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### Madona Keadze

Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University  
Associate Professor, Georgia

### Nino Churgulashvili

Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University  
Master of History, senior teacher of history, Georgia

### Nestani Kazarashvili

Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University  
senior teacher of history, Master of New and Recent History, Georgia

### Landa Chokhelishvili

Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University  
Master of New and Recent History, Georgia

### Gvantsa Machavariani

Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University  
Bachelor of History, A graduate of the teacher training  
educational program, senior teacher of history, Georgia

### Nino Jimshitashvili

Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University  
historian, senior teacher, Georgia

## GRIGOL ORBELIANI-MILITARY OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMAT

**Abstract:** Grigol Orbeliani, Georgian poet-general, representative of the Georgian romantic school. He began his military career in the 10s of the 19th century. This is the period when Russia is trying to say its word in the official arena which had military operations in the Caucasus region at the beginning of the 19th century.

**Key words:** Grigol Orbeliani, Zakatala, Shamil, Dagestan, Davit Chavchavadze.

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### Introduction

Grigol Orbeliani actively participated in the Russian-Iranian and Russian-Ottoman wars.

In 1830, he takes part in General Paskevich's expedition to exterminate the Char-Belakne Lezgins, in the same year he participates in General Strekalov's conquest of Zakatala.

In 1831, he accompanied the selected soldiers to the Caucasian Corps for the Novgorod Infantry

Regiment to Russia, after visiting St. Petersburg and Moscow, he lived in Novgorod for a year.

In 1833, he was arrested in Novgorod and sent to his homeland. They were accused of being connected with the famous conspiracy of 1832. Although no clear connection to the conspiracy has been proven, the fact that he was sympathetic to this conspiracy is not in doubt, considering his letters and poems.

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In 1833, he was sent to the Navy regiment, from here his successful military career continued and the second period of his life began.

After being on a military mission in Poland for 5 years, in 1837, he went on holiday to his homeland. In 1839, he was in General Simborski's detachment, which was tasked with intimidating the rebel mountaineers - Dagestanis, in 1841, he participated in the suppression of the Guria peasant uprising, in 1842, he was appointed as the head of one of the battalions of the grenadier regiment.

In 1842, Grigol Orbeliani defended the lands of Dagestan from Shamil, in a year he was appointed as the governor of Avari (Dagestan). Here, Grigol Orbeliani spent almost 15 years fighting with the freedom-seeking mountaineers. First, as the governor of different districts and the head of the regiment, then as the commander of the entire Dagestan army.

He fought in Kutisha, Salti, Chukhi, Tabasaran and Kaitagh, Salatauri. It turns out that Shamil said about him, "Evdokomov and Grigol Orbeliani are my biggest enemies in Dagestan. . .".

In 1859, Grigol Orbeliani was appointed as the chairman of the Council of Governors. In the same year, he met Shamil personally, the poet writes in his letters:

"I met Shamil in St. Petersburg, he was a good man from Darbais. But he was amazed by everything he saw."

As it is known, in 1854, during the Shamil rebellion, the Tsinandli palace was raided and burned. The family and relatives of Davit Aleksandredze Chavchavadze - 24 people in total - were kidnapped.

Davit Chavchavadze's family was accompanied to Tsinandali by Anna Drance, a French educator of children. On July 3, Anna's sister - Iliia Orbeliani's (Gr. Orbeliani's brother) wife Barbara with little Giorgi, Nikoloz Baratashvili's sister Nino, a nanny and two maids arrived in Tsinandali. Davit Chavchavadze's wife, Ana Iliia's daughter - sister of Barbale Orbeliani. However, the happiness of the participants of the family gathering turned out to be short. On July 4, 1854, Imam Shamil's subordinates attacked Tsinandali and thoroughly ransacked the Chavchavadze family's house and estate. They robbed 22 rooms of the palace. The robbery lasted more than an hour. They carried away valuable things - gold, silver, diamonds, lace, precious vessels, chests, cloths, valuable shawls and many other valuables. According to Anna Drance, "glasses shattered and shattered from their blows, furniture was torn, silver clattered in chests, we could hear the confused sounds of two pianos, on the keys of which they were playing." The most shocking thing was that the attackers found women, children, servants and 24 of them hiding in the attic. , red-faced, covered in clothes and with long hair, were kidnapped by horses. Among the kidnapped were: David's wife Anna with five children - 6-year-old Salome, 5-year-old Martha, 3-year-old Tamar,

