

nomies, but Caucasian “People”. Sukhumi was declared as the capital of the “Confederation” (Chitadze N., 2011, p. 595).

Along with foundation of the “confederation” in Sukhumi and declaring the capital of Abkhazian Autonomous Republic as main city (when the biggest part of the territories included as part of “Confederation” located in North Caucasus - on the territory of Russian Federation), was clearly showing the main purposes of the “Confederation” on the territory of Abkhazian Autonomous Republic.

The influential field commander (who later was declared by Russian Authorities as Terrorist N1) Shamil Basaev and J. Soslanbekov – an influential Pro-Russian politician, within the period of 1991-1993 where leaders of “confederation”. Because of financial and political support, the last one had more influence in Chechnya than former President J. Dudaev.

Ideological base of the “Confederation” was the “New Soviet Constitution”, presented by a former dissident A. Sakharov. It ran as follows: the USSR had to be disintegrated into more than one hundred small political entities and the union among these territories had to be remained. According to this concept, Georgia was called a “Small Empire”.

Final aim of the “Confederation of Mountain People of Caucasus” from the legal point of view contradicted with the legislative base of USSR and later Russia. The basic “program” of confederation was decreasing dependence of Russia on those territories of North Caucasus, which were considered as territory of Russia. But, at the same time, no action of so-called confederates had any resistance from the side of Soviet or Russian authorities until the ending of the military operations on the territory of Abkhazia (Georgia) and Chechnya.

Confederation Againsts Georgia

After four days of starting military operations on the territory of Abkhazia, in August 18 of 1992, at the meeting of the “parliament” of “Confederation of Mountain People of Caucasus”, the decision about military assistance of Abkhaz separatists was adopted.

In August 21, 1992 “Confederation” sent the band formations and terrorist groups to Abkhazia. By the leaders of confederation, territory of Georgia was declared as the zone for the commitment of terrorist acts. Illegal formations also were sent to Abkhazia by the “Council of Atamans” of Don and Kuban Cossaks.

The armed formations and military equipment of the Russian Army, which was delivered to the different terrorist and separatist groups, were sent to Abkhazia. This process has gained the intensive character, when separatists and band formations of “confederates”) brutally violated the cease-fire agreement which was signed in Moscow in September 3, 1992 (under mediation of Russia) and took control over towns near the Georgia-Russian border - Gagra, Leselidze and Gantiadi managed to establish control over Russian-Georgian state border. After that, military equipment was sent to Abkhazia from Russia without any problems.

During the military operations on the territory of Abkhazia, different terrorist groups from North Caucasus committed the brutal murders against Georgian population. More than 250 thousand people, inhabitants of Abkhazia (ethnic Georgians and other) have become the IDP as the result of massacres implemented by Terrorists, separatists and extremists.

During the OSCE Summits in Budapest (1994) and Lisbon (1996), “ethnic cleansing” against Georgian population on the

territory of Abkhazia was recognized.

OSCE Budapest Summit (1994) Resolution on “Ethnic Cleansing” in Abkhazia

“Faced with the alarming situation in the Republic of Georgia, which has been even further aggravated by the recent events in Abkhazia, the participating States reiterated their strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. On the basis of these principles, a settlement of the conflicts in Georgia must be reached. The interests of the multi-ethnic population in the areas of conflicts must also be taken into account.

The participating States expressed their concern about the unilateral acts of 26 November 1994 by the authorities of Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia. This undermines both United Nations and CSCE efforts to promote a peaceful political settlement through negotiations between the conflicting parties in Georgia.

They expressed their deep concern over “ethnic cleansing”, the massive expulsion of people, predominantly Georgian, from their living areas and the deaths of large numbers of innocent civilians”. (Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), 1994)

OSCE Lisbon Summit 1996

“We reaffirm our utmost support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We condemn the ‘ethnic cleansing’ resulting in mass destruction and forcible expulsion of predominantly Georgian population in Abkhazia. Destructive acts of separatists, including obstruction of return of refugees and displaced people and the decision to hold elections in Abkhazia and in Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, undermine the positive efforts undertaken to promote political settlement of these conflicts. We are convinced that the international community, in particular the United Nations and the OSCE with participation of the Russian Federation as a facilitator, should continue to contribute actively to the search for a peaceful settlement”. (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), 1996)

After ending of the military operations in Abkhazia, head of the terrorist group - Sosnaliev on the post of the “Minister of Defense” of Abkhazia has been appointed.

