**Dover Sherborn High School**

**Georgia Briefing Paper**

The country of Georgia wishes to discuss the many topics surrounding Russia and the current conflict in the Ukraine. As a country geographically situated near to both Russia and the Ukraine, Georgia is directly impacted by these events. As a former member of the Soviet Union, Georgia is connected to many Russian happenings. Furthermore, Georgia is geographically right next to the Northern Caucasus, which contains countries under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation. Within this context, the delegates of Georgia wish to participate in discourse surrounding their sovereignty, their security, terrorism issues, human rights problems, economic situations, energy usage, and their connections to the crisis in the Ukraine.

**Key Points:**

* Though Georgia is trying and hopes to improve, it has trouble exercising sovereignty within its country as well as sharing sovereignty among regions, and Russia’s aggressive advances toward separatist regions in Georgia undermine the already weak sovereignty greatly.
* Past conflicts with Georgia and the possibility of unification of the Caucasus make Georgia a crucial component in Russia’s quest to unify post-Soviet Union territory and therefore put Georgia at risk of becoming Russia’s next target if Russia were to gain control over Ukraine.
* Certain tactics such as occupation and cyber warfare, which were used in past wars between Russia and Georgia pose as a serious security threat to not only to the developing government, but also the fragile society.
* Georgia is a crucial part of the energy trade world wide because it acts as both a transporter for the Caspian Sea to world markets and a leader in production on hydropower.
* The obvious abuse taking place within Georgian prisons and correctional facilities poses as a serious threat.
* Georgia needs to use its internal strengths more effectively and to more strategically rely on other countries so that its economy isn't undermined by more powerful countries.
* Georgia is a relatively stable country with many peaceful alliances that happens to be located in a terror stricken and chaotic corner of the world

Georgia is a small country located in the Caucasus region of Eurasia, just below Russia. Above Armenia and neighboring Azerbaijan and the Black Sea, the earliest traces of Georgia appeared in the fourth century B.C.E., under the Unified Kingdom of Georgia. Located at the strategically beneficial crossroads between Europe and Asia, Georgia has been occupied by many different countries seeking to control the assets that lie within the barrier of these two great continents. It hit its high point during the 11th and 12th centuries. It was influenced mainly by the Hellenic and Arab-Persian cultures, and they made many great advances literary and technologically. It flourished under its greatest rulers, Queen Tamar and her son King Giorgi. Internally, Georgia struggled with class equality and foreign invaders. Georgia was later invaded by the mongols and broke into several smaller kingdoms and principalities. It was the battlegrounds for the conflict between the Ottoman Turks and the Persians in the 16th century, during which its economy plummeted and they became a bartering society as it continually fought off invasions, losing tens of thousands of Georgians in the process. It later allied with Russia, and in 1801 was annexed by the Russians 1 .

By 1804, most of present day Georgia was part of the Russian Empire. Russia gained some small territories from Georgia, thus holding most of what is now the present day country of Georgia2. In 1879 the world’s most famous Georgian was born: the future Soviet bellwether, Joseph Stalin. Annexed Georgians, even nobility, lost rights under Russian rule, a problem that resulted in a great Georgian nationalist movement. There was a large scale peasant revolt in 1905, against the main controls of the Marxist Social Democratic Party, lead by Joseph Stalin himself. Soon Russia was plunged into their own bloody civil war, during which Georgia declared itself the Democratic Republic of Georgia, lead by the Menshevik party. In 1921, however, the Red Army occupied Georgia. Brave Georgians fought a guerilla resistance lead by Kakutsa Cholokashvili, but were forcibly added to the newly created Transcaucasian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, along with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belorussia, and Ukraine. Soviet rule was brutal and 200,000 Georgians were killed, until 1936 when Georgia became the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic 3.

Georgia resisted Khrushchev's de-Stalinization policies in 1950’s, eventually calling for secession from the USSR. However, the Soviet Army immediately crushed them. Following this, the Georgian Communist Party created and incredibly corrupt regional power base. They developed a pseudo-capitalist shadow economy. Georgia’s economy was slow growing, but it had the highest economic success rate. It also had the highest primary and secondary education rates. Still problematic, however, was its corruption. It was so blatant and terribly hidden that Georgia became an embarrassment to the USSR. From 1972-1985, Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian interior minister, worked to remove corrupt officials from office. He succeeded in removing hundreds of these officials, with mother Russia’s blessing 4.

Although Shevardnadze was successful in winning back the love of Russia, Georgian nationalism and USSR policy clashed when Moscow ordered Georgia’s constitution consider why Georgian was still their official language. This lead to mass protests, and Moscow quickly reinstated the Georgian language, also making April 14 national Georgian Language Day. Soon after, Shevardnadze was made Soviet Foreign minister. Nationalism came back in surges from the minority-populated outskirts of Georgia, and began clashing with the Communist government. In April 1989, Soviet Troops were ordered to clear a square of peaceful protesters, and ended up killing twenty Georgians and wounding hundreds of others. This horrific event marked a turning point in the Georgian opinion of Moscow- suddenly, breaking off from Soviet rule seemed better than living under it 4.

Nationalists demanded a say in Georgian parliament. South Ossetians waged a separatist verses Georgian battle, killing hundreds and causing tens of thousands to flee from their homes. This resulted in a multiparty democratic parliamentary election, which resulted in a 70/30 split of the parliament, Nationalists holding the majority. Zviad Gamsakhurdia became the head of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia and he immediately organized a Referendum of Independence. Formal independence from the Soviet Union was declared on April 9, 1991, although it took a while for countries like the US and the UK to recognize it as such. Shortly thereafter, Gamsakhurdia was elected the first ever president of Georgia by more than an 85% majority. However, the widespread love didn’t last. He was criticized for an aggressively authoritarian style of governing, and in December a violent coup d’etat from opposition groups led to Gamsakhurdia fleeing to Chechnya 3.