1.5-year-old Alexander, 4-month-old Lydia; 4-year-old nephew Elene, who was visiting her aunt, Anna and Barbale (Grigol Orbeliani's brother's wife, Iliia's little son, Nikoloz Baratashvili and Nino, French educator Anna Drance, gardener Moses, village priest, priest's wife, Prince Mourav's wife Darejani and others [ 3]

Here we would like to quote Grigol Orbeliani's letters dated 1854-1855. There are 13 letters in total addressed to Imam Shamil, Mikhail Vorontsov, Mikhail Sherbinin and Alexander Baryatinsky. In these letters, Grigol Orbeliani presents himself as a diplomat. The author of the letter shows the characteristic qualities of a diplomat. It is typical for a diplomat: "The future diplomat should have a good general education, especially in history, including the history of diplomacy and international relations. He must know geography, jurisprudence (international law), matters of religion, economics, protocol and etiquette. Must be able to speak several foreign languages.

While working in the field of diplomacy, a diplomat should be able to write political reports and letters, as well as informational, scientific, cultural, consular and other types of reports. Making notes of conversations with other diplomats, producing diplomatic correspondence, translating texts, preparing foreign and local press reviews, drawing up current and prospective work plans, etc. Sh. [2].

In all his letters, Grigol Orbelian emphasizes the long-suffering of the Russian emperor, the mercy and kindness of the people in the king's service. The places in Grigol Orbelian's letters where the author of the letter emphasizes the backwardness of the Ottoman Empire during the ongoing Crimean War are especially noticeable. All of the above is repeated in almost every letter.

Now here we will quote these letters in abbreviated form, where Grigol Orbelian's diplomatic approach to the addressee is clearly visible:

Imam, the leader of Muslim prayers

To Shamil

30 Aug: 1854 Lager to Gamash Heights.

May the Lord reward you for your deeds and thoughts! We are all in the hands of God, not what happens without his will; And that's why a man, a true believer in God, does not hesitate at the time of happiness, nor does he give in to despair, when misfortune arises on the path of passing life! In this false world-realm everything is transitory, everything dies, only good deeds remain, with which they must be presented in the end before the judgment of the pious almighty. And woe to him who ordered all this, but did not fulfill the commandment of the Lord; And the glory of the Immortal is to him who steadfastly and steadfastly stood on the path of salvation.

I was delighted to receive your book yesterday. I am asking for one thing both then and now: the release of my relative's captive women, along with their

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children and servants. Don't bargain with me: it doesn't help either you or me; Neither of us are merchants. Trust me, I will not break my word and I will give you everything I can to ransom them. But if you think that our Government will take it upon themselves to ransom them, then believe me, it will be a mistake on your part, and will only hinder their release;

If, because you do not know me, you do not fully believe what I say, and therefore you will not agree to release my relatives without trade or negotiation, then at least send all the children and pregnant women and my niece, who is very sick, and as hostages until the end of the negotiations Leave my brother's wife Barbara and his sister Anna. Although we are enemies, you, with the cry of your noble heart and magnanimity, must grant this last request of mine.

It is said in God's letter: only through good, virtuous deeds of God, the door to salvation opens for a person; All else is dust and vanity.

to the head of the Muslim prayers

to Imam Shamil.

14 Sept: 1854. With Temirkhanshuri.

May they have mercy on you on the day of judgment! Yesterday, from Khasaviurtida Mr. K[Niazi] Davit Chavchavadze came to me with your letter, which described the conditions for the release of my relatives from captivity.

