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THE FOURTH ESTATE AND THE FIGHT FOR GEORGIAN STATEHOOD

(Abstract)

KEYWORDS: Fact, Event, Time, Georgia, Truth, The Fourth Estate

9 April 1980 marked a pivotal turning point in the consciousness of Georgian society. The radio programme *Prime Time (Pikis Saati)* began with the powerful phrase, “Our consciousness was divided into two—before 9 April and after 9 April.” This statement perfectly encapsulates the essence of this transformative moment.

Events unfolded rapidly. Alongside our pursuit of independence, the structure of the state began to change. Were we prepared for this? Did we even know how to respond? By its very nature, journalism is inherently emotional. While it may seem that we have answers to these questions today, the accuracy of those answers remains uncertain. Following 9 April, the Georgian media experienced a significant transformation, realising the aspirations of generations. It felt like taking a breath of fresh air as we rediscovered our profession; words took on a fresh meaning when we embraced what we came to recognise as the Fourth Estate.

With a sense of liberation, Georgian journalism took flight, freed from the Soviet control and censorship that had suffocated

independent or national expression. Journalists now had the will and the freedom to contemplate the true significance of the word—a critical power embodied by the Fourth Estate. No longer were we Soviet journalists devoid of nationality and exploited by the Communist Party; after 9 April 1989, we became the journalists of Georgia, pondering a pivotal question: What empowers us to embody the Fourth Estate, and how can it be harnessed to serve our country in achieving complete independence?

This power lies in our ability to analyse, critique, and influence. It fosters a more rational society, promotes healing, sparks debate, and nurtures individual development within the community. It plays a vital role in promoting independence for our nation and upholding the constitutional right to exist free from foreign control. Georgia has fought for these rights throughout history, and we are acutely aware of the protracted struggles endured by previous generations. Yet, after 9 April, we began to recognise the weight of the living history we were shaping, understanding that we were responsible for developing it for ourselves and future generations.

Journalism became our guiding light in the quest to break free from the Soviet Union and reclaim our independence. The events of 9 April accelerated this trajectory, making the collapse of the Soviet empire inevitable. This dramatic shift prompted a transformation in our programme *Prime Time*, which evolved into a political platform where analysis and bold criticism became commonplace. No longer were there hidden or forbidden topics. Although the USSR continued

to exist until 1991, Georgia embarked on a new path, resolutely discarding any remnants of Soviet influence within our borders.

Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms outlined in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind...” Georgia regained its independence from the Soviet Union at a profound cost. As such, every journalist must remain mindful of these human rights, which empower us to serve society and uphold our conscience within the bounds of the law. This responsibility is significant; we should never use democracy and freedom of speech as tools for retribution. As a professional journalist, I take pride in being part of the first generation of Georgian journalists who played a pivotal role in shaping Georgian statehood as the Fourth Estate.

ვახტანგ ნანიტაშვილი
რადიოჟურნალისტი, პროდიუსერი

მეოთხე ხელისუფლება და ბრძოლა ქართული სახელმწიფოებრიობისთვის

საკვანძო სიტყვები: ფაქტი, მოვლენა, დრო, საქართველო,
სიმაღლე, მეოთხე ხელისუფლება

ჟურნალისტი თანამედროვეობის მემბტიანეა. თუმცა, მას არ ძალუძს მიმდინარე მოვლენების სრულყოფილი შეფასება, რადგან ის ადამიანია, აქვს ემოცია, ამბისადმი საკუთარი დამოკიდებულება.

ერთი ხედავს ნახევრად ცარიელ ჭიქას...

მეორე – ნახევრად სავსეს...

ამ დროს, ორივე მართალია.

მოვლენის ზუსტი შემფასებელი დროა.

უემოციო ჟურნალისტიკა არ არსებობს. ამიტომ მიმდინარე მოვლენების მიუკერძოებელი აღქმა, თითქმის, წარმოუდგენელია. მითუმეტეს, ისეთი ქარტეხილებით სავსე ქვეყანაში, როგორც საქართველოა ბოლო ოცდაათი წლის განმავლობაში. აქ მოვლენები კალეიდოსკოპური სისწრაფით იცვლება. როცა ამ დიდი სპექტაკლის მონაწილენი „სცენაზე“ არიან, გინდა თუ არა, უნდა გაითვალისწინო ეს ვითარება, როგორც პროფესიონალმა ჟურნალისტმა. ნებისმიერი შეფასება ყურადსადები და მნიშვნელოვანია არსებულ რეალობაში. დღევანდელი განზოგადება, ადვილად შესაძლებელია, რამდენიმე წლის შემდეგ მცდარი აღმოჩნდეს. არა იმიტომ, რომ მაშინ შეც-

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**LESSONS OF POPULISM
AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER**

(Abstract)

KEYWORDS: Populism, demagoguery, conspiracy, public will, politician

Populism is a movement that seeks to gain popularity among the masses through unfounded promises and demagogic slogans. In its contemporary context, a populist engages with the public, often stirring emotions and opinions, which can be a perilous endeavour. Populism typically arises as a response from certain groups who feel overwhelmed by rapid social changes, believing that events are no longer within their control.

Historically, populism has flourished during times of significant upheaval. As we enter a period of transformation, it has become increasingly prominent within the Georgian Parliament. This trend is likely to continue unless the public learns to distinguish between the misleading narratives propagated by populists and the actual reality.

In today's independent Georgia, there is a noticeable predominance of civil servants rather than genuine politicians, underscoring a critical distinction between the two.

მიადწია 21 წლის ასაკს და ფლობს საქართველოს სახელმწიფო ენას. ადგილობრივი თვითმმართველობის მოხელედ შეიძლება მიღებულ იქნას საქართველოს ქმედუნარიანი მოქალაქე, რომელმაც მიადწია 18 წლის ასაკს, აქვს საშუალო განათლება მაინც და ფლობს საქართველოს სახელმწიფო ენას (საქართველოს კანონი საჯარო სამსახურის შესახებ, მუხლი 6, 15, 16)

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