Soon after Shevardnadze became the head of a State Council (essentially President). Separatist disputes in Abkhazia arose and lead to a massive government defeat. Over 14,000 were killed and 300,000 Georgians were forced to leave the area. Similar more ethnic violence erupted in South Ossetia, but it was quelled after 100,000 more people were displaced. In 1993, Gamsakhurdia returned from his exile in order to organize a government overthrow, and he immediately took hold of much of Western Georgia. This really freaked out everyone who was close to Georgia, so Russia sent in troops who quickly toppled the revolt, killing Gamsakhurdia. As penance for the military help, Georgia joins the Russian Commonwealth of Independant States. Shevardnadze narrowly survived a bomb attack which he blamed on the Georgian Mafia, however it was himself and his family whose increasing corruption seemed to be halting economic growth. His close ties with America led to Georgia signing an intent to join both NATO and the E.U. 4. Later, he would secure a $3 Billion dollar project for the Caspian-Mediterranean pipeline. During the Chechen war Russia accused Georgia of harboring rebels, which Georgia denied. Shevardnadze sacks his whole cabinet after the talk of corruption gets too much. The US sent forces to equip counterterrorist organizations. Russia once again accuses Georgia of harboring Chechen militants, and Putin threatens military action, so Georgia mounts an anti terrorist front against the Chechen rebels 3.

After Shevardnadze won a clearly rigged election in 2003, Georgians came together in a bloodless revolution known as the Rose Revolution, which toppled his government. Saakashvili was elected president, and Georgia joined NATO. In 2008, Russia and Georgia engaged in a short South Ossetian war over the economic sanctions imposed on Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the aftermath of which is still tense. In 2012, parliamentary elections remove the widely disliked Saakashvili from office, and Giorgi Margvelashvili becomes the first president to assume power peacefully in post-Soviet Georgia. Saakashvili left after losing, but an arrest warrant was threatened to him if he did not return to the country for questioning on the suspicious death of his ex Prime Minister. Georgia and the EU sign an association agreement, and Georgia began the process of placing Saakashvili on Interpol’s wanted list 3.

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2. Lordkiphanidze, Mariam. "Georgia in the XI-XII Centuries - Mariam Lordkiphanidze - Www.georgianweb.com." *Georgia in the XI-XII Centuries - Mariam Lordkiphanidze - Www.georgianweb.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Feb. 2015.
3. "Georgia Profile." *BBC News*. N.p., 5 Nov. 2014. Web. 28 Feb. 2015.
4. "A Country Study: Georgia." *Georgia : Country Studies*. Library of Congress, n.d. Web. 28 Feb. 2015.

**Committee of Sovereignty**

Georgia is very interested in sovereignty and would like to apply it to their government, but have poor execution. They are considered weak in that regard. Georgia has close ties with Yerevan, Moscow and Armenia and they have expressed a need to change Georgia's government to a sharing of power. Though they have acknowledged they issue they have yet to come to an agreement for sharing of power among the regions1.

Georgia sides more with the West on the annexation of the Crimea due to the threat of a similar situation happening in their own country. The annexation of regions in countries smaller than Russia gives latter more regional influence and power and diminishes regional influence and power from the prior2. Russia has the tendency to seek out and support separatist regions like the Crimea to annex into Russia, and regions in Georgia that have already seceded like South Ossetia and Abkhazia are likely to annex too if the trend continues. Only seven months after the annexation of the Crimea, Russia signed a “strategic partnership” with Abkhazia along with a preliminary agreement to integrate military and security forces with South Ossetia’s, and promised not to cut the financial aid Abkhazia was receiving3. On February 18th 2015 South Ossetia signed a border agreement with Russia, moving Georgia closer to a crisis similar to the one in Ukraine. The Georgian foreign ministry has called Russia's actions as “directed against the sovereignty (of Georgia)” and it’s attempts at gaining more regional influence in general, the annexation of the Crimea included, “an attempt to artificially redraw internationally recognized borders.3” Georgia also opposes the annexation due to it’s role in further complicating their persistent efforts to join NATO, the means they plan to use in protecting themselves against another conflict like the five day war in 2008 when Russia invaded after encouraging South Ossetia to provoke Georgia5. As of 2008 though, the inability for the West to act against Russia making aggressive advances toward Post Soviet states was made clear6. After over a decade of Georgia’s failed efforts to join NATO, an undisclosed source in the U.S. State Department said if the Crimea was annexed, which it soon after was, the “issue of granting Georgia a MAP” was “virtually impossible.4”

The annexation regionally is causing trouble. Many countries including the US is ready to take a stand against Russia’s illegal actions and the west refuses to recognize it. Obama stated that "Russia is a regional power that is threatening some of its immediate neighbors, not out of strength but out of weakness”, then continued to say that he “is more concerned about a nuclear bomb in Manhattan than he is about Russia10”. The annexation of Crimea is very expensive and it would be difficult for Russia to support the two million population. If their economy declines it will have a big effect on Europe and Turkey. Also, about 12 percent of the population of Crimea is Tatar and refuses to recognize the annexation. If internal conflicts break out on the peninsula then the borders, Turkey and Europe, could also face disruption. This would be unfortunate because Russia has been trying to improve their relationship for many years. China is also a big threat to Russia. A lot of legal and illegal Chinese immigrants live on the border, Especially with China's population struggle they may try to claim back land in the future that was originally theirs10.

Russia does not have the right to intervene in another nation’s affairs to prevent perceived abuses or crimes on behalf of the government. The abuses and crimes should be proven to be abusive and illegal, not only perceived. Otherwise Russia would be able to act on assumptions about Georgia’s government’s actions and might use invalid reasons to justify invading Georgia. The 2008 war was an example of when Russia took advantage of it’s assets, namely it’s influence in South Ossetia, to cause more conflict and disruption within Georgia and between Russia and Georgia in response to Mikheil Saakashvili’s, former Georgian president, advances toward joining NATO, something Russia is very openly against and knows will not happen if there is conflict between itself and Georgia2. The invasion was initially said to be a response to Georgian military entering the capital of South Ossetia, Tskhinvali, but a plan to invade Georgia and the advancing of tanks toward the Georgian border had already begun before Georgia’s military even entered Tskhinvali6. Though Russia supposedly intervened due to perceived humanitarian issues, its military forces actually endorsed the systematic ethnic cleansing of ethnic Georgians from the region as proved by UN Satellite images6. Russia’s right to intervene in another country’s affairs also depends on if the abuses or crimes specifically single out ethnic Russians; if not it is none of Russia’s business. If ethnic Russians aren’t especially affected more than other Georgians, the abuses and crimes are an issue with anyone living in Georgia disregardless of if they’re ethnic Russians or not. In the case that people are being affected equally, the fact that they’re ethnic Russians would be irrelevant and thus an invalid reason for Russia to have the right to intervene.

