bagrat IV invited Giorgi Mtatsmindeli in Akhalqalaqi. He had a hundred of homeless orphan children with him, as many as 80. Most of them were rescued from slavery. His loyal pupil who was at the same time his biographer, also accompanied Giorgi Mtatsmindeli. His name was Giorgi khutses Monazoni. Giorgi Mtatsmindeli had heard from some sources that Alf Arslan was going to devastate Akhalqalaqi. So, he told the children “the ` anger is upon us and this town” and decided to leave the place. According the historical writings, Giorgi Mtatsmindeli predicted the ruin actions nearing to the town. This turned true and it was so devastating that the writer could not deliver everything in details and only said that it was a great rage from God. Not only the citizens of the city but many other noblemen took part in the fights to defend Akhalqalaqi : „Great and noble men of the city were defeated and many were killed” Such tragical results of fighting for Akhalqalaqi. He told about his hard feelings to Giorgi Mtatsmindeli (giorgi mtsire, 1967:174).



Especially important and interesting documents about the relations between Georgia and Turk Seljuk state are kept in the historical collection under the name “Kartlis Tskhovreba” (“matiane qartlis” – chronicles of Kartli); the author is anonymous; there we should mention also the chronicles of the life of the King David, named “Tskhovreba mefet mefisa Davitisa,” the document “Istoriani da azmani sharavandedtani” also about the life of David Aghmashenebeli, also the historical writings preserving the deeds of David the builder (Davit Aghmashenebli and others. Taking into consideration the material which we are interested in at that time, the most important is Matiane Qartlisa” – “Chronicles of Kartli,” edition of 2008, which introduces many important historical documents. The written text begins with the VIII century and goes on describing the events till the beginning of 70-ies of the XI century. The Georgian author of the document “Matiane Kartlisa” evidently was one of the most educated and professional historians. The data found in the named historical work enrich our knowledge about history of Georgia of that time. The reliability of the mentioned historical materials is adequately estimated. Iv. Javakhishvili wrote: “this important historical work is adequately assessed because it gives us documented and reliable material, which is well assessed and approved shows that the author did not like being unnaturally eloquent, he is self-controlled, he does not show interest in arrogant speech; each word of his speech fully corresponds the subject. He is shortly teller but tells the most important things. No word can be omitted. All of them are just precious. His historical work is rich, full of sense, full of historical facts and events, which cannot be seen in any other sources. When comparing the facts and events delivered by our author we can see that the facts which he mentions and his assessments are almost always true.” (javakhishvili, 1977: 206-209).

The author of the Georgian historical chronicles “Matiane Kartlisa” describes the battles conducted by Liparit Eristavi to support the Greeks on Dvini, also the military actions in 1048 by Seljuk military Ibrahim Inali, namely it took place in the Basiani region, the battles of Georgian and Bizantian warriors against Seljuks, then also how Liparit was captured and then freed, the situation in Gandza caused by Seljuks, participation of Bagrat IV in sweeping the Seljuks out of Gandza, and so on. The author also tells about military actions of Alf Arslan in South Georgia, names in details the places which were ruined by him, besides that, describes the battles of Georgians near at Akhalqalaqi, their defeat, devastation of Akhalqalaqi; interrelations between Alf-Arslan and Bagrat IV, Georgian historical writings tell also about the second wave of the raid by Alf Arslan after some years, there are also told about how the king of Kakheti Aghsartan was forced to take Muslim religion, interrelations between Alf Arslan and Aghsartan, The documentary materials given in “Matiane Kartlisa” tells also about the fact of capturing the Kartli region fully, by help of the king of Kakheti Aghsartan, king of Armenia Kvirike and Amir of the city of Tbilis. There are also described the details which show how rich region Kartli was until the raids of Alf Arslan and how the region was robbed and destroyed by Seljuks. The raiding army of Seljuks reached up to Sveri castle. The Georgian historian writes about the deeds of Seljuks. He was well aware about the second wave of Seljuk invasion led by Alf Arslan. He says in his writings that Sultan gave gifts to Bagrat, spoke to him in very sweet, friendly manner asking for payment, but though Bagrat regularly sent him gifts he always denied to pay payment called kharadja. The above mentioned writing describes in detail the story of Alf Arslan’s death. It happened so that king Bagrat and Alf Arslan died almost at the same time. Historian writes that none of them knew about the death of other. It should be noted that Georgian historian who describes the events was well aware about the processes which were taking place in different countries in the Near East. He delivers some very interesting historical facts and events in professional manner. These historical writings are very important as the source of historical facts in the 40-ies and 70-ies of the XI century. These historical writings are precious

for the political historical events in Georgia, trans-Caucasus, near East countries. The events are described in details and when reconciling them it becomes clear that the facts are reliable. (shengelia, 2003: 55).

The style of delivering the historical events is narrative, without tension, very calm and does not show any emotion or attitude. But only when describing the events related to the Turk Seljuks invasions some emotion is felt. The mentioned passage describes the war events and the facts taking place in the battles of Tbilisi and Rustavi, and unfortunately disguised behavior of some feudal (mat'iane kartlisa, 2008:292).

