ALL SOURCES USED ARE SPECIFICALLY NOT GEORGIAN SO THERE IS NO BIAS (EVEN THOUGH THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF GEORGIAN SOURCES FROM V CENTURY ONWARDS)

ABKHAZIA – HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Period 2000BC – 100BC

- Today’s territory of Abkhazia is part of Western Georgian kingdom of Colchis, with capital Aee (Kutaisi - Kuta-Aee (Stone-Aee)). Territory populated by Georgian Chans (Laz-Mengrelians) and Svans.

- According to all historians of the time like Strabo (map on the left by F. Lasserre, French Strabo expert), Herodotus, and Pseudo-Skilak - Colchis of this period is populated solely by the Colkhs (Georgians).

- The same Georgian culture existed throughout Colchis. This is seen through archaeological findings in Abkhazia that are exactly the same as in the rest of western Georgia, with its capital in central Georgian city of Kutaisi. The fact that the centre of Colchian culture was Kutaisi is also seen in the Legend of Jason and the Argonauts (Golden Fleece). They travel through town and river of Phasis (modern day Poti / Rioni, in Mengrelia), to the city of Aee (Kutaisi – in Imereti), where the king of Colchis reigns, to obtain the Golden Fleece (method of obtaining gold by Georgian Svans where fleece is placed in a stream and gold gets caught in it).

- Strabo in his works Geography XI, II, 19 clearly shows that Georgian Svan tribes ruled the area of modern day Abkhazia – “… in Dioscurias (Sukhumi)…are the Soanes, who are superior in power, - indeed, one might almost say that they are foremost in courage and power. At any rate, they are masters of the peoples around them, and hold possession of the heights of the Caucasus above Dioscurias (Sukhumi). They have a king and a council of three hundred men; and they assemble, according to report, an army of two hundred thousand; for the whole of the people are a fighting force…” Also we know of a Georgian Kudji dynasty that ruled Colchis, and in 3 BC voluntarily united with Eastern Georgia, under King Parnavaz.
Period 100BC – 300AD

- Colchis (inc. today’s territory of Abkhazia) becomes an autonomous region of the Roman Empire (small periods under Parthians). Romans give a new name – Lazica, after Georgian Laz population of the area.

Period 300AD – 562AD

- Lazica (inc. today’s territory of Abkhazia) becomes partially independent. Name of the new Kingdom - Lazica-Egrisi (Laz-Megrelians), ruled by Laz Kings Gubaz, and later by Tsate. By the end of this period Byzantium takes full control of the northern part of modern day Abkhazia.
- Byzantine historian Procopius of Caesarea states that towns of Sebastopolis (Sukhumi) and Pitiunt (Pitsunda/Bichvinta) are towns of Laz (Georgian), and Abazgs from time immemorial are subjects of the Laz.
- Procopius of Caesarea further states that the stronghold of Tzebil (Tsebegla) is ruled by a noble Laz, Terdet.

Period 562AD – VII AD

- Lasica-Egrisi is absorbed by Byzantium, as an autonomous region, keeping the old name. Later though it’s broken up into separate provinces, all subject to Byzantium.

Period VII AD – VIII AD

- Arab invasions weaken Byzantium. Abazgia is mentioned as an eristavat (principality).
- Capital of modern day Abkhazia, Sukhumi is first mentioned as Tskhumi (before Greek and Roman names were used - Sebastopolis and Dioscurias). Name derives from Svan word meaning hornbeam (many Svanetian villages have the same root Tskhumar, Tskhomi, Tskhvim etc). Abkhazians call Sukhumi, Akua, a name first mentioned only in 18th century.

Period IX AD – X AD

- Egrisi/Lasica becomes fully independent under the name Kingdom of Abkhazia. King Leon II unifies western Georgia in its old borders and capital in Kutaisi.
Successor of the Egrisi Kingdom, Kingdom of Abkhazia derives its name from the principality of Abkhazia, whose eristav (prince) Leon II previously ruled within the kingdom of Lasica/Egrisi, before becoming king of the whole western Georgia.

- National language is Georgian. This is seen from everything that remained from that period - manuscripts, artifacts with Georgian writing on them (i.e. Bedia goblet), churches and monasteries with Georgian frescoes and writing (Ilori Church, Likhni Monastery, Bedia Church, Anukhvi Church, Samati, Tselikari, Tsebelda castle, Dzikazurgi, etc). Also all church ceremonies were now conducted in Georgian and not Greek as before. There is not one mention in any script of Abkhazian words.

- Architecture of buildings of that period is also purely Georgian.

- Ruling dynasty Leonids, were of unclear origin (most probably initially of Byzantine descent as they have Byzantine names), but they only intermarried with the Georgian nobility, specifically Tao-Klarjeti Bagrationis etc. Also Georgian Svan dynasty Shavliani ruled for a period in the Leonid era (as we’ve seen since I AD, Svans ruled the area of Abkhazia, so trend continues.)