The current borders of Russia and the post-soviet states are the ones that should be permanent because with all the chaos it is important that they stay civil and maintain the land they have. With all the different views on politics and different nationalities between Russia and other post-soviet states, Georgia doesn't need Russia preventing them from their advances toward the west by means of encouraging separatist regions.

Freedom in Georgia has been rightly questioned in the past, however they have made a lot of progress in recent years. Last year they had a economic freedom score of 72.6 and in 2015 they have reached 73.0. This makes their economy the 22nd freest state in 20159. They have improved on freedom from corruption, management of government spending, monetary freedom, business freedom and investment freedom. However their rule of law is lacking and though their level of corruption is improving it is much higher than most other European countries9.

Georgia’s governance falls under the descriptions for a unitary state, semi-presidential system, and republic. It has a president, prime minister, two vice prime ministers and ministers each in charge of specific sub categories such as Education and Science, and Health and Social Affairs. There are also governors who each represent a state (region) within Georgia and a parliament7.

Political engagement is a somewhat strong aspect in Georgia. About 66% of people said they were very interested or somewhat interested in politics. But, 90% answered saying they follow politics in media several times a week8. This numbers were based off of a survey given every ten years given by Georgian Opinion Research Business International. They ask many questions about many topics including political engagement. They also asked questions about people going further than just voting, 22% saying they have attended a lawful demonstration and 26% said they might8. In 2012 Georgia had their first peaceful election in history of a democratic Georgia. Before and after the polls Civil Society Organizations tried to get people involved in voter education, and election day calling centers. They also had monitoring operations all over the country. Georgia has struggled economy wise since around 2013. This is because they shifted their state funds towards social security programs8.

In the near future there could be many changes in Georgia, namely the annexation of South Ossetia and/or Abkhazia into Russia. Russia’s support for both regions has only been increasing, and multiple agreement documents between the separatist regions and Russia have been signed by both3. The possibility of Georgia joining NATO will also lessen more than it already has due to the annexation of more regions4. Georgia will also most likely continue their improvement in economic and business freedom as well as freedom from corruption. More power will also possibly be shared over the whole region, making the government less centralized and more shared.

1 <http://www.cfr.org/georgia/stability-security-sovereignty-republic-georgia/p6656>

2 <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/141210/jeffrey-mankoff/russias-latest-land-grab>

3 <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/19/us-georgia-russia-idUSKBN0LN1NH20150219>

4 [http://www.cacianalyst.org/publications/analytical-articles/item/12950-what-does-russias-annexa tion-of-crimea-mean-for-georgias-efforts-to-join-nato?.html](http://www.cacianalyst.org/publications/analytical-articles/item/12950-what-does-russias-annexation-of-crimea-mean-for-georgias-efforts-to-join-nato?.html)

5 <http://observer.com/2015/02/natos-relevance-the-view-from-georgia/>

6 <http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-930662>

7 <http://government.gov.ge/index.php?sec_id=1&lang_id=ENG>

8 <http://finchannel.com/index.php/opinion/item/35848->

9 <http://www.heritage.org/index/country/georgia>

10 <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/03/25/ukraine-europe/6863413/>

**Committee on Security**

The relationship between Russia and Georgia has never been on good terms, and ever since Georgia broke off from the Soviet Union in 1991, the relationship has been far from secure and amicable. However, over the past decade, the United States and Georgia has developed a solid bilateral cooperation. Georgia helped America by employing troops during the thirteen year war in Afghanistan, and America returned the favor by protecting Georgia in state institutions against rising tensions between Russia and Georgia. Currently Georgia has made advancements in government after the Rose Revolution. President Mikheil Saakashvili describes Georgia’s current condition as not really a "full-fledged, very well-formed, crystallized society." Despite the internal problems that this country has been dealing with, it has become a member of United Nations, Council of Europe, the World Trade organization, Organization for Security, Cooperation in Europe, and GUAM. These strong and strategic allies are crucial in protecting Georgia. Russia has not only posed as a threat since their last war with Georgia, but also they have made multiple attacks in the Ukraine, which are alarming reminders of Russia’s superior military power and capability. In 2008, Georgia troops and South Ossetian troops got into an altercation, proving the tensions between the occupied Russian territories are still present. Russia poses as a serious security threat to Georgia because of their superior military and cunning cyber attacks, Georgia is vulnerable to these attacks due to its fragile state in both their preliminary government and feeble military.

One of the recent precedent issues involving Georgia’s security concerns is the recent Russian-Abkhaz treaty, which Georgia sees as an attempt to annex the region. Russia, Abkhazia, and Georgia are familiar with conflict. Again in 2008, due to troubling relations between Georgia, Russia ,and the separated republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, these nations went to war. This war resulted in the first ever cyber warfare, which is now one of Russia’s biggest weapons. A ceasefire agreement was signed but the tensions between Georgia and Russia and it’s occupied territories continues to cause security conflicts. By Russia creating these strategic alliances, Georgia becomes increasingly sensitive to a powerful attack from Russia and it’s sovereign states South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Georgia not only suffered from the occupation of Russia in certain sovereign states and the Georgia territory of Perevi, it’s capital Tbilisi faced Russia military threats. This crucial threat to stability can not be overlooked. Georgia is also confronted with internal conflicts in the government and society. Once Georgia gained independence in 1991 a severe coup overtook the government. Over the years parliament elections caused resistance amongst Georgian people, so much so that the Rose Revolution broke out which caused another detrimental collapse rule. Overall, Georgia is susceptible to revolutions amid society and outside threats from aggressive Russian military and their current allies, these matters could throw off Georgia’s path towards progression.

Despite the security issues discussed, in 2012 Georgia recreated a National Security Concept to address both internal and external threats. Since Georgia became an independent state it has lacked cohesion internally, starting with the succession of both Abkhazia and Ossetia, followed by the civil wars within each area at the onset of Georgian independence, ultimately causing the government to crumble. Another form of internal instability is the fact that Zviad Gamsakhurdia (former president of Georgia) was removed from power within 1991 and 1992 causing violent uprising in society, as well as former president Eduard Shevardnadze who was removed from power in 2003, both transfers being unconstitutional. Georgia tried to address these internal issues by claiming that they will “adhere to the norms of international law” and “resolve all disputes in peaceful means” as well as creating better relationships with each state (National Security Concept of Georgia, 2.5-2.6). As for external threats, terrorism is a huge risk to national security due to the large amount of terrorist groups within the surrounding countries. The probable attacks would be towards the oil and gas pipelines located in Georgia, which could end up being a large economic loss. Another external issue is the Russian military bases placed on Georgian territory. These military bases have caused issues in the past and are likely to cause tension between Russia and Georgia. To address both the internal and external issues Georgia has decided to take necessary precautions and increase state defense through armed forces by creating reforms to modernize weapons within guidelines for NATO. The number of troops were also increased to create a safer environment for the citizens of Georgia. Georgia also states that they plan to strengthen foreign relations to create international security for Georgia. Another plan to strengthen security is to enhance the strategic relationship that has been built with the United States so that the US can help fund the modernization of the armed forces. Overall, Georgia is working towards a safer more secure environment by following through with necessary reforms to stop the threats within, and outside of Georgia.