Support of North Caucasian Illegal Band Formations to Russia during August 2008

The support of separatists from the North Caucasus side has been strengthened before the military aggression of Russia against Georgia in August 2008, when Russian officials directly encouraged the deployment of the band formations from North Caucasus in the separatist Regions of Georgia. One of the most active military units was Chechen battalion “Vostok”.

Taking into consideration the fact above, Russian involvement in state sponsored terrorist activities, which is strictly condemned by International conventions and resolutions, is obvious. UN Resolution on “State Terrorism” strongly condemns terrorism.

UN Resolution on State Terrorism

Inadmissibility of the policy of State terrorism and any actions by States aimed at undermining the socio-political system in other sovereign States. UN Resolution 39/159

“Noting that all this seriously endangers the independent

existence of States and the possibility of ensuring peaceful relations and mutual trust between them and leads to a sharp exacerbation of tensions and a growing threat of war.

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples freely to determine their own destiny and the course of their development convinced that the interests of maintaining peace require that relations between States, regardless of ideologies, should be based on strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as on generally recognized principles and norms of international relations, inter alia, renunciation of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal and external affairs of States, permanent sovereignty of States and peoples over their natural resources self-determination and independence of peoples under colonial domination, foreign occupation or racist regimes, categorically rejecting all concepts, doctrines or ideologies intended to justify actions of States aimed at undermining the socio-political system of other States, resolutely condemns policies and practices of terrorism in relations between States as a method of dealing with other States and peoples;

Demands that all States take no actions aimed at military intervention and occupation, forcible change in or undermining of the socio-political system of States, destabilization and overthrow of their Governments and, in particular, initiate no military action to that end under any pretext whatsoever and cease forthwith any such action already in progress; Urges all States to respect and strictly observe, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereignty and political independence of States and the right of peoples to self-determination, as well as their right freely, without outside interference and intervention, to choose their socio-political system and to pursue their political, economic, social and cultural development". (Aleksidze L., p. 286)

Lapankuri Incident

In August 29, 2012, at 6:10, the Georgian Interior Ministry detected an armed group at the border with Dagestan. Near the Dagestani section of the Georgian-Russian border, the Georgian security forces found armed group, said the Minister of Interior. At the same time, according to the different sources, the police blocked the road through the village Lapankuri Telavi region (Eastern Georgia).

Georgian mass-media reported that in the forest near the village Lapankuri located near the boundary in the direction of Dagestan, five young people were missing around the age of 25 who have gone there on August 26 and did not returned. Local residents said they could be taken as hostage or be kidnapped. Later, the "Georgia online" reported the Georgian Interior Ministry to have found the missing men and returned them home. Details of disappearance of young people and their detection was not reported.

According to the information of Georgian and Russian information agencies, as the result of the battle between the Georgian security forces with an unknown armed group, discovered near the Russian border in the village Lapankuri, (11 militants were killed). (The Independent, 2012). Losses incurred in the Georgian police, too: Three people were killed - two commanders and a medical officer. Previously, the Georgian law executives managed to free two hostages held by militants. According to the young people, they were returning from a picnic when they met the bearded armed men on the road. There were

