



Additional information №4

The Legitimate Heir to the Throne of United Georgia

Let us suppose that the last King of Georgia, Giorgi XII, was only the King of Kakheti and at the same time there were also other legitimate heirs from the royal lines of Imereti and Kartli. To establish the legitimate heir to the throne of united Georgia from all these potential representatives, one needs to refer to the Georgian dynastic law, which is based on traditions, history, and genealogies.

Could the representatives of the potential heirs of Imereti and Kartli have a right to claim the throne of united Georgia? For example, is it possible for a potential heir of the royal line of Kartli to claim the thrones of Kakheti and Imereti or, in the case of an heir of the royal line of Imereti, to claim the thrones of Kakheti and Kartli? The answer is certainly not. The reason is that the last king of united Georgia was Giorgi VIII (1446-1466), after whom the country was partitioned into several parts. Only the direct descendants of this King have a right to claim the throne of united Georgia, because neither the Imeretian nor the Kartlian royal lines are related with King Giorgi VIII. Only the royal line of Prince Nugzar is related.

Let us also suppose that all these royal lines descend from the same King, Giorgi VIII. This particular issue would have been resolved by determining who is the direct descendant of the last King of Georgia, Giorgi XII (1798-1800). Even in this case Prince Nugzar's line still remains the most senior, because it is the only one that descends from King Giorgi XII. This is the reason why the Georgian dynastic law considers it crucial to determine the real direct legitimate successor of both Kings (King Giorgi VIII and King Giorgi XII) in order to establish the true heir to the Georgian throne.

Besides, Prince Nugzar unites the royal blood of the Kartli-Kakhetian King Erekle II and the royal blood of the last Kartlian King Vakhtang VI (1703-1724), because the daughter of King Vakhtang was the mother of King Erekle II. Here one should also mention that the representatives of the former Royal House of the Kartlian kings became extinct in 1919. Prince Nugzar is the sole legitimate blood descendant of the first dynasty of the Kartlian anointed kings, as were his ancestors Constantine II (1484-1505), David X (1505-1525), Giorgi IX (1525-1527), Luarsab I (1527-1556), Simon I (1556-1600), Giorgi X (1600-1606), and Khoreshan (?-1659) (the mother of King Erekle I (1688-1709)). This first dynasty of the Kartlian kings became extinct in 1658. None of the other Bagrationi representatives do represent blood-succession from the above mentioned kings, except for Prince Nugzar (see genealogical chart below).

From a genealogical and historical perspective, the Imereti royal branch is considered as a cadet branch, because it is not related with the last King of united Georgia, Giorgi VIII, but descends from the younger son of King Constantine I (1407-1412), Prince Giorgi. The elder son of King George XII, Crown Prince David (XII), de jure ruler of Georgia between 1800-1801, in one of his letters sent to the Russian Emperor, dated 25th December 1812, shows concern about the Imereti and the Akhaltsikhe regions. He declares: **"...the Ottoman Empire did not have any right to occupy the Imereti and Akhaltsikhe regions, because by hereditary right these belong to Our Royal House. The representatives who ruled over the Imereti region are not the legitimate descendants of the Bagrationi family, which is so famous among the local people"**. (Two notes by Crown Prince David about "the best device of Georgia." Prepared for publication by I.K. Enikolopov. "Materials on the History of Georgia and the Caucasus," Edition I, Tb., 1942, pg.132, 136).

What was meant by Prince David by illegitimacy of the Imeretian line could become perfectly clear if we look at the genealogical table of the Bagrationi dynasty. Probably he was referring to the large number of illegitimate sons who were becoming Kings of Imereti.

A similar case which concerns the enthronement of an illegitimate son occurs also in the royal line of Kartli, when the King of Kartli-Kakheti, Teimuraz I (1625-1633), the direct descendant of the last King of united Georgia Giorgi VIII, was forcibly expelled from Kartli by Iranian forces. Instead, the throne of Kartli passed on the Muslim Prince Rostom, who was an illegitimate son of the former King of Kartli, David XI. It is important to mention that such cases never occurred before, neither in the period of united Georgia nor after its division, which again proves Prince Nugzar's undoubted seniority.

The partition of Georgia led to the formation of two more royal branches: the Kartli and the Imereti. However, it was a well known fact that the main line of Georgian Kings was that of Kakheti, which was therefore the most senior. This also proves a historical fact which occurred in 1625, following the victory at the battle of Martkopi, where the people and nobility of Kartli unanimously proclaimed the King of Kakheti, Teimuraz I, as King of Kartli. Teimuraz I was then anointed as king at the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. After 25 years from this historic event the king of Imereti, Alexander III (1639-1660) (despite the existence of his own son - Prince Bagrat to whom was 30 years old at that time), adopted Prince Luarsab (the grandson of King Teimuraz I) as heir-to-the-throne of the Kartli-Kakheti Kingdom. Luarsab was the elder brother of King Erekle I (1688-1709). Probably this act was intended to unify the country under one king. Unfortunately, this plan was hindered by the Iranians. Nevertheless, this historical fact shows the seniority of the Kakhetian royal branch, to which His Royal Highness Crown Prince Nugzar belongs.



The last king of united Georgia
Giorgi VIII (1446-1466)



The Crown Prince David (XII)
de jure ruler of Georgia (1800-1801)