In conclusion Georgia’s fight for national security so far has been tough and strenuous due to a lack of military ability as well as the threats from Russia and other external nations. Although they have attempted to create a security concept, the progression is slow as a result of minimal resources and the constant instability within, and outside of the country. With this instability Georgia has made alliances to help solve the threats towards security that they face. The United States has helped fund Georgia’s military reforms, as to make sure that they have sufficient arms to fend themselves against others. Even though Georgia has struggled with security issues, they are working towards modernization by making changes in the government and in society to make Georgia a safer place for all. With these reforms Georgia is expecting the threats to security to vastly decrease, as they create a new society that is safer and more advanced in all aspects of life.

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**Committee on Terrorism**

Georgia, in cooperation with the United States, faces potential terrorist threats from its Russian occupied territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, making it difficult to secure the Russian border and from combating terrorism (south asia terrorism portal). In addition, the United States has sent military to aid in the eradication of the Pankisi Gorge; this region, located in the northeastern part of Georgia has become a safe ground for terrorist/criminal groups. Although Georgia has yet to face a large attack, it has faced smaller, direct ones, leaving the country in a vulnerable position. Georgia, due to its constant corruption, inactive economy, and lack of democratic reforms, has provided it to be an open target for both insiders and foreigners. Since the US reached out in an effort to help Georgia, so that they could gain control of the regions petroleum, it has seen its government increase in perceived strength as it makes the switch to a more democratic system. The potential terrorist threats stem from political and religious ideologies of individuals being upset with the turn to a democratic structure. With the act of the United States helping Georgia it has caused some distress from the surrounding post-Soviet states, that including Russia (Country Report).

Georgia is a part of the Russia’s Northern Caucasus, a region that is between Asia and Europe and is turning into a very hostile, tense region, where no real formal power is in place but rather radical extreme terrorist groups. These groups are turning into a very dangerous bunch where terrorist groups are able to emerge despite the Russian government’s statements that peace has been achieved. Russia continues to lose control of the region making Islamist terrorist organizations be able to spark crusading inside and outside Russia. Although Georgia has denied any involvement in the terrorist groups that are seeking refuge in its land, it has continued to serve as a shelter for Chechen terrorists in addition to being a place where international extremist leaders reside (Country Report). Chechen terrorists are said to be hiding in the Pansaki Gorge; these groups are reportedly connected to Osama Bin-Laden. The US has tried to increase its relations with Georgia during this time, helping them to quelch the illegal activities that comprise the Northern Caucasus. Since there is a large, unguarded territory in between Russia and Georgia, the US has tried to assist in making the border security more prominent . It is their goal to protect energy sources and pipelines in addition to restricting the flow of arms, drugs, and terrorists (Heritage).

Terrorism is a key issue in the majority of the post-Soviet states especially among the dominant countries such as Russia as their corrupt government and great land mass provides a place for terrorist groups to get started while being unnoticed. There are many different types of terrorism that are expressed in this north eastern region of the world; military, political, religious, and criminal terrorism have all been established. Terrorism has been demonstrated in this specific region by having residential buildings being destroyed, civilians and servicemen being taken hostage and then killed, and administrative officials in the government being targeted. Many of these terrorist groups missions are to spark a change in the way that the government and political regimes are being conducted.

Important changes to Georgian government have attempted to resolve issues of terrorism and government inadequacy. Most importantly, in October of 2013, Georgia held a democratic presidential election that set in stone it’s progress towards a peaceful democracy. Most importantly for the issue of terrorism, in 2013 a piece of counterterrorist legislation was drastically amended and improved. With this new legislation came a broader definition of terrorism and higher punishments and liabilities for those involved in terrorism related activities. As a result of these changes, another set of legislation addressed illegal uses of weapons intended for use in terrorism related activities. This legislation especially outlawed the use of biological and chemical weapons in terrorist acts. In addition, attacks against public officials and their families for their political involvement and decisions were criminalized. Finally, theft and forgery of documents in relation to terrorist related activities were addressed with severe criminal penalties. (US Country Report).

Georgia’s internal terrorism comes from its inability to have a stable economy that supports the country. Although they have signed on to be a part of legislative groups, their financial instability has left them to be viewed as an unsettled country. Georgia has signed different laws regarding the financing of terrorism that is used to expedite the plans, showing that it has good intentions in stopping the financial troubles associated with attacks. A government commission has even ensured the freezing of property owned by people who are linked to terrorism. This is in hopes to prevent the financing of terrorism. By not allowing their property to be legitimate and stopping there money flow to help their cause, Georgia has helped to stop the plans of some terrorists.

Georgia is located on the southern border of the chaotic and violent Northern Caucasus, resulting with violence that spills over the ill-protected borders. (Heritage) In 2013, the United States assisted Georgia in developing border security. Almost 200 Georgian officers participated in training programs to counter terrorism and strengthen borders. (US Country Report) From the point of view of Georgian capital Tbilisi, United States assistance is most welcome (Belfer Center). In addition to being a strong ally with the United States, Georgia is an active member of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova) Organization for Democracy and Development. (US Country Report).

**Committee on Human Rights**

Citizens conforming to society under different governments share one common necessity—human rights. Every single being on this planet has entered the world with the same purity and ignorance as the next. It’s only fair that this unprejudiced understanding within the population is respected and the basic rights of an individual are preserved—whether it be race, language, appearance, belief, or orientation. As nations grow and minorities are established, it is the government’s duty to ensure a nondiscriminatory culture. Currently, the Republic of Georgia is struggling to maintain the peace within their morally segregated community.