about 15 people with machine guns and grenade launchers. Hostages were threatened with death if they tried to escape. In its turn, the Georgian channel "Imedi" reported that on the territory of Georgia and Dagestan infiltrated a group of about 20 heavily armed militants. Within three days, they had captured three groups of local residents, totally about 10 people. The day before, the largest group of 5 people were released. (Ivanishvili, 2012). In order to hide Russian involvement in the incident, the Russian security services reported that no violations at the Russian-Georgian border in recent days were recorded, from both sides, "Interfax". (The Voice of Russia, 2012). But, at the same time, law enforcement source in Dagestan mentioned that members of the armed formations were representatives of the Tsuntin bandit group. According to this version, the militants have moved to Georgia, hiding from security forces in Dagestan. "If they want to go back, we are here to meet" - the source added. (Kalatozishvili, 2012). After ending of the operation, announcement the President of Georgia Michael Saakashvili declared that "Georgian authorities will not allow the export of tensions to another area for the complication relations with its northern neighbors." (The Voice of Russia, 2012). President noted that in the 1990s, "when the northern neighbor of Georgia in the North Caucasus had big problems and instability occurred due to the Caucasus, it had exported these problems on the territory of Georgia." Everything following the facts there are all famous events in South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions and in the Pankisi Gorge. There were a lot of other negative events that have affected the development of Georgia," - said the Georgian president. He stressed that "the latest attempt to export the new wave of tension and instability in Georgia from its northern neighbor will be suppressed on the vine." He also added that "Georgia's intention is to be represented as peaceful country within the Caucasus, region with a common culture, politics, the economy, as a people with a common political and historical interest." He stressed that "the country has very well trained and prepared law enforcement authorities, and the authorities of Georgia have the political will to protect and preserve the country's citizens and to achieve peaceful development of the Georgian statehood." (Caucasus Report, 2013)

Confederation Against Chechnya

Since its foundation "confederation" started resistance to the National movement of Chechnya– Republic, which wanted to be separated from Russia and create the independent state.

After ending of the military operations in Abkhazia and before the first Chechen war (1994-1996), "confederation" has activated its fight with the secret support from the Russian side against President of Chechnya Johar Dudaev. Most of the "confederation" forces were sent to Chechnya with the direct support of Russia. "Confederation" has organized two terrorist acts, including so – called "the coup of theatre square" which was followed by using of tanks. After the failure, the "chairman of parliament" of "confederation" I. Soslanbekov escaped from Chechnya and found refuge in Moscow.

End of the Confederation

After the maximum using of the resources of "confederation", Russia brought criminal charges against the leaders of "Confederation". Accordingly, all kind of activities of "confederation", including terrorist acts, were stopped and terrorist and bandit groups were destroyed by the Russian authorities.

Policy of Russia in North Caucasus

First Russian-Chechen War

In November 27, 1990, the idea of founding the Chechen State “Nokhchi-Cho”, and separation from USSR and Russia was declared.

In the beginning of 1991, Chechen-Ingush leadership refused to organize referendum on its territory related to the integrity of USSR. Main reason was that North-Ossetia refused to give Ingushetia the Prigorodny Region back, which historically belonged to Ingushetia but was ceded to North Ossetia after deportation of Chechens and Ingush to Central Asia in 1944.

In June 1991, Jokhar Dudaev became the leader of National Congress of Chechen people, and in October 27, 1991, he was elected to the post of the President of the Chechen Republic. By the first decree, November 1, 1991, Dudaev declared independence of Chechen Republic – Ichkeria. At the same time, he started to mobilize the National Guard of Chechnya (Evangelista M., p.18).

Due to the tensions between Moscow and Grozny, within the period of 1991-1994, situation in Chechnya become uncontrolled. In May and June, 1994, Chechen extremists committed terrorist acts outside Chechnya, in Mineralnye Vody.

At the end of 1993, the opposition started the war against Dudaev, which later was transformed into the Russian-Chechen war, after the entrance of Russian Army to the Republic. First Chechen lasted for 2 years and caused death of 50 thousand civilians.