The conditions you mentioned are so difficult that made me deeply worried.

Your son, whose return you demand, is not under our power, for he is not a prisoner, but an officer, to whom the mercy of a great sovereign is very, very great. And therefore it is impossible to redeem him, or to exchange him for a captive. It is more permissible to return him to you without any ransom, without any exchange as a captive, if you inform our great sovereign of your desire, and your son expresses his consent for him. We cannot interfere in this matter. Believe me, it is so: and I have no advantage whatsoever, that I should not desire the return of your son; But I repeat: it does not depend on me.

Besides, you are asking for a million in money. This is such a large amount that if a man starts counting with words: one, two, three, etc., then more than a month will pass before he counts this amount. Where are we to find this big money, which, when put together, makes a great mountain of silver.

The light of your mind and noble heart has long been known to all; Think carefully about this matter and ask us what we are able to give to free our kindred Mandilos. You had Sham-Khal's sister and his nephews as prisoners; We will pay you more than them; But do not ask for the impossible: it is useless for you and for us. Believe me, only justice and good deeds open the way to salvation for a person.

It is extremely difficult to complete this matter by correspondence; Therefore, would you be willing to bring me one of your trusted men: Azhiev Orotel,

or Janus Cherke-el, or Rajabil Mamed Cherkee [li], or even Tahmas Khan Qadi Cherkee [le].

If you want, I will write to you in Arabic sometimes, because I heard that my book was not properly translated by an incompetent translator.

To Mikhail Vorontsov:

In this letter, Gr. Orbeliani as a master of the Arabic language is well seen. With this gesture, he proves his reliability to Shamil.

**To Mikhail Vorontsov #42 (349)**

**K: To Vorontsov. Shura. November 12:  
1854.**

I don't know how they will accept Shamil's first promise in St. Petersburg; But it is very natural: the father asks for the return of his son. I don't know what the chief thinks about Shamil's son, but I am sure that his return will not do you as much harm as it will do you good; Because there will inevitably be a dispute between Shamil's children over inheritance. At the same time, we must also remember that the children of Shamil are not highly valued in the mountains; Only Shamil himself is very sensitive. In any case, with the return of his son Rusida, only one man will be added to the mountains, rather weak in his own way; Meanwhile, the noble mothers and children of the best family of Georgia will survive. Prince Bari-Atinsky, to whom I wrote about this, informed me that General Read is petitioning the reigning emperor for the return of Shamil's son, but I do not know whether this hope will be justified or not?

From the bottom of my heart I beseech your magnificence to save the unfortunate captive women - my relatives! Help me with your powerful speech before the throne, for the sovereign, the great and the generous, there is nothing impossible.

This letter shows when Shamil should ask for his son. It also emphasizes the omnipotence of the sovereign.

To Alexander Bariatsniki #8 (350)

18 November 1854. Prince Baryatinsky. T: Kh: Shura.

For the noble sake of Your Excellency, it is understandable to worry about my tormenting situation. In spiritual despair, I beg you, noble prince Alexander Ivanovich, be a savior for Genia Che-mi's unfortunate relatives; Free them from this hard, humiliating captivity.

To Pavle Shcherbinin #1 (352)

Shura. To Pavle Mikhailovich Shcherbinin.

27 November: 1854. \_

I collect all my courage to trouble your highness again with my humble request to send the enclosed letter to Prince Mikhail Semyonovich. Your attitude towards me comforts me with the hope that you will not be angry with me for this request of mine.

The fate of Georgia has been decided: the prince-ruler will not return to the country, which was resurrected from the ashes by his magic words, transformed into a spiritual one, and took rapid steps

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on the path of mental and material prosperity. Years will pass and many will take his place, but will they replace him? May the prayers of the people, blessed by him, follow him everywhere.