The interrelations between Seljuks and Georgians including the military raids of Alf Arslan are described in the work by the XVIII century Georgian historian Vakhushti Batonishvili. The work is named as "Description of the Kingdom of Georgia (Sakartvelo)." This work by Vakhushti Bagrationi contains two parts: the first one is "the old cycle" including the facts from the ancient times to the XIV century, in which the events are given which became the containing parts of the historical material given in the first part and also other special events in addition, which made the second part, and so, in whole, the second part describes different times of the Georgian history; it contains the events of the XIV-XVII centuries which represent the new cycle of history. The king Vakhtang VI compiled a scientific commission which compiled the second, new cycle of the historical monument Kartlis Tshovreba. The first part of this work contains the issues which are interesting for our scientific aims. In the first part of the historical work when telling about the Alf Arslan's offensive actions mainly follows the path of the narrative of the author of "matiane kartlisa" but differing from the author of the mentioned works, this author of the new materials dates the first raid of Alf Arslan in Georgia (1064), the date of marriage of king Bagrat's daughter in Byzantia (1065), and the date of wedding of king Bagrat's niece with Alph-Arslan (also 1065). And this is no surprise, as the main goal of Vakhushti Bagrationi was to fulfill the historical source with the appropriate dates which usually lacked in the historical writings and became the cause of mistakes and was discussed by Vakhushti Bagrationi as the main fault of the whole historian writings and works. It seems that Vakhushti Bagrationi fulfilled the and adjusted the time data concerning the part of Georgian history which was of great interest and importance concerning the battles of Alf Arslan. Where such work was unable, the passages of the historical writings cannot be very precise. For example, the author of the Matiane Kartlisa does not know the name of the person who recognized Phadlon who had run away from the men of Bagrat IV and that person caught him. "A wise man met Fadlon and said: you are not an apostle, you are Amira Fadlon" (mat'iane kartlisa, 2008:293). But Vakhushti batonishvili knows that person he says: "Niania saw him and delivered him to Isaak" (vakhusht'i bat'onishvili 1973: 151).

The work done by Vakhushti Bagrationi results from the hard and serious scientific work and is worth of special interest. The well-known historian Ivane Javakhishvili mentioned: "he did not write anything "by himself" but the whole observation represents serious hard work and is worth of the special attention. It is the product of the work of studying Georgian and other historical sources of those times. "Thus, Vakhushti Bagrationi is always grounded on the attentive and detail process of working and he worked like all the contemporary scientists would do. It is obvious that he took information from Georgian historical sources and took up all the important information from them, then he arranged the facts chronologically and according their sphere of belonging. Thus, he restored the full historical picture" (javakhishvili, 1977: 341).

Thus, we shortly discussed the Georgian historical sources in which the information about interrelations of Georgia and Turk Seljuk state in the years of the 70-ies of the are preserved These



sources along with the foreign sources (such as Armenian, Arabic, Byzantian, Syrian and other languages). Thus, we are able to find important information and to study thoroughly the historical interrelations between Georgians and Seljuks.

Studying and analyzing the mentioned sources enables us to make the conclusion that until the 60-ies of the XI century the Seljuks did not have any political interests towards Georgia and their invasions were only of the raiding character. The goal of the two raids of Turks in Georgia, in 1064-1068, under the command of Sultan Alf-Arslan, was to capture Georgia as the only independent Christian During the several invasions despite the great loss of people and other resources the Georgian people managed to retain their own state and political independence. It can be said that against the fact that Alf Arslan had great successes in his policy and military affairs, Georgian king Bagrat IV was a rare exception. Thus, the Sultan who could not overcome his resistance and transferred his relations onto the diplomatic grounds. The historical sources tell us that Sultan did not achieve his goal and he had almost friendly diplomatic relations with King Bagrat. According the same historical writings, Alf Arslan and King Bagrat died and it so happened that none of the two knew about the death of the other. (Matiane kartlisa 2008:296). This phrase written by a Georgian history writer symbolically points out the rival as well as diplomatic interrelations between Bagrat IV and Alf Arslan, and personal strength of both. Alf Arslan was not able to suppress Georgian political independence but he weakened the country by the military raids. Later, in the 70-80-ies of the XIst he made good backgrounds for the aggressive actions made by his son Malik Shakh. At that time, paying tributes which Bagrat IV had refused, became the point of begging to his son Giorgi II. In 1083 he announced obedience and asked Malik Shakh to express to him obedience and begged for peace and peaceful relations for the cost of yearly material tributes. (mosiashvili, 2017:262).

The Old Georgian recorders of the historical events described the above mentioned times and the important events in short and easily manner. They clearly show how unbearable it was for the Georgians having Turk Seljuks as the close neighbors. Georgian history writers noticed how much negative influence the Georgian agriculture, lifestyle, crafting and trading could suffer in the conditions of the Turk Seljuk influences. The Georgian historians understood that all the spheres of the civil life could have been damaged. The history writers showed that they were characterized by general analytical thinking. They even were able to give right qualifications of the political and civic events.

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