Chaos in Chechnya

Following the first war, the separatist government’s grip on the chaotic republic was weak, especially outside the ruined capital Grozny. The areas controlled by separatist groups grew larger and the country became increasingly chaotic. In place of the devastated economic structure, kidnapping emerged as the principal source of income countrywide, procuring over \$200 million during the three-year de-facto independence of the chaotic fledgling state. It has been estimated that up to 1,300 people were kidnapped in Chechnya between 1996 and 1999 and in 1998 a group of four Western hostages were executed. Political violence and religious extremism, in the form of Islamist Wahhabism, was ripe as well. In 1998, a state of emergency was declared by the authorities in Grozny. Tensions led to the open clashes like the July 1998 confrontation in Gudermes in which some 50 people died in the fight between Chechen National Guard and the Islamist militias.

Second Russia-Chechen War

The Second Chechen War was launched by the Russian Federation starting 26 August in 1999, in response to the Invasion of Dagestan by the Islamic formations.

On 1 October Russian troops entered Chechnya. The campaign ended up with de facto independence of Chechen Republic of Ichkeria and restored Russian federal control over the territory. Although it is regarded as an internal conflict within the Russian Federation, the war attracted a large number of foreign fighters.

During the initial campaign, Russian military and pro-Russian Chechen paramilitary forces faced Chechen separatists in open combat, and seized the Chechen capital Grozny after a winter siege that lasted from late 1999 to the following

February 2000. Russia established direct rule on Chechnya in May 2000 and after the full-scale offensive, Chechen militant resistance throughout the North Caucasus region continued to inflict heavy Russian casualties and challenge Russian political control over Chechnya for several more years. Some Chechen separatists also carried out attacks against civilians in Russia. These attacks, as well as widespread human rights violations by Russian and separatist forces, drew international condemnation.

Regarding the two wars, from 1991 till 2005, about 160 thousand people were killed. (Mission of the United States, 2013) Former member of the government of Ichkeria, Akhmed Zakaev mentioned about the death of more than 200 thousand people during the two wars in Chechnya.

The Emergence of ‘North Caucasian Wahhabism’ and its Dangers

Wahhabism as a radical religious direction is a specific phenomenon in the North Caucasus, which includes both, religious and political aspects. It represents the regional form of the Salafism ideology, which appeals to the followers of Islamic religion to return to the so-called ‘pure’ Islam of the times of the Prophet Muhammad and the Four Righteous Caliphs. This concept holds that it can achieve ‘pure’ state by cleansing traditional Islam of local accretions, of the mis persuasions and heresies of the Sufi and adherents of the tariqahs, as well as elements of pagan beliefs which its adherents claim have distorted the Muslim religion. Some experts have described the religious direction of Wahhabism in the North Caucasus as fundamentalism. That term may be applied, with certain reservations, but it is not itself of Islamic origin.

The source of the appearance and expansion of North Caucasian Wahhabism can be traced back to the period of the 80-th of the XX Century, with the process of perestroika and glasnost, when the Communist ideology was losing its influence and permitted a gradual process of ‘re-Islamization’. Religious schools and centers sprung up everywhere, the Muslim clergy started to play a more active part in religious and political activities, and previously inaccessible religious literature began to emerge once again. At rallies of Muslims in the different republics of North Caucasus, speakers criticized a secular society. They tried to promote the process of Islamisation and urged Muslim society to live in strict accordance with sharia. In the early 1990s, representatives of the Islamic Party of Revival declared, in the centre of Grozny, that the Koran should be the Muslims’ constitution. The following parallel seems appropriate. In the late 1920s, members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt were declaring that “The Koran is our constitution”. This idea later was shared by the Islamist movement. The Islamic renaissance in the North Caucasus was accompanied by the foundation of religious parties and movements that aroused interest and support among the region’s Muslims.