To Alexander Baryatinsky #9 (353)

Derbend. December 23: 1854.

K: Baryatinsky.

You revived my depressed spirit with your letter of the 16th of December informing me of the expression of the will of the son of Shamil to return to his father. What shall I say to you, noble prince? I can't tell you anything; But God will reward you for the foreign participation that you took in the fate of my unfortunate female captives, with whom I will update the man tomorrow with this happy news. But I beg you, Your Excellency, to send Shamil's son not to Khrozno, but to me in Shuras, while Knyazi Chavchavadze and I are also conducting talks with Shamil.

To Alexander Baryatinsky #10 (354)

Via Temirkhan Shuri. December 28: 1854.

K: Baryatinsky

I had the honor to ask you in my last letter of December 23, for your brothers, to send Shamil's son not to Khrozno, but to me in Shura. And if you agree, wouldn't you consider it possible for General Kozlovsky Stavropolida to send him directly to Shura, even if it is not necessary for Shamil's son to be in Tbilisi. I am anxious to gain time, and thereby lessen, as far as possible, the sufferings of our unfortunate female captives.

To Mikhail Vorontsov #44 (366)

May 7, 1855: Kh: with envy

K: Vorontsov

Thanks to the long-suffering king, my relatives were freed from heavy captivity, and after living with me in Shura for two weeks, they left for Tbilisi. It is inconceivable how these weak women and nursing babies could have endured so much hardship, suffering, such a terrible ordeal and returned to the mountains healthy. Obviously, God's mercy covered them! And what sacrifice can I offer to God to save their lives, to the king for the fatherly care that he showed for their release from captivity?

Shamil's unfortunate son Jamaleddin hates Russia very much; He cannot get used to the new way of life, the dense life of the mountains; They teach him the Koran and prayers, and he was even circumcised, which he has not yet recovered from. He resolutely refused to become the leader of the parties of predators, in order to become a thief and a sheep for the poor population and thereby gain the name of a hearty man. But Shamil, Ro-Gortsa seems, loves him very much. Once Shamil asked him why he was so sad. He answered: "Can I be happy when my benevolent emperor Nikolai died?" Shamil thought and said: "Yes, we both must pay homage to the memory of this great king: he gave me a son, And you turned him into a man.

Shamil has just now understood what the strength of the immense Russia means, which has been at war with the first-class states of Europe for more than 200 years, and is keenly observing the course of the war and thinking hard about the future of Daghestan. However, he is still trying to convince the people of the help of the Sultan of Turkey, but he no longer believes in the power of Turkey.

To Mikhail Shcherbinin #2 (367)

May 7, 1855: Kh: Shura

Mikhail Pavlovich Shcherbinin.

The sudden appearance of our troops induced the panic-stricken inhabitants to appear before the governor in submission and repentance for their conduct. They swore an oath of allegiance, to deliver us hostages from honorable men, and the rebellion thus started, which threatened to invade all of Tabasaran and Kaitagh, was crushed, by the grace of God, without firing a shot before Shamil learned of it and could, found the promised powerful help. If not forever, there will be total peace in Tabasaran this year, and that's all we needed for now.

Shamil's son, Jamaleddin, is very angry with Ru-Seth; He is being taught the Koran and prayers, he has already been circumcised, from which he has not recovered yet. Shamil contemplates her gall and, although he does not like the news, it seems that he loves her.

But I'm telling you about Daghestan at an untimely time, when all our eyes are fixed on Seva-Topol and Vienna.

To Alexander Baryatinsky #11 (368)

Shura. K: Alexander Ivanovich Baryatinsky

25 May 1855.

Shamil has just realized how powerful our emperor is, who has been at war with the first-rate states of Europe for almost three years, is watching the war with alarm, and is giving a lot of thought to the future of Daghis-Tn. Although Mkhrida of the Sultan of Turkey is still trying to convince people to accept help, he no longer believes in Turkey's strength.

