

are inside of our banking system, too. And those guys are reacting from our side, harshly, against these issues coming out. Those are their people. What would be really good for Hungary is to ease or reduce the \$21 billion debt. That would be a good solution, but those people, the insiders, don't allow it.

**EIR:** In the privatization process now ongoing, there have been a lot of international speculators coming in to buy up everything. Could you say something about that?

**Csurka:** It is as you said. The problem is really the privatization and corruption. The original plan of the government was to pay back the loans and interest and to finance that out of the privatization. What happened in Hungary under the privatization is they put industries on the market at certain prices. Unfortunately, the selling price was always underpriced. Everything was underpriced. Because of this, the foreigners and certain groups inside Hungary grabbed everything almost for nothing. That was the old *nomenklatura* and the new *nomenklatura*. They pushed us to privatize, and with the rapidity of the privatization it happened that almost everything became the property of foreign interests. So it means that it was a "free robbery," as you expressed it.

**EIR:** Lyndon LaRouche has called for an end to IMF policy in eastern Europe and, instead, an economic development program emphasizing large infrastructure projects. This idea is in the tradition of the 19th-century German economist Friedrich List, who I understand was collaborating with Szechenyi against the free-trade, free-market policies of Adam Smith and the British. How do you see the question of economic program for the Hungarian Renewal Movement? How do you see the importance of a program to develop Hungary in opposition to the IMF policy?

**Csurka:** The present regime, the Antall government, says to our people, "Just be patient. When everything is privatized, everything will be okay. It takes a long time but everything will be okay."

Let's change things now and let's not wait. We have to change the system. We have to have a certain so-called "third way" approach to privatization. It means to bring up our generation to be knowledgeable in economics and not to follow some kind of western theories applied to an entirely different society. Our style must be good for our people.

**EIR:** What do you think of the infrastructure program of Istvan Szechenyi's infrastructure program [a 19th-century Hungarian economist and political leader who was especially interested in infrastructure and national physical economy]?

**Csurka:** I am a great follower of Szechenyi. Take for example, the \$2 billion paid yearly to western lenders. If we could just keep \$1 billion of that, we could create 100 smaller Hungarian industries and we could feed, at least, our nation. So I am for the rearrangement of the loans. The Szechenyi infrastructure idea is my idea also.

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## Georgia

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# 'We must first tell the truth about the crisis'

by Shota Rustaveli

*Editors' note: Shota Rustaveli is the national poet of Georgia, the ancient nation in the Transcaucasus region. This poet and philosopher lived in the 12th century; to this day, his name is linked with the fate of Georgia. EIR received this article from a prominent scientist and political figure in Georgia, who had a vision of his country today, as Rustaveli would see it and tell of what he saw.*

Once I went back to my country. . . .

Many years, centuries had passed. . . .

What had happened in Georgia? How is my country now? It is very interesting for me and . . . for you as well, my unknown listener in the West or the East. So, let us "look" together, at what we "have" in Georgia now—December 1993. . . .

First of all you must know, that long ago my country was the richest land in the Caucasus region, and not only in the Caucasus. We had good economic and political relations with different parts of the world. At the beginning of the 19th century, Georgia "joined" the Russian empire, and after this . . . our potential progress ceased. We remained just one of the regions of "Great Russia," and this continued until the late 20th century.

Let us stop and explain the era of "revolutions," after which came the very short period of our independence (1918-21). Then Georgia was one of the "Soviet Republics," then came the time of perestroika, and then—civil war.

At last, we achieved independence, but, of course, it was only on paper. We started to make a model for our state, on the basis of the remains of the "broken Soviet empire." You know what that is! When I look at all these things, I always think about: Who did this, and why? If we can find any answers to this, maybe we can find ways to help somebody in Georgia and, I hope, not only in Georgia.

What do I see now? In Georgia there is a real collapse! Every side of life is destroyed. Do you want to know by whom? I can tell you, but a little bit later.

First of all, let us look at our situation globally, so to speak. Formally, Georgia is member of different international organizations, so we have many possibilities to build an economic and political foundation for the future, to have our

own life at last, and at last to take part in developing world civilization. This is our global task, like the task of any other nation in the world.