Terrorist Groups on the Territory of North Caucasus

Karachay Jamaat

“Karachai jamaat” (sometimes referred to the “Muslim society № 3”) - Karachai Wahhabi terrorist group which is operating though Russia. There are apartment bombings in Moscow and Volgograd in 1999 (232 dead), 2 blasts in Moscow subway in 2004 (52 killed, 300 injured), the terrorist attacks in Krasnodar (3 dead, 20 injured), Voronezh (1 dead and 6 in-

jured), Stavropol, Rostov region on the account of the group members. The group was founded in 1995. Wahhabi ideas were preached by created subsidiaries in Karachay-Cherkessia and Kabardino-Balkaria. Initially, the “Company” directed elderly imam Adam Seed, but then he stopped to organize young parishioners, and was replaced by Achemez Gochiyaev. Shortly before the outbreak of the Second Chechen War, the leader of the Karachai Wahhabis Ramadan Borlakov established contact with Arab terrorist Khattab. Borlakov was sent to his training camp and his supporters then formed so-called “Karachay battalion.” (Johnston, 2013)

Caucasus Emirate

Caucasus Emirate (self Caucasus Emirate, as the North Caucasus Emirate) - the concept of the “Emirate” is creation the Islamic (Sharia) state in the North Caucasus. Caucasus Emirate was proclaimed on October 7, 2007 by the so-called President of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria (CRI) Doku Umarov. Actually, Caucasian Emirate is a separatist terrorist radical Islamist underground, covering Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachay-Cherkessia and has armed groups operating in the mining and forest regions of those republics. Underground jihadist networks also exist in the Republic of Tatarstan and the Urals. Different groups (Jamaat) constitute a movement united by religious ideology and their main purpose is the armed struggle against the Russian state in the North Caucasus, local authorities and Russian security forces. At the core ideology of the movement is the concept of jihad.

In February 8, 2010 the Supreme Court of Russia, at the request of the Prosecutor General, recognized the “Emirate” as the terrorist organization. On May 26, 2011 U.S. State Department acknowledged the “Caucasus Emirate” as terrorist organization. (Interfax, 2011)

Leader of the “Emirate” Doku Umarov proclaimed “jihad” against “infidels” for their exile and the approval of Sharia law. Thus, Doku Umarov claimed the role of head of the area covering a number of regions of the North Caucasus - Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia, part of the Stavropol Krai, North Ossetia - Alania, Kabardino-Balkaria and Karachay-Cherkessia. In this case, Doku Umarov separated the Muslims infidels according to ethnic, territorial and colonial zones - “North Caucasian republics”. It renamed them as the Provinces: Dagestan, Nohchiycho, Galgaiche, Nogai Steppe and Iriston Kabardino-Balkaria-Karachai. The heads of the individual Provinces (valiyami) were appointed as the heads of local terrorist organizations, Jamaat. Doku Umarov, signed Appropriate “order” on October 7, 2007. Jamaat Sharia (Dagestan Front) - a clandestine terrorist association was created in Dagestan in the early 2000’s. This terrorist association was responsible for numerous killings of civilians, attacks on law enforcement, intelligence agencies, the military, Muslim clergy of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Dagestan. It is part of the so-called “Caucasus Emirate”, uniting the illegal armed groups of the North Caucasus.

Derbent Jamaat

“Derbent jamaat” (“Forest brothers” group “South”) - an underground terrorist group operating in southern Dagestan. Engaged in attacks on law enforcement officers, the group has organized several terrorist attacks, has spread Wahhabi literature and implemented propaganda activities.

In 2007-2008, the group was led by Abdul-Majid - Ilgar Mallochiev (Malachi, Mallachiev), a native of Zaqatala region of Azerbaijan. After the death of the warlord Rappani Khalilov in September 2007, he was appointed as commander of the “Dagestan front”. According to the Dagestani FSB, Malachi took part in both Chechen wars, and got military training under the supervision of the well-known Arab commander Khattab and Abu al-Walid. In 2006, Doku Umarov sent him to Dagestan with the task to coordinate the activities of militant groups. Malachiev died in April 200 .

Jamaat Yarmuk

Yarmuk Jamaat - an underground Islamist terrorist organization operating in Kabardino-Balkaria.