Shamil's poor son, Jamaleddin, is forced to go to Russia, he can't adapt to the new agenda, the life of the mountaineers, they teach him the Koran and they even beat him, which he still hasn't come to his senses. Once Shamil asked him why he was crying all the time. He answered: "Can I be happy, when my benevolent Emperor Nikolai died?" Shamil thought and said: "Yes, we both must honor the memory of this great Fadi-Shah: he gave me back my son, and you as a man. Werewolf!~

To Mikhail Vorontsov #45 (387)

T: Kh: With envy. 10 October 1855.

K: Vorontsov.

The astonished gaze of the entire Caucasus, as well as the whole world, is focused on the fierce battle of our heroes in the Crimea; And the mountaineers, who used to know only Istanbul, Kizlar and Siberia, are now talking about Englishmen, Frenchmen and

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Germans. The war of the century also has its good side! Shamil also greedily follows the progress of the current war, and, disappointed in the strength of the Sultan of Turkey, he cannot look with trepidation at the might of the Russian emperor.

Shamil's son Jamaledin married the daughter of Naib Tal-Gik, but he cannot adapt to the wild life of the mountains: he proudly keeps himself with the locals and boldly expresses his thoughts to his father, who, by the way, loves him very much and cares for him.

Shamkhal recently lost his wife and in desperation he killed the Lama, but five days later he married again to the daughter of Gileli Beg.

Khansha Mekhtuleli's young sons, Ibrahim Khan and Rashid Khan, are serving with excellent zeal.

K[niaz] Dundukov, who has already received a dragoon regiment from K[niaz] Chavchavadze, who, unfortunately, is currently out of service, appears to be one of the first to run for military glory in Asiatic Turkey.

Where is Prince Simon Mihailovich now? I hope that thanks to his healthy build he has already recovered from the wound he received. Now if anyone is a boy-man, it is him! Prince Vorontsov defended Orthodox Russia with their blood. The Lord God is merciful; He is his protector! [1, 145, 149, 152, 155, 157, 158, 170, 174, 177, 209]

As we know, the events unfolded like this: David, whose entire property was destroyed or kidnapped during the attacks, did not have the means to pay the ransom and, at first, could not secure the handover of Jemal Ed-Din from the Russian government. Shamil did not back down, and Davit also managed to collect 35,000 silver and 5,000 gold coins from various sources, including relatives. After several fruitless attempts, Shamil was finally persuaded to accept the ransom, and Russian Emperor

Alexander II agreed to return Jamal al-Din to his father. David was told that the exchange of Georgian hostages for Shamil's son would take place in the Dagestan village of Kasav-Yurta. In March 1855, the exchange of prisoners was carried out on the banks of the Michiki River.

Jemal Ed-Din's return to his homeland was followed by a tragic epilogue, which turned into a kind of foreshadowing of the misfortunes that soon befell Shamil and his life's purpose. Jemal Ed-Din was used to urban, civilized life, and living in the mountains of the Caucasus became unbearable for him. He was also troubled by the restrictions that were imposed on him. Soon he fell ill and died. Very soon after this event, the Russian army, under the command of General Baryatinsky, began preparations to capture the Shamil fortress in Vedeno, and a monetary reward was announced for its capture. In the summer of 1859, a whole series of bloody battles took place in the Caucasus Mountains, which caused great casualties on both sides. It must be said that thanks to better military tactics, the victory was still left to the Russians, and their promises that they would create decent conditions for Shamil's family to emigrate, and peace would be established in Dagestan, convinced the imam to surrender to the Russians.

**Conclusion:** Grigol Orbeliani-Georgian poet, military figure, experienced diplomat. From the letters we discussed above, it can be seen that he exhibits the characteristic qualities of a diplomat. He knows very well when, where, to whom he should ask his problem. He is very accommodating and diplomatic with Russian officials as well as Imam Shamil. It can be safely said that he spoke his word in the history of Georgian diplomacy.

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