That begins to indicate the real situation in Georgia. Formally, we have a parliament, which includes the spectrum of political movements in my country. Then we have our national economy with several branches, but they are not functioning. The economy, too, is a mere formality. We have relations with many countries in the world and, of course, relations with the International Monetary Fund and other international organizations, which can help us. Oh, you surely know, how they can help, especially the IMF!

We also have a government and other attributes of an independent country. We also have our mafia and criminals, commercial structures in the financial and banking spheres, a free press, and other attributes of human rights.

### **Everything was destroyed**

But we have nothing! During the period of independence after 1989, everything was destroyed. Since then, we have had one big battle going on. . . . For what exactly, I cannot explain, and I think that no one in Georgia can explain it either. There was one war in former South Ossetia, a second war in Abkhazia, and a third war, which we called civil war, between former President of Georgia Zviad Gamsakhurdia and new forces from the opposition parties. This war went on for two years and ended some time ago.

Then we see the period when Eduard Shevardnadze came back to us from Moscow. Forgive me, but some people in Georgia hoped Shevardnadze would now do something for his country. They waited more than two years, and these were terribly difficult years in our long history. But that is what happened.

Criminals dominate every part of our life. We created many different military and police force structures, whose task is to protect citizens from criminal elements. But it turned out, that the elements against whom the forces of the state are fighting, are still chiefly the citizens themselves. I cannot bear to see it, when, day after day, my people stand in line many hours for bread. They wait to buy some bread, and in general only bread, because they can't buy anything else.

Georgia's economy is in collapse. Yes, of course, we have some international humanitarian assistance, but that does not reach the poor citizens, because . . . we have so many military and police forces, which are doing such a good job of protecting us from criminal elements!

But that is just one problem. Another is the situation with young Georgians, those young people who must build our country in the future. What's with them, and what are they doing now? Many of them are trying to make money—with dirty hands, of course, because they watch their parents and they do as they do.

We have a crazy situation, where we lack national values,

real national values, and lack a real economy. Therefore, we do not have a real financial and banking system. We have hundreds and hundreds of banks, so-called commercial banks. We have many different firms and joint ventures with different parts of the world, especially with Russia and other former Soviet republics, but what they are doing is unknown to me, or to the people standing for many hours to get a piece of bread.

In the shops we call "commercial shops," you know, there is everything you might want. This is called the free market, but it's a black market. You don't need my help to calculate how the commercial structures obtained these products, because the "technology" of this is known in many parts of the world, and if I recall correctly, it is called criminal enterprise. This is the real result of mafia activities in Georgia, for example. . . .

Excuse me if I talk about these things, but "these things" are our life, the real life of my people. Every time I think about them and also about myself—because I am still a Georgian, as I was in the past! . . . What can I do in this situation, when I see this? I can only tell people the truth, of course, as I see it. I can say what will be good, and what will only lead to a bad result, and so on. You see, I am a poet, I was a poet long ago, and that's why I had to talk about our situation somewhat on the poetic level.

### **The political situation**

Now let us speak about the political situation in Georgia. First of all, we must analyze the situation that preceded today's state of affairs. Here is what we had: Shevardnadze came, and around his figure there gathered many old members of the former Communist Party, people from the new political forces, who were in opposition to Gamsakhurdia's regime, and also from criminal structures, because they had taken part in breaking Gamsakhurdia's regime. Thus we created an entirely new structure, real power, which could do anything "for the people or against the people." Most of the political parties were in opposition to this state structure, but it was not real opposition. They were conducting a "constructive dialogue."

I think that the strong political parties were waiting and hoping, that perhaps their constructive relations with Shevardnadze might have some good results in the future. In any case, that's what they say now. . . .

So, two years ago we had elections, resulting in a Georgian parliament, where most political parties and movements were represented. The National Democratic Party (NDP), the oldest and biggest political power in the new period of Georgia's history, had the largest group in parliament. Another big group was the former communists. The Greens, Social-Democrats, Liberals, and some other groups from within the former regime were also represented. This parliament then formed a government, including members of these different parties.

Georgia, at last, became a member of the United Nations and other international organizations. We started to have good relations with various countries. Foreign embassies were opened in Tbilisi. Many countries helped us, when things were very difficult.

