

# Atlas Cartography in Georgia

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## Abstract:

Georgia has a rich tradition of atlas cartography. In 2013, the historical-geographical work "Geography of Georgia" by the 18th century historian, geographer and cartographer Vakhushti Bagrationi and the Atlas of Georgia were included in the UNESCO World Memory Register Tatashidze (1997).

Vakhushti Bagrationi (1698-1757), the son of King Vakhtang VI of Georgia, was a historian, geographer, cartographer, translator, lexicographer. In addition to the Georgian language, he also knew Greek, Latin, French, Turkish, Armenian and Russian. He was involved in state activities - participated in topographical planning, drawing up maps. Since 1724, during his emigration in Moscow, he compiled three atlases of Georgia, which are distinguished by the abundance of geographical and historical objects. Europe got to know about Georgia through Vakhushti's 1735 atlas, which was translated into French by the French geographer and cartographer Joseph Delil. Vakhushti's maps were used by European countries in the process of searching for trade routes to Asian countries. Vakhushti Bagrationi is the first Georgian researcher of European style. He is considered as the founder of Georgian historical and geographical sciences.

In the 20th century, after the publication of national atlases, the publication of regional atlases became relevant worldwide, because it provided an opportunity for freedom of ideas and deep research. The national and sectoral atlases compiled at the Institute of Geography Gobejishvili (2018), Bolashvili and et al. (2018), Bolashvili and et al. (2018), represent the good base for moving to the stage of regional cartography and compiling a series of atlases for the 12 regions of the country. The leitmotif of the atlases is to reveal the natural and socio-economic resource potential of the regions and their thematic cartography Liparteliani and Kumladze (2020). Compilation and publication of atlases will be done step by step, in the form of series, in connection with local, regional and state organizations. Atlas format is A5 (21 cm x 25 cm).

The atlas of Kakheti region is the first atlas of this series. Its concept involves harmonious combination of maps, text, diagrams, graphs and photographs. Liparteliani and Kurtubadze (2018), Liparteliani et al (2017). An electronic model was created to compile the atlas, the typical topics of the atlas and mapping standards were processed, and general geographic basics were prepared. A geographic information system (GIS) is used for mapping. Maps are processed in ArcMap and QGIS, designed in Adobe Illustrator and diagrams are built in Grapher. The compiled maps have been converted into publishing format.

The complex geographical atlas of the region is a market product and should answer the main marketing questions: what? how? and why?

**What we have done** – the content of the interdisciplinary atlas of the Kakheti region includes the following sections: location in the South Caucasus and Georgia, history and archeology, administrative arrangement, nature, population, economy, social sphere, tourism. There are 103 topics in the atlas on 220 sheets. Maps are accompanied by annotations. Statistical data is visualized with charts and graphs.

**How we implemented it** - traditional and modern innovations were combined, research detailing increased. For example, one part of the main branch of the economy of Kakheti, viticulture and winemaking - wine cellars, as agro-

tourist objects, moved to the tourism department. Protected areas have been transferred from the nature department to the tourism department as ecotourism facilities with the addition of tourist routes. This thematic variety of maps is provided by the language of the map, as a specific sign system that answers the questions: what? where? and when?

**Why we did it** - There are three types of thematic cartography product: map, map series and atlas. The most complex and compiled is the atlas of reference intended for the general public.

Today, the increased interest to the Internet information has put new demands on cartography. Currently, the atlas of the Kvemo Kartli region is being compiled, which is being completed within the framework of the fundamental researches of the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia. In addition to the traditional printed atlas, it will also be digital and will be placed on the Internet. Its main advantage is that it can be easily updated. The preparatory work was carried out like the Kakheti atlas. Frequently used markup templates have been added to the mapping standards. The structure of the atlas is similar to the Kakheti one. In both atlases there are maps of natural disaster events - landslides and floods, the analysis of which is important for the management of natural disasters. We have new topics: megaliths, petroglyphs, German settlements. On the transport map, there is a section of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, which is part of the "Iron Silk Road". Kvemo Kartli is a multi-ethnic region, which is reflected in the names of the population, settlements, orographic and hydrographic objects. Many non-Georgian toponyms were found to have Georgian names based on research using historical sources. The atlases of Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli contain several new types of maps, the analogues of which are not found in the published Georgian atlases. One is the resort-recreational assessment of the environment, which is innovative in content and design. There are also new topics: medical services, celebrities and sports.

In the form of regional atlases, the society will receive scientific-reference atlases compiled using scientific information and the latest cartographic methods for the first time.

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