



The Making of Modern Georgia, 1918-2012: The First Georgian Republic and its Successors (Routledge Contemporary Russia and Eastern Europe Series)

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When most of Eastern Europe was struggling with dictatorships of one kind or another, the Democratic Republic of Georgia (1918-1921) established a constitution, a parliamentary system with national elections, an active opposition, and a free press. Like the Democratic Republic of Georgia in 1918, its successors emerged after 1991 from a bankrupt empire, and faced, yet again, the task of establishing a new economic, political and social system from scratch. In both 1918 and 1991, Georgia was confronted with a hostile Russia and followed a pro-Western and pro-democratic course. The top regional experts in this book explore the domestic and external parallels between the Georgian post-colonial governments of the early twentieth and twenty-first centuries. How did the inexperienced Georgian leaders in both eras deal with the challenge of secessionism, what were their state building strategies, and what did democracy mean to them? What did their electoral systems look like, why were their economic strategies so different, and how did they negotiate with the international community neighbouring threats. These are the central challenges of transitional governments around the world today. Georgia's experience over one hundred years suggests that both history and contemporary political analysis offer the best (and most interesting) explanation of the often ambivalent outcomes.

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Review

'Stephen Jones has brought together a collection of informative and perspicacious essays which restore to history a forgotten episode, one of the most extraordinary, if doomed political experiments of the twentieth century: the Georgian Democratic Republic of 1919-21. More important still, this book gives us a salutary reminder: the failure of the victorious allies of 1919 to support, recognize and save from Russian conquest a remarkable young republic must not be repeated by the victorious allies of the Cold War a century later, when a newly independent Georgia faces subversion and coercion from a revived Russian empire.' – *Donald Rayfield, Emeritus Professor, Queen Mary, University of London*

'Georgia, and the whole of the Caucasus, is geopolitically an extremely complicated region. *The Making of Modern Georgia, 1918-2012: The First Georgian Republic and its Successors* is a unique book that gives the reader the possibility of comparing two models of the post-imperial Georgian state – 1918-1921 and 1991-2012. The book will be of enormous relevance and importance to all those interested not only in the history and geopolitics of Georgia, but of the Caucasus as well.' – *Vladimer Papava, Professor of Economics, Rector, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia*

'*The Making of Modern Georgia, 1918-2012* is an essential guide to one of eastern Europe's most fascinating and strategically significant countries. Stephen Jones has assembled a who's-who of specialists on Georgian politics, economics, and history. This international team traces the country's fractious politics and fraught foreign policy back to the Democratic Republic of Georgia (1918-1921) and reveals the enduring legacies of Georgians' first modern experiment with national self-government.' – *Charles King, Georgetown University, USA, author of The Ghost of Freedom: A History of the Caucasus*

About the Author

Stephen F. Jones is Professor of Russian and Eurasian Studies, Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts, USA

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