The divisions and fluctuations that are specific to Georgia’s population have set the foundation for social instability. Even from the start, this country lacked a sense of nationalism. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, several civil movements clashed with one another, sending people to flee for their safety2. In just a short decade, Georgia had already lost 1/5 of its population—1.1 million residents emigrated to Russia, the US, Greece, Germany, Turkey, Austria, and other European nations2. Of course, this drought of citizens left many of the nation’s industries dry. Inflation, corruption, unemployment, and poverty were each a part of the aftermath that proceeded, so the emerging strain on the population only exposed weak bonds between the different societies of Georgia. In terms of religion, 84% of Georgia’s population identifies with Eastern Orthodox Christianity, while there are small pockets of Russian Orthodoxy, Armenian Apostle Christianity, and Roman Catholicism4. The remaining 10% of the population is Muslim, and a few Jewish communities are scattered throughout the nation4. On one hand, the Christian Church serves as a unifier of the nation. Yet, this mass coalition of Christians also discriminates against the differences of any minorities. Racism that is linked to religion arises, especially when groups such as Muslims or Jehovah’s Witnesses are minorities. Even though Georgia has not released demographics to the public since 2002, it is safe to assume that discrimination based on ethnicity is not non-existent given the religious factors. Overall, the history and build of Georgia’s population have impacted its ability to function as one nation.

The Georgian government has lost the trust of its citizens through abuse and corruption, which only adds to the existing moral conflicts. Before its new election of Bidzina Ivanishvili, who is now responsible for amending the government, Georgia had a flawed judicial system. Rather than respecting citizen rights, Georgian officials arrested people for petty offenses, which led to a corrupt courtroom, and then to an abusive and overcrowded prison. Because the incarceration rate is so high, Georgia passed a broad prison amnesty bill in 2014, which freed 8,000 prisoners3! Apparently, 87% of cases would end in plea bargains because defendants believed that it would be better to suffer poverty than suffer the dehumanizing conditions of the ‘justice’ system3. Evidence of this cruelty surfaced in 2012, when videos of prisoners being beaten and tortured were released.3 This led to the imprisonment of only fourteen prison officials. Another instance of injustice was when an arrested man, who claimed to have been beaten and forced to agree to false testimony, was found hanged3.Then, in July 2014, five police officers were acquitted in a court law over accusations that they had abused and raped a detainee3. The court’s verdict was deemed problematic by outside parties, raising the possibility of corruption in Georgia’s judicial system. Questionable rulings such as these tend to generate distrust among people towards their government. Sadly, it is clear that Georgians live with constant fear because fairness is not guaranteed. Alongside the corrupt judiciary system is a battle between faiths. The religious majority of Eastern Orthodox Christians has and continues to show violence and hatred towards religious and social minorities such as Muslims and members of the LGBT community. Without an effective police enforcement and consequence to back up these target groups, the crimes only escalate further. In a way, there is a domino effect to the abuse of Georgian human rights, and not in a positive direction.

Georgian authority has shown attempts to lessen the discrimination that is apparent throughout its country, however the violent actions of the citizens speak louder than the passive words on government paper. On May 2, 2014, Georgia responded to the discrimination against race, language, sexual orientation, beliefs, status, and other minorities by passing the “Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination” bill1. While this action is a step in the right direction, Georgia still needs to find a way to enforce such a movement. By rejecting the suggestion of financial penalties for any violators, Georgia is not providing an incentive for offenders to keep clean. According to Georgian law, citizens have the Right to Privacy, Freedom of Religion, Right to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Freedom of Assembly, and Freedom of Media3. However, there is a double standard to each of these rights. Preventing Muslims from holding services in houses converted to Mosques seems to directly contradict religious freedom3. The Right to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity is not much more successful. Thousands of homophobic Orthodox Christians violently disrupted a peaceful LGBT support gathering, leaving many injured3. Police said they tried to stop the attacks, but local victims reported that LGBTs receive humiliation all the time—it’s simply not reported in fear of retribution or police indifference3. As for the Freedom of Media, it wasn’t until recently that all cable companies began to stream with a democratized GBP board and greater transparency3. Previously, they were only required to offer news channels 60 days before an election and programs were strictly overseen by the GBP3. This indicates that there was a highly censored and politically influenced media exposure to the public. Thankfully, not all of Georgian law is misleading because the Right to Privacy and the Freedom of Assembly are each true to their name. The government is confiscating and destroying illegal recordings to ensure privacy, and crowds are allowed to protest up until the point of danger3. Even though the protection of rights has a long way to develop, at least Georgia is beginning to acknowledge issues between societies.

Though human rights are imperative to individuals, governments such as Georgia clearly do not prioritize them to the same extent. As damaging as this may be to the relationship between leaders and citizens, all the nation is concerned about is its reputation around the globe. But, if a nation’s own people cannot trust their government, why should other world powers be able to as well? Georgia tends not to become involved in external conflicts. Even with crises such as the Rwandan Genocide, this nation preferred to keep quiet. On the contrary, other nations seem to be watching Georgia. The European Union encouraged reforms and funded an even advisor named Hammarberg3. Though Hammarberg identified many areas in need of change, Georgia ultimately fell short of total improvement. The United States has also voiced concerns in addition to monitoring done by the International Court System3. It is only a matter of time until Georgia will be forced to either comply with reform or crumble from the inside out.

**Committee on Economics**

Georgia, an independent country that lies just south of Russia’s European territory and east of the black sea, has an economy that relies vastly on its trading partners. The central segments that compose its economy include cultivation of agricultural products, mainly of grapes, citrus fruits, and hazelnuts, the production of alcoholic beverages, machinery, metals and chemicals, and the mining of manganese, copper, and gold. Georgia’s main trading partner is Russia, but Georgia has been trying to rely less on them for trade. Georgia has overcome its lack of energy and gas supply interruptions by relying more on gas imports from Azerbaijan rather than from Russia[[1]](#footnote-1). With the help of international partners, Georgia has substantial economic advances by greatly increasing its GDP and diminishing inflation of lari.

The three largest revenue holders in Georgia’s economy are energy, agriculture, and tourism. In the recent years, Georgia has fully removed the imposed controls on its systems in its electricity section. Now there is free and open access to the market. George has a decent amount of hydroelectric space. Its land and topographical features fosters the potential to dominate the hydroelectric markets in the Caucasus region. Georgia’s abundance of hydroelectric power also helps build its potential dominance; it has 26,000 rivers that include 300 of which provide significant energy[[2]](#footnote-2). It’s reliance on hydropower leaves Georgia susceptible to climate fluctuation. This has the possibility to be good as well as bad for the economy. In drier seasons, imports to meet the typical needs will be required, and in wetter seasons, Georgia will be able to make more exports than the average year[[3]](#footnote-3). Georgia also relies heavily on other countries for energy. Its transmission lines that connect its power to a grid run through Russia, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. In July of 2008, Georgia began to export electricity to Russia. Later that next year the energy minister of Georgia, Alexander Khetaguri, imposed a deal with Inter RAO, a Russian energy company, to help manage a Georgian hydropower plant for 10 years. This proposal was expected to bring in 9 million USD to Georgia for the plant use[[4]](#footnote-4).

