
REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT OF 1905 IN TELAVI AND TIANETI DISTRICTS

MADONA KEBADZE,

Associate Professor, Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University

TAMAR LEKAIDZE,

Doctorate Students of Sukhumi State University, Faculty of Humanities

ABSTRACT:

At the beginning of the XX century, the Georgian society faced various challenges of vital importance. On the one hand, in conditions of Russian colonial policy, Georgian people didn't have civil-political rights and on the other hand, in spite of abolition of serfdom Georgian peasantry still continued to cultivate the lands of landowners which raised the dissatisfaction of people and increased their social activities. They demanded to establish democratic governance. It should be mentioned that the liberation movement in Georgia coincided ongoing revolutionary processes in the Russian empire. Analysis and the general comprehension of the current situation and concrete facts give basis to conclude that at the beginning of the XX century national - liberation and social-liberation movements in Georgia merged each other.

With the materials retrieved, investigated newspaper articles and archival documents we tried to demonstrate the condition of peasantry in Telavi and Tianeti districts and draw out the reasons of resistance which was against the king's autocratic policy.

KEYWORDS: the year of 1905, revolution, agrarian situation, Districts of Telavi and Tianeti, Vaja Pshavela.

INTRODUCTION:

At the end of the XIX century Russia principally remained as agrarian state. 2/3 of its population worked in this field and more than a half of the state's income was taken by the agriculture. But the productivity of agriculture was magnificently low. This fact was due to several reasons: first of all, it was the remains of serfdom which didn't give the agriculture chance to develop. In spite of abolition of serfdom, the agrarian issue (land issue) in Russia remained unsolved. 30 thousand large scale landowners possessed the same amount of land as 10 million peasants farming.

Productivity of agriculture was also hindered by the very low level of education and technologies in the villages and the possibility of its development was also hindered by the scarcity of investments.

From January 3, 1905 meetings of workers started. It was followed by the shooting (execution) from government of peaceful demonstration on Sunday, January 9 at the winter palace of the King. This bloody response to the peaceful demonstration is known in the history of Russia as the bloody week.

MAIN PART:

Ongoing economic and political situation at the end of the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century caused the activation of social movement in Russia. Political parties who were supporting revolution managed to organize

meetings and strikes in the whole empire which mainly ended with the confrontation with the population and the army.

Execution of peaceful demonstration on January 9, 1905 in Saint Petersburg had great response in Georgia. There were demonstrations held in the districts of Gori, Dusheti, Signagi, Tianeti, Ozurgeti, Kutaisi and Shorapani. The population mainly demanded to abolish the remains of serfdom and acquire democratic rights.

From the XX century revolutionary meetings started in Telavi district. At the beginning of revolution particularly students and the youth became very active. On March 22, 1905, students of Telavi Public School appealed their rights to teaching inspection which weren't satisfied and later, other students also joined them [1.42]. On March 21-22, shop-assistants in Telavi went on a strike. They demanded the raise of their salaries. Revolutionary meetings started on April 1 developed into disorders. There were robbery facts of boozers and shops. [1.45] . To suppress such disorders the government withdrew military forces.

From 1905 revolutionary movement started in different villages of Telavi district. The population mainly paid their attention to agrarian issues. They refused to pay for rental quitrent and other rates and demanded to pay government taxes according to the amount of lands. Besides agrarian demands, they sat up a boycott against landowners; they took out servants and hired workers from their houses. Protest action of the population was particularly vast in Shilda, Almati, Sabue, Gremi and Eniseli. The population refused to work in the landowners' farms and demanded the distribution of land in equal amounts [2]. From the documentation it becomes clear that the nobles scared with revolutionary movements signed their requirements.

The population from the village Kurdgelauri refused to pay quitrents and rates. The government sent punitive expedition to the village, though landowners Vakhvakhishvili were very careful and sent Russian Cossack army back [3]. There stood punitive armies in the village Akhtala where confrontation between government army and the peasants took place. On August 2, In the village Vanta the nobles Japaridze were opposed by the population. They demanded the large amount of land to be given to peasants. [4].

Ongoing situation in Telavi district in 1905 made it clear that the revolutionary activity increased a lot. From investigating archival materials, it becomes clear that Adjutant – General Z. Chavchavadze who was sent to Telavi and Tianeti to find out the reasons of peasants' dissatisfaction, mentioned agrarian policy as the reason of revolutionary movement in his report sent to the government. He said: "the reason of Telavi and Tianeti population is private property" [5].

Social situation of the peasants, their problems and demands were always discussed at the meetings of Noblemen. Editorial staff of the newspaper "Tsnobis Purtseli" in spite of the censorship often published information about agrarian and legal condition of the people in the villages of Telavi district. At the meeting which was held on August 25, 1905 they talked about people's poverty and robbery. This meeting was held by Telavi nobleman leader N.Cholokashvili and the following landowners attended it: V.Chavchavadze, D.Abelishvili, Al. Makhashvili, Z.Japaraidze and the representatives of proprietor peasants from trading-industrial institutions. {6} .

Revolutionary movement started in Telavi district was responded by Tianeti population. From the government they demanded the abolition of state taxes and transmission of agricultural resources to the

peasants free of charge. There were strikes and meetings everywhere. Particularly it was increasing greatly in Khevsureti and Pshavi. The four society of Southern Khevsureti made an oath on the Cross of Gudani not to pay any state taxes and fight for legal rights; As a sign of protest, in the villages of Pshavi, the society of Magaro and Shuapkho closed the doors of shops and the chancellery and appealed the demands about the issues of land socialization to the government. [6].

{7}Revolutionary movement started in the village of Tusheti valley Alvani. The youth united around the priest Giorgi Bochoridze and spread illegal literature in the village. They secretly held meetings near the old residence of Kakhetian King, in Tskhrakara and appealed the people to fight for the freedom. {7}.

From October 1905, revolutionary movement in Georgia gained radical and mass character. The population united around intellectual society. Together with social demands they had political demands as well, they required the overthrow of the tsarist government and the creation of democratic governance. Revolutionary armies were created in every place. In November, 1905, Pshavi population was joined by well-armed Khevsuri people, they were united around the famous poet and social worker Vaja Pshavela and particularly paid attention to the national issues.

In autumn 1905, Vaja Pshavela met the people at the festival of Khatoba and appealed them to fight for the freedom of Georgia. He made people who came at the meeting of Ukanapshavi swear on the golden stone of Shuapkho Ikhsari and asked to pray for Georgia. Vaja's wife Tmar remembers that "In the community of Ukanapshavi and Magaros Kari Luka(real name of Vaja Pshavela) and the priest Songulashvili made people swear for the devotion of unity. Foresters and village

headmen were deprived medals" [8 181].According to archival documentation Vaja even wrote Georgian Marseillaize which was sang by revolutionary army of Tianeti.

In November-December of 1905 there were universal strikes in the whole Georgia. Armed manifestations took place everywhere and mostly it took place on landowners, police and administrative centers of the districts. In such a difficult situation after suppressing armed rebellion in Moscow, the supreme government of the empire brushed over additional armed forces in Georgia. Soon military situation was spread in the West and the East Georgia.

CONCLUSION:

In 1905, universal revolutionary rebellion didn't take place in Georgia. In spite of the attack of counter revolution, large number of Telavi and Tianeti population continued disobedience. They didn't make concession of their self-governance attained form force and greedily protected it. In spring and autumn of 1906,revolutionary wave covered Kakheti. Caucasian administration declared emergency rules in Telavi, Tinaeti and Signagi. It restores "social discipline" with fire and acute, it arrested a lot of people; some people escaped from repressions and went to live in the forests. [7, 126]. Ongoing situation in Georgia made vivid that the main force of revolution was peasants.

Despite of failure, 1905-1907 revolutionary manifestations had great importance for Georgia. Universal demonstrations of population revealed that Georgians couldn't adapt with the loss of statehood and heavy yoke of Russian serfdom. The failure felt in the battle for freedom made Georgians resistance stronger against Russian colonial policy.

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