

# Country Report Georgia

When we speak about Georgia we must start with its historical and geographical context.

It's located in between two seas and you may even say in between two worlds, half of the Georgia is in Asia and another half in Europe.

Because of its location, every rising power had their eye on Georgia, on its trade routes, its access to the sea and its stronghold like terrain. Often we were stuck between two equally strong empires, these times were the most devastating.

Georgia has seen the rise and fall of many empires and it still stands proud.

This is how history is taught in Georgia and I believe every country's representative will agree that their history is also taught in a similar manner.

But, as we all know there's another history, our history, history of the class.

This history tells tales from different perspective, it shows us Georgians killing Georgians because two princes couldn't decide which power was a better ally or to say better patron.

This history remembers inhumane punishments from the rulers, attack on personal dignity and object like treatment.

The true class history starts in 1700s, this is when little groups of people start running from their lords to the forests and mountains and start robbing the rich merchants and government officials. Organizing as little mobile groups who also had contacts with other groups of outlaws, they helped each other with information and planning.

This was the first step to becoming the proud revolutionary people that we know from late 1800 to October's socialist revolution.

Georgia always hit above its weight class, and as our nobles had great influence in Russian or Persian empires, our revolutionaries had immense influence in The USSR as they operated effectively in most industry rich regions before the revolution.

During the 70 years of existence, Georgian SSR was highly developed industrial-agricultural country, it was even foreseen for it to become one of the economic tigers during the collapse of the Soviet Union.

But the reaction led by the high ranking party members had different plans for Georgian workers. First what they did was tear down all the heavy industries and sell them by pieces to neighboring country, they split other factories into shares and gave them to workers, but did it during crises and almost million percent inflation, so almost instantly they bought the shares back for cents and this was the first step to becoming an oligarchy. They outlawed communist and socialist parties and brought in the anti-communist propaganda from kindergarten to doctorate levels.

Next government had the mission continued.  
Radical neo liberal reforms were passed.

Highly increased police funding and empowering laws, they canceled labour code and almost all the regulations which also led to hepatitis epidemic because without sanitary regulations everyone who had a white coat at home opened clinics and dental offices.

They put in constitutional blocks on tax system and also referendum. By our constitution we cannot change flat taxes to progressive without referendum but, no one is obligated to hold a referendum by law, they're just able to do it, and even if they do our constitution says that referendum can not be used to pass or cancel any laws.

This is just a fraction of Georgian reality.

In summary, after the collapse of the USSR, Georgia was deindustrialized and robbed of its heritage.

Deindustrialization lead to declassing something that we didn't yet have answer for, and we hope that on the event and other events like this, we may find the clue to that answer.

We have working people that was stripped of their class identity, their problems are discarded on daily basis and the only real solution is demonized for 3 decades.

I want to use the time left to answer questions from audience if there are any.

Thank you