Additionally, agriculture provides a great deal to the economy. Currently, around 55% of the total labor force is occupied in agriculture[[5]](#footnote-5). Georgia’s production in agriculture is beginning to rebuild after the civil unrest during the dismantling of the Soviet Union. Its livestock production has sporadically been interrupted by disease, however it too is beginning to rise. Grain production, too, is increasing with the help of government investments in improving basic improvements to ensure appropriate and equitable revenues to farmers. The only portion of Georgian agriculture that has taken a beating is the production of tea, hazelnut, and citrus fruits that have suffered due to the conflict in Abkhazia, the prime location for production[[6]](#footnote-6). There is an estimated 7% of Georgia’s GDP that is generated by agriculture. Winemaking upholds the most critical field of the country’s agricultural economy. Georgia has been considered one of the oldest places in the world that produces top-quality wines. This reputation was adjusted in 2006 when Russia banned the importation of wine from Georgia. Since this event, the Georgian wine companies have suffered in trying to be introduced into new markets. In 2011, Georgia managed to sell wine to bring in a revenue of 54 million in USD between 48 different countries with an additional 68 million in USD on the account of alcoholic beverages between 32 countries. These products are ranked in the top 10 of Georgia’s export commodity list, with 2.5% in wine and 3.1% in alcoholic beverages[[7]](#footnote-7).

Tourism comes in last in terms of major revenue for the country, but is still a big player in the economy. It’s one of the fastest growing areas in Georgia’s economy with potential for even more growth in the future. During the past few years, tourism rates in Georgia have increased dramatically with the contribution of growth in other tourism related sanctions. In order to further pave the path to higher tourism rates, Georgia’s government has invested heavily in modifying public transportation and basic renovations to the development of destinations ideal to tourists. In 2011, the total production of tourist services went up 77% from 2006 and rendered 7.1% of total economic output[[8]](#footnote-8). These three factions of Georgia’s economy are fundamental to the growth of the economic status of the country externally and internally.

Georgia has worked to improve its economy by reducing regulations, modifying taxing methods, and restricting corruption and through these results a healthier economy. Georgia’s economy ranked the twenty-second freest in the 2015 index and eleventh out of forty-three countries in Europe. It’s free score has increased 2.6 within the last 5 years that has fostered improvements in corruption, control of the government’s spending, business, finances, and investment. Policies that are supportive of open markets are boosting prosperity and reinforcing the government’s commitment to economic freedom. All these improvements have fostered an effective expansion of Georgia’s economy[[9]](#footnote-9). Georgia has a weak history in terms of the Rule of Law. In 2014 a former prime minister and senior figure in the main opposition party was found guilty on the ground of corruption and for taking advantage of public funds. Along with him, several other members of that current government were removed from office for alleged use of authority for personal gain. This can be blamed on the rippling effect of post soviet corruption[[10]](#footnote-10). Georgia’s economic history has hit peaks and valleys.Georgia has sustained a 10% GDP growth but this constant growth was interrupted by the 2008 conflict with Russia and as a result this percentage sank to a negative 4% in 2009 when FDI and workers’ alimony declined in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. Also, the country has suffered from severe failure to collect tax revenues. However, the government has gone to great lengths to fix this. In 2004 it simplified the tax code, improved tax administration, and increased tax enforcement. Additionally, within the past year, the Georgian Dream led government extended the work of the previous administration in working to lower taxes and encourage free market policies while modestly increasing social spending, strengthening the anti-trust policy, and amending the labor code to comply with the International Labor Standards. Georgia’s GDP has seen some beneficial changes within the last few years. It has risen 7.2% since 2011 and the per capita is also on a positive slope of about $200 per year. Georgia has a GDP of around $27.6 billion USD[[11]](#footnote-11). The labor market is flexible and evolving; with no minimum capital required, there is a very simple process to start up a business. The financial sector remains stable and is mainly dominated by banks, while banking has become more competitive due to regulatory enforcement. Georgia’s economy brings in around $4.834 billion in revenues, while spending $5.257 billion in expenditures, which comes out to around a $425 million annual difference in the country’s budget. Taxes bring in about 30.3% of the GDP, around $8.3 billion USD. Georgia’s exports bring in about $2.618 annually from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Turkey, and Russia, while its imports bring in about $7.063 billion from Turkey, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Russia, and China[[12]](#footnote-12). Georgia’s economy, although not the most impressive in Europe, has a definite history that has shaped its own current economy as well as affected those it is in relations with.

Russia and Georgia have a long political history that has developed the country’s relationship in economic terms. Until 2006 Georgia received all of its gas from Russia, now Georgia receives its gas from Azerbaijan through the Caucasus pipeline15. Georgia is critical to Russia and its control over Caucasus; gas and oil pipelines from Turkey to Azerbaijan that pass through Georgia. With Armenia and Azerbaijan mainly under Russian control, Georgia is the last country on the pipeline that is not allied with Russia. It is the only country between complete Russian control on Azerbaijani natural gas exports[[13]](#footnote-13). With the economy still somewhat reliant on Russian exports, the Georgian lari has been dipping over the past few months but overall has stayed much more consistent than the ruble. According to Georgian president Georgy Margvelashvili, the Georgian economy is still trending upward despite the setbacks that the fall of the ruble has cause[[14]](#footnote-14). The current rate from lari to ruble is 1:27.22. This past June, Georgia signed an agreement with the European Union in order to lessen their economic dependency on trade with Russia. Until Georgia can have a thriving economy without depending on Russia the government has weakened the lari, so that Georgian products are more affordable to Russians. The Georgian and Russian economies are intertwined, and with the Russian economy getting biffed by sanctions, Georgia is trying to distance themselves from Russia.

The Georgian economy has three major revenue holders, electricity, tourism, and agriculture. Recently the Georgian economy has improved and the revenue coming in from the three main holders has gone up. Georgia has a very close relationship with Russia when it comes to economy, whether it is regarding pipelines and gas prices or trade and currency.

**Committee on Energy**

Georgia, located between the Black and Caspian Sea, is a critical piece to energy trade with its prime geographical position and its own resources . Its use of waterways, pipelines, processing plants, and oil fields along with its central location have made it a reliable exporting country that many other nations depend on. Due to the collapse of the Soviet Union along with other economic problems, the country’s energy production has faced setbacks, but the demand for the products it generates along with the products it depends on have helped it regain its position as a powerful force in the energy industry.

Georgia, settled in a central location with which the energy trade revolves around, is responsible for both imports and exports. Its partners in commerce include various nations ranging from the United States all the way over to China. One of its main exports, oil, is delivered by means of major pipelines that pass through Georgia, such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline, and parallel to it the South Caucasus pipeline (SCP), a major import travelway. The transit fees of these pipelines bring in money for Georgia. On average, the BTC transports, mainly from Azerbaijan, around 1 million barrels of crude oil per day (EIA). In previous years, Georgia has been highly dependent on Russia for its other main export, natural gas. Since then, the Shah Deniz pipeline has been opened, and Georgia now receives it main portion of gas from Azerbaijan. This transition from Russian to Azerbaijani oil was fueled by the hopes of breaking away from Moscow’s dominance and gaining for independence for the country (Natural Gas Europe).

As for exports, Georgia mainly generates hydropower. The country has at least 300 rivers that can be used for mass hydroelectric production. Statistically speaking, 85% of Georgia’s total energy use is provided by local hydropower plants (Hydroworld). Since Georgia is a developing country and expecting consumption to increase, it is looking to expand this export market. Georgia is a growing nation whose strong energy import/export system’s supply and demand will bring trading partners, money, and success to the country.

Drops in good’s prices are directly related to an increase in the supply and a decrease in the demand of a product. In the past year, more oil has been recovered while the demand for it has been low. Since Georgia imports oil, a drop in prices is a major benefit to them. Due to increasing energy efficiency and a decline in energy consumption, the plea for oil has almost halved since the late 20th century (World Bank). Having to pay less for oil, Georgia can focus on other sources of energy along with other parts of the economy that need work.

The proposals of new pipelines offer many benefits of bringing in new and more trade to Georgia. Already, Georgia is affiliated with many travelways such as the BTC, SCR, and SOCAR. The already running Shah Deniz pipeline is preparing for a phase two which will run through Turkey. The prediction for phase two, which is expected to be completed by 2018, is that 565-706 billion cubic feet of gas would transfer through Turkey. In addition, in 2013 Azerbaijan announced that the TAP or Trans-Adriatic Pipeline, was going to transport gas to Europe (FAS). The TAP is expected to be used by Italy, Greece, Central Europe, the Balkans region, and countries in Southern Europe if it is connected to the IAP or Ionian Adriatic Pipeline. By doing this, around 180 billion cubic feet of gas per year would be sent to countries in Southern Europe (FAS). Azerbaijan’s plan to build up this pipeline benefits Georgia because it gets the majority of its gas from there. An increase in gas imports means more products flowing into the country. These ongoing ideas for new pipelines and pipelines that are already in motion will not only increase the amount of imports and exports for Georgia, but also can link already existing pipelines, thereby stretching the space of the interconnected trade ways and forming new trade relationships.

The 400 billion dollar gas deal signed between Russia and China has a major effect on both Asia and Europe. Specifically, this deal involved China buying natural gas from Russia as a source of clean energy and Moscow gaining a political win while facing harsh sanctions placed by the U.S. (Washington Post). Since the Cold War, Russia’s relationship with Europe has been shifty and by signing this deal it alters its economic partners from the West to the East (Washington Post). It reduces the reliance it has on its Western partners and creates a new export industry in China. Although Georgia only relies on Russia for about 10% of its natural gas, the country is still a trading partner of theirs. This deal significantly reduces Russia’s involvement in the European trading system, which means less gas imports for Georgia.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the transportation of oil Caspian Sea, one of the oldest oil-producing areas in the world, became an expensive operation due to its dependence on Soviet pipeline networks. As the Caspian oil and natural gas fields are located rather far away from export markets, it requires expensive infrastructure to move the oil to ports leading to world markets (EIA). If domestic energy demand rises in countries and build export infrastructure to global markets, they will be able to export greater amounts of Caspian crude oil and natural gas. The Caspian Sea is a rich resource for energy, but unfortunately it is a major project to transport this oil, requiring large foreign investments. Canals must be used from the Black Sea to move equipment to production areas around the Caspian Sea and that is where Georgia plays a role. The Black sea is important in the export of oil from the Caspian Sea because it connects Caspian bordering countries to world markets as pipelines link to Russia’s Transneft distribution system. In addition, there are a substantial amount of untapped oil and gas reserves in the Arctic region: “the sum of the mean estimates … indicates that 90 billion barrels of oil, 1,669 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 44 billion barrels of natural gas liquids may remain to be found in the Arctic, of which approximately 84 percent is expected to occur offshore.” (USGS Fact Sheet)

Energy has been a source of cooperation for Georgia in the past as it is vital in the transportation of oil from the Caspian to the world markets. Hydropower has brought Georgia to be well known in energy across the globe in trade. As for Georgia’s future in energy, more pipelines are being built for imports and exports so it can be conquered that Georgia’s position in energy trade is only going to grow to be more important. Based on Georgia’s current economic stance and the incoming growth of trade networks in Georgia’s energy, it seems that Georgia’s position is only going to become more substantial in world energy markets.

Georgia’s main import and exports are some of the most essential products that people from all around the world depend on. Without Georgia as a link from the seas to the world markets, energy would be much harder to come by. In regards to Georgia’s future, the country is only predicted to build up its role in energy trade. Georgia will become a more and more crucial point in energy across the globe.

