

Notes on Contributors

Natella Akaba graduated from the department of history at Moscow State University and was a post-graduate student at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences, Moscow. Since 1989, she has been a lecturer at the Abkhaz State University. She was a member of the Parliament of Abkhazia from 1991 to 1996, and Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee. A present, she is Director of the Centre for Human Rights and Support for Democracy in Sukhum (an NGO). Her publications include *Abkhaziya. Mezhdru lyubovyu i nenavistyju* [Abkhazia. Between Love and Hatred], Sukhum, 1996.

Viacheslav Chirikba took part in the UN-sponsored Georgian-Abkhaz negotiations in Geneva in 1993-1994. He defended his doctoral dissertation on West Caucasian languages at the University of Leiden in 1996. Since 1991, he has been living in the Netherlands, where he represents the Abkhaz government. In 1996-97 he worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael'. His book entitled *The Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict* is due to be published shortly by Curzon Press.

Bruno Coppieters is associate professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Recent publications as an editor include *Commonwealth and Independence in Post-Soviet Eurasia* and *Conflicting Loyalties and the State in Post-Soviet Russia and Eurasia* (both volumes published by Frank Cass, London, 1998) and *Georgians and Abkhazians. The Search for a Peace Settlement*, Bonn, Bundesinstitut für Ostwissenschaftliche und Internationale Studien, 1998 (together with Ghia Nodia and Yuri Anchabadze; also in *Caucasian Regional Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 2-3, <http://poli.vub.ac.be/>).

David Darchiashvili defended his Ph. D. in History in 1991 at Tbilisi State University, where he currently lectures on Russian foreign policy and civil-military relations. He is head of the Center for Civil-Military Relations and Security

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Studies at the Caucasian Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD), which publishes the monthly electronic journal *The Army and Society in Georgia*. His recent publications include 'The Russian Military Presence in Georgia: the Parties' Attitudes and Prospects', *Caucasian Regional Studies*, Vol. 2, 1/1997; 'Georgia: the Search for State Security', *Caucasus Working Papers*, CISAC, Stanford University, December 1997 and 'Russian Policy in the Black Sea Area: A Source of Conflict', *Romanian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 4, 1/1998.

Ivlian Haindrava has been Chairman of the Republican Party of Georgia since 1996. He is a member of the Georgian Parliament ("Republican" faction). He was a member of the parliamentary committee on Abkhazian affairs (1992-95) and a member of the State Constitutional Commission (1993-95). He is Editor-in-chief of the independent Russian-language weekly newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*.

Maarten Theo Jans followed a doctoral programme at the European University Institute in Florence and is currently a researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. His publications include (with Kris Deschouwer) "Je moet nie huil nie. Je moet nie terreur nie" - Electoral Systems and their Effects in Divided Societies", in: Bertus de Villiers, Frank Delmartino and André Alen (eds), *Institutional Development in Divided Societies*, Pretoria, HRSC, 1998.

Tinatini Khidasheli has an M.A. in International Law from Tbilisi State University (1995) and an M.A. in Political Science from the Central European University in Budapest (1996). She is Director of the Legal Training and Information Center of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association.

Uwe Leonardy was Head of Division in the Mission from Lower Saxony to the Federation in Bonn from 1974 until he retired in 1999. Recent publications include 'The Political Dimension. German Practice and the European Perspective', in: Joachim Jens Hesse and Vincent Wright, *Federalizing Europe? The Costs, Benefits, and Preconditions of Federal Political Systems*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1996, pp. 73-100; 'The Institutional Structures of German Federalism' in: Charlie Jeffery (ed.), *Recasting German Federalism. The Legacies of Unification*, London and New York, Pinter, 1999, pp. 3-22.

Gocha Lordkipanidze has been Head of the UN Division at the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and now works in New York as a Counsellor in the Georgian diplomatic representation at the UN. He has studied law at Sukhumi University in Abkhazia and international human rights law at Essex University in the United Kingdom.

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Xiaokun Song is a researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. She studied English language and literature at the Wuhan University of Hydraulic and Electrical Engineering (P.R.C.). In 1997, she obtained a Master's degree in European Politics, Cultures and Societies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, where she is pursuing a doctoral degree in Political Science. A study on the relevance of federalism for China is to be published in the *Journal of Regional and Federal Studies*.

Alexei Zverev is a graduate of the Moscow Institute for Foreign Languages, and completed a Masters programme in European Politics at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Recent publications include (as a co-editor) *Conflicting Loyalties and the State in Post-Soviet Russia and Eurasia* (Frank Cass, London, 1998) and, as a co-author (with Bruno Coppieters): 'V.D. Bonch-Bruevich and the Doukhobors: On the Conscientious Objection Policies of the Bolsheviks', in: *Canadian Ethnic Studies/Études Ethniques au Canada*, Vol. XXVII, No. 3, 1995.