You know, as I write all this, I can't believe that it really was! Of course, everything I said before was the truth, but this also was the truth. And now it is the truth, that we suddenly lost all of that! Now, this is all we have: Many of us, or many of them I should say—I mean the people of Georgia—spending their time trying to find some food to buy with some money, which they are also trying to find.

I hope that in Georgia we have a political force that can do something very soon to stabilize the situation, and that it is, first and foremost, the NDP! You see, I am a poet, which is why I do not speak in chronological order. But that doesn't matter. I wanted first to paint for you from the palette called life—the life not only of one person, but the life of the nation—so that you would understand what happened and why, and what we and you might do about it.

What is the political situation now? We have some results of the so-called political games. Former communists got into the parliament and the government by means of populist slogans. Then they established good relations with the Army and the police.

Some time ago, Shevardnadze created a new society, or party, named the Union of Citizens of Georgia. This organization includes many former communists and people from the commercial structures, people who have real power in Georgia. For example, Soliko Habeishvili or Nicolos Lekishvili or Surab Gvania, who represents the Green movement in parliament. They utter many sweet words about development, independence, and . . . about “having good relations with Russia, because now Russia is the center of democracy and we need to make Georgia a member of the Community of Independent States. . . . You see, the West is not helping.” And so on.

In this situation, in general, only the NDP fought against this. Political life is “too hot,” you see.

### **The mafia**

But that is only one side of our life. We have another side, as well. That is that we have a real power, underground, the power that really determines politics, that makes money, real money, dirty money. You can answer, I know, that the mafia is a problem not only for Georgia. Yes, of course, Italians often talk about the mafia, and so do the Americans, about the Italian mafia, the Russian mafia, etc. But what interests me, is what the mafia is doing in my country, because that is the most dangerous for us—and not just for us. The fact of the matter is, that the mafia has found fertile ground there.

I think that they have now taken over different spheres of our life—from branches of the economy, to culture, to

political films. We have the whole spectrum, now. For example, we often hear that there is a narco-mafia in Georgia, and many politicians say that we must fight against this. Or, we hear about commercial banks, which were founded and conduct their business via “dirty money.” Yes, we often hear the same words . . . but “they are working hard,” and, as a result of all this, one group of citizens, the smallest part, remains wealthier, while more than 90% starts out each day to look for something to eat. A minimum living standard in Georgia costs 1-1.5 million “coupons” per month, but over 90% of the people receive only 40-60,000 coupons. One egg costs 10,000 coupons; a kilo of cheese costs 150-250,000.

I think perhaps that is enough to write. Maybe we will meet again soon, and I hope to tell you much more about how we can find more real steps to save Georgia. But I will tell you one incident from our situation, and you can draw your own conclusions.

### **A representative incident**

Some time ago in Tbilisi, a firm opened in which Coca-Cola had a stake, and Shevardnadze gave a speech there. Why Coca-Cola in Georgia? We had the greatest and most famous sweet water, Lagidze water, but they see fit to open up Coca-Cola at a time when our industry is broken and we are unable to build the industry to produce our own water. And who can afford Coca-Cola in Georgia?

Now I will finish my opus and I hope, that we can meet again together very soon. . . . But in conclusion I want to remind you, that long ago Georgia was a much stronger nation. We have enough resources to make many industrial and agricultural products. We are situated in a good place on the planet. Our climate and the richness of our land give us the possibility to produce enough products for the people every year. We also have great potential for developing the various branches of science and technology. Our geographic location in the world could lead to even more potential, for the development of international tourism, and so on.

Finally, our geopolitical position should give us more ability to act politically to build constructive unity in the Caucasus region and, I hope, not only there. First of all, we can save ourselves . . . if we would look at our problems with real desires, and paint the situation in its true colors. All this is our life, and we cannot always lie. You know, all my citizens are citizens of Georgia and I love them, because they are my people. Together with them, I want to make my little country rich and a good neighbor for other countries in our region. Neither Russia, nor the United States, nor Europe can help us. Only we can do it, first of all. And then, secondly, if you want to, help us!

P.S. Forgive me, for having named some persons and called them bad or not so bad. You know, if your nation has an enemy you must tell about it and fight against them. That's a very easy and simple step. Every country, as it grew, has gone by this path. And so must we.