Jamaat “Yarmuk” was formed in the summer of 2002 by the resident of Kabardino-Balkaria, who joined the field commander Ruslan Gelayev group. Jamaat is named after the Battle of the Yarmuk River in the Middle East, when the Arabs in the Middle Ages conquered most of the Palestine territory. Members of the terrorist group were responsible for the armed attacks against the local authorities and law enforcement agencies. According to the operative data, Yarmuk Jamaat as an underground militant organization has the support of Jamaat of Kabardino-Balkaria, who were supporters of the “pure Islam.” Kabardino-Balkaria Jamaat was founded by Imam Mosque Volny, in Aul (village) of Musa (Arthur) Mukozhev, who became its first leader (amir). Jamaat has a clear chain of command - the leader and his deputies (naibs), senior groups, each of which performs certain duties - physical preparation guide ordinary members of Jamaat, religious instruction (lectures and sermons), etc.

In October 2005, according to the statements of Shamil Basayev, leader of the group Astemirov was one of the organizers of the attack on Nalchik, who headed the combined group of militants. Many members of the Kabardino-Balkar sector “Caucasus Front” participated in the attack. During the two days of fighting in the city 92 attackers, 35 law enforcement officers and 14 civilians were killed. (Agentura, 2005)

The New Strategy of Russia in North Caucasus

The aim of Russia in North Caucasus is to isolate this region from the rest of the world and establish a full control over it. For this reason President of Russian Federation Dmytry Medvedev has established a new administrative unit within Russian Federation – Federal District of North Caucasus, where Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachay-Cherkhesia, North Ossetia, Chechnya and Stavropol region have been united. The foundation of the district is determined by the difficult social, economic, political and criminal situation, high level of corruption and real threat of terrorism. By the decision of the government of Russia, the new state structure – state commission of Caucasus has been created. Accordingly, Moscow will try to control those finances, which were released for the development of North Caucasus Republics from the Federal budget.

Recently, the Russian Government has put forward plans to create a Caucasian Silicon Valley, at a cost of 32 billion rubles (\$1.1 billion) as part of on-going efforts to generate opportunities in the troubled Russian region. The final purpose of the strategy is to transform the North Caucasus into a touristic center. There are three main directions of development: 1. Augmentation of the Social-Economic indexes; 2. Resolution of the security problems; 3. Stabilization of the social-political

situation, modernization of the social infrastructure, tourism and economic development, reduction of the unemployment (Chitadze, 2011. P. 602).

At the same time, the strategy includes the aim to increase the number of ethnic Russians artificially and for this purpose, government plans the foundation of emigration agencies.

Russian government understands, that existed unemployment, which in some North Caucasus Republics prevails 50 %, promotes development of separatism and terrorism. For this purposes, it is planned to create the preferences for the ethnic Russians.

Despite this effort, there are doubts of the successful implementation of strategy. Russian authorities have presented the project proposals to some big International banks but it was not a success. After 2010, the terrorism activity has been especially increased and included the whole region of North Caucasus.

Conclusions

Appearance of Islamic radicalism and extremism in the North Caucasus is linked to the active political rise of Wahhabism. There can be no doubt that this was prompted by the transition from one socio-political formation to another within the region –collapse of the USSR, disappearance of Communist ideology, the beginning of democratic change, and weakness of the political and administrative system that subsequently emerged in Russia.

Traditional Islam in the North Caucasus, including Chechnya, is a symbiosis of two traditions – one Muslim, and one ethnically-based. A general characterization of local faith as Islamic must also take into account its ties with popular culture – including Sufi traditions, the functioning of the vird brotherhoods, and the existence of folk beliefs. These are the foundations of the spiritual culture of each nation and determine the religious and political situation in each society. During the period of political instability in the North Caucasus, the Wahhabis attempted, through armed resistance and terrorist acts, to establish a Caucasian Caliphate. Representatives of traditional Islam showed themselves to be supporters of the territorial integrity of the Russian State and took measures to defuse the threats to state and society that emanated from their religious and political opponents. However, the religious extremists did not accept such pro-Russian policy. It diverged from their lofty goals of imposing sharia in the North Caucasus and establishing an Islamic Caliphate throughout the entire region. For this reason, they suppressed representatives of traditional Islam, taking into mind their bitter experience of dealing with the secular authorities, especially the atheist regime of the Soviet period, made them open opponents of such a hazardous religious and political venture.

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