**Abstract**

The dissolution of the Soviet Union 1991 led to the creation of 15 independent multiethnic states, where dominant ethnic groups sought to consolidate their power within the confines of the total political system. As a consequence, tensions between ethnic groups worsened in many of the newly independent states, including Georgia, where cultural competition and the legitimacy of an ethnic group's control over disputed territory further escalated from regional inter-ethnic conflict into an international crisis. This study primarily focuses on the Abkhazian region of Georgia and the rise of their severe political crises, which are deeply rooted in centuries-old ethnocentric disputes between ethnic Abkhazians and Georgians. To illustrate the defining characteristic of the Abkhaz–Georgian conflict andhow this conflict changed over time, *Georgia's Minorities in Crisis* will progress within a theoretical model based on ancient hatreds and ethnic outbidding hypothesis and argue that both Tzarist Russia and the Soviet Union policies favored the major ethnic group, which in this case was the ethnic Georgians due to the fact that ethnic Georgians were the ones who formed the narrative as they were in political leadership roles, allowing them to communicate with the centralized government in Russia.