**Committee on Ukraine**

Semi-successful separatist movements in the post-Soviet Space would result in drastic changes within the countries of the Caucasus and Baltic States. Ukraine’s neighbors, Georgia and Moldova, will especially suffer the consequences. Ukraine has a lot in common with these specific countries, and for that reason they spark interest for Russia. Like Ukraine, Russia holds substantial influence on these two countries, and for this reason they are very affected by the [[15]](#footnote-15)Ukraine crisis. In addition to this, Georgia and Moldova act as a buffer zone between Russia and Europe, as well as have similar relationships with countries in the East and West. Aside from Moldova, should Russia prevail in its efforts in taking control over Ukraine, Georgia’s hopes of a democratic future and unification with the EU would be put immensely endangered and because of this almost all Georgians are in support of Ukraine and against Russia. Semi-successful separatist movements in the post-Soviet Space could lead Georgia to be Russia’s next target if Ukraine were to collapse under Russia’s pressure. Six years before Russia’s acknowledged war on Ukraine, a five day war between Georgia and Ukraine broke out. This short lived war resulted in Russian occupation of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Reluctant about confronting Russia, Western leaders blamed this resulting situation on the recklessness of Mikheil Saakashvili, Georgia’s president at the time. This caused tensions between Georgia and Russia to increase significantly. While Georgia’s conditions with Russia have improved quite significantly since this instance, Georgia is more vulnerable than ever. Georgia is a vital component to Russia and it’s control over the Caucasus. With countries such as Turkey and Armenia siding with Russia, alliance with Georgia is very desirable for Russia. The next step Russia would most likely take if it were to successfully break up Ukraine would be to then take control of Georgia. Past conflicts with Georgia and the possible unification of the Caucasus make Georgia a crucial component in Russia’s quest to unify post-Soviet Union territory and therefore put Georgia in a risky situation.

Russia’s seizure of Crimea largely increases the severity of the crisis, and is mainly a threat to the safety of the post-Soviet Union. The Ukraine crisis has been the first time Russia’s military forces have moved into and occupied the territory of an Eastern European country since the Soviet Union’s downfall. Seen as a violation of international law by the United States and other NATO members, Russian occupation of Crimea is an example of Russia’s desire to take over more land and gives the public an idea of what the outcomes of Russia’s involvement in other post-Soviet Union countries would be. Russia’s seizure of Crimea has impacted Ukraine the most severely. Losing Crimea entails losing valuable ports, energy and mining sectors, military importance, and more. The annexation of Crimea comes at a big price for Ukraine and poses a threat to surrounding countries. Russia’s political image is also affected, and because of its seizure of Crimea is now seen as an unpredictable and unsafe state. Not only this, but the seizure of Crimea has cost Russia billions, and has aggravated Russia’s economy. The seizure of Crimea has created immense problems for both Russia and Ukraine.

Ethnic Russians in Ukraine have both influenced and been affected by the crisis. Ethnic Russians form the largest minority in the country and are highly concentrated in eastern and southern Ukraine, as well as make up most of the population of Crimea. Much of the ethnic Russian population is fighting against Ukraine and for the leadership of Russia. They feel much more apart of Russia than the EU and largely opposed to Ukraine’s resistance to Russian rule. In Crimea, most ethnic Russians are happy to be under Russian control, feeling that their identity lies more with Russian. Some feel threatened by the revolution and are fearful of losing some of their identity throughout the process of revolution. In eastern and southern Ukraine, the majority of ethnic Russians are also in support for Russian rule, feeling more unified with the Russians than the Ukrainians. Russian President Vladimir Putin has promised to “protect” Russian speakers, which may make ethnic Russians and Russian speakers within Ukraine (most specifically in Eastern and Southern Ukraine) feel as though unifying with Russia would create a safer environment. While ethnic Russian opinions on the Ukraine crisis may be varied, the general population of ethnic Russians in Ukraine advocate for Russian rule.

If it ends up that Crimea is under the control of Russia, the naval power in the Black Sea w[[16]](#footnote-16)ill greatly shift to be in Russia’s favor. The port in Sevastopol, a port in Crimea that Ukraine has leased to Russia for years and has recently agreed to continue leasing it to them until 2042, is key to Russia mainly because of it’s size and location on the Black Sea. This is not the only naval port Russia has on the Black Sea as they are building one in Novorossiysk on their own land, but it is still in Russia’s interests that they have ports in Crimea. One major problem with having that port in Crimea though is that Russia must get approval for all the ships, submarines, and other machinery from Ukraine prior to usages in the base. By having Crimea under their control, Russia would not have to get permission from anyone to place their machinery in the port, a major reason they are pushing to get Novorossiysk up and running, thus resulting in Russia having an extreme upper hand in all naval activities in the Black Sea.

Georgia was once, and in many ways still is, in a very similar position as Ukraine. In Georgia, Russia backed the separatist movements by the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia in 2008 which led to a 5-day war resulting in Georgia keeping the territories. This movement to annex these territories has only become more prominent with the signing of border agreements between Russia and South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Some politicians this action is resembling those made by Russia in Crimea. Georgia does not want Russia to annex their territories and similarly would also like to see the same in Ukraine. Georgia is affected by all the actions Russia takes, and would like to see Russia retreat from Ukraine and cease its military power over Ukraine, as well as to respect the autonomy of Ukraine and its neighboring countries in order to avoid becoming Russia’s next target.

Georgia has recently been pushing to receive membership to NATO and have made deals with them to strengthen their country on many levels in hope for membership. This move to join began in September of 2008, directly following Georgia’s war with Russia over the separatist lands of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. One of the areas that Georgia agreed to work on with NATO in 2008 was national security, especially from Russia. This move from Georgia to look for help from a much stronger, international organization leads to the conclusion that Georgia wants to have the international support from a group like NATO in their battle with Russia over disputed lands. Georgia also received assistance from the EU to help them in their situation with South Ossetia and Abkhazia. This struggle to keep Russia from annexing separatist[[17]](#footnote-17) territories is also being dealt with by Ukraine in Crimea, so Georgia would like to see NATO push back Russia and let the Georgia and Ukraine retain their respective separatist territories. As the Ukraine crisis becomes more severe, the neighboring countries, especially Georgia, are put at risk. Many people consider South Ossetia and Abkhazia to be Russia’s next areas to annex putting Georgia in a very fragile situation that needs help from bigger organizations to help their fight against such a major power like Russia. Should Russia obtain complete control over Ukraine, countries within NATO and the EU should help in protecting the more vulnerable countries such as Georgia.

**Issues to Address**

* Georgia is at risk of becoming next target for Russia- another Crimea like crisis
* Occupation and cyber warfare risks from Russia if Russia decided to repeat Ukraine situation in Georgia
* Georgia has very little success in exercising power over its own regions to prevent them from being annexed into Russia
* Lost trust of people due to corrupt judicial system and prisons
* Georgia’s over reliance on other countries namely Russia- need to be more independant so Russia doesn’t undermine them

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