- Capital was in Kutaisi, as it has always been, while the area of modern day Abkhazia in this kingdom is divided by King Leon II into 3 different principalities Abkhaz, Tskhumi and Bedia.

- Foreigners never divided the term Abkhazian Kingdom from being Georgian. As an example Turcoman writer Khikani writes – “I became a citizen of Abkhazia and started to speak Georgian.” or Arab writer Yakut, writes “Abkhazia is inhabited by Georgians”. etc.

- Its therefore important to note that the name “Abkhazia” is a name of a region and not the people, as Abkhazia is made up of 3 different Georgian ethnic groups (Megrelians, Svans and Meskhs) and Apsua (self-name of an ethnic group we now call Abkhazians). So Abkhazia and Abkhazians as an example can be seen as Britain and British, and not like England/English or Scotland/Scottish.

Church of Abkhazia as before remains under the jurisdiction of the Georgian Church in Mtskheta and remains so ever after.

**Period XI AD – XIII AD**

Kingdom of Abkhazia voluntarily unites with East Georgian kingdom, into one united country, under King Bagrat III Bagrationi, under the name – Kingdom of Georgia. This remains so for over two centuries. Territory of modern day Abkhazia is still divided into three bodies created by Leon II – Abkhazia, Tskhumi and Odishi.

Official title of Kings of Georgia until 19th century - By the will of our Lord, King of the Abkhazis, Kartvelians, Raniens, Kakhetians and the Armenians, Shirvanshah and Shahanshah and Master of all the East and West.
Many churches, monasteries, fortresses are built at this period in Abkhazia, and again all with Georgian writings. A fine example is the Besleti Bridge, with fine Georgian inscriptions.

Shervashidze Princes – descend from Shirvan Shahs. Served the Georgian court after Georgia invaded Shirvan. Later appointed by king of Georgia as princes of Abkhazia province.

Principalities of Abkhazia, Bedia and Odishi had no more rights than any other principality in Georgia (i.e. Svaneti, Lechkhumi etc), it was just a method of governing, where they were not even responsible to the king directly, but to the minister of imperial court. Several of these ministers with responsibilities in western Georgia were of Dadiani family, again of Svan descent.

**Period 1236 AD – 1260 AD**

- Mongols invade Georgia and divide it into 8 districts. District which includes the territory of modern day Abkhazia is governed by a Georgian prince Tsotne Dadiani. Tskhumi/Sukhumi area and Abkhazia are still two different regions (within the new districts).

**Period 1260 AD – XIV AD**

- Western Georgia breaks away from Eastern and South Georgia, under the name of Imereti, with capital in Kutaisi. Modern day territory of Abkhazia are two principalities under the rule of Shervashidze and Dadiani princes, subject to Bagrationi Imereli kings of the new kingdom.

- Map on the right, by Pietro [Petrus] Vesconte was drafted in 1320 and is kept at Paris, B.N. Cartes et Plans, Re's Ge DD 687. It clearly
shows the area of Laiazo (Georgian Laz people), from town of Gagra southward and Georgian flag over Sukhumi (Sevastopolis). Famed Venetian geographer Marino Sanuto confirmed Vesconte’s map in his 1321 version.

The nobility of Imereti were organised in the following way:

- 1) H.M. The Most High King. Bagrationi Imereli Dynasty
- 2) Princes of the Blood (batonishvili).
- 3) Great Officers of State:
  - a) Patriarch-Catholicos.
  - b) Chief Secretary (Misignobarth-Ukhutseti).
  - c) Lord High Steward (Mandaturth-Ukhutseti).
  - d) Lord High Constable (Amir-Spasalari).
  - e) Lord High Treasurer (Medchurchleth-Ukhutseti).
  - f) Lord Great Chamberlain (Makhurth-Ukhutseti).
  - g) Grand Armouer (Meahjret-Ukhutseti).
- 4) Duke of Dukes of Mingrelia (Samegrelo-eristavt-eristavi), head of the house of Dadiani.
- 6) Duke of the Guria (Guria-eristavt), head of the house of Gurieli.
- 7) Head of the house of the house of Chkheidze, previously Dukes of Radsha.
- 8) Head of the house of Phkheidze (Phkheidze-tavadi).
- 9) Head of the house of Abashidze (Abashidze-tavadi)
- 10) Prince of Satseretlo, head of the house of Tsereteli (Tsereteli-tavadi).
- 11) Head of the house of Lortkipanidze (Lortkipanidze-tavadi).
- 12) Head of the house of Nijaradze (Nijaradze-tavadi).
- 13) Head of the house of Gogoberishidze (Gogoberishidze-tavadi).

**Period XIV AD – XIX AD**

- Kingdