

Geographical features of national minorities in Georgia

Ana Sanodze

E-mail: ana.sanodze800@ens.tsu.edu.ge

Department of Geography, Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University,
Chavchavadze Ave. 3, 0179, Tbilisi, Georgia

Georgia is multinational country, where have always lived many other national groups, a part of the nations experienced assimilation, a part returned to their homeland, and a part settled in Georgia and preserved the signs of ethno-culture characteristic.

The thesis reveals historical-geographical features of settling national minorities in Georgia and the geographical features that are typical today.

First of all, in the paper is discussed the issue of who are national minorities; in what landscapes and natural conditions national minorities live in Georgia and are they similar to the natural conditions of their homeland or not; in order to show why these nationalities settled in specific areas, the natural-geographical conditions of the places are compared and are discussed the historical facts of the settling of national minorities in the specific areas of Georgia. In the thesis is also discussed the statistics of national minorities – how the number of national minorities changes in space and time.

The studied national minorities are: Azerbaijanis, Armenians, Russians, Ossetians, Kists, Avars, Greeks, Assyrians, Yezidis, Kurds, Germans, Ukrainians, Jews, Turks.

The scientific innovation of the thesis is that so far national minorities of Georgia have not been divided according to landscapes and their residence places' natural conditions have not compared to their homelands' natural conditions.

The main findings are that national minorities in Georgia live in lowland and foothills and mountain landscapes and in 10 types of landscapes; also, natural conditions of residence places of some national minorities are similar to their homelands' natural conditions; and settling of national minorities was going on according to political and economic factors rather than the similarity of natural conditions (mainly in those national minorities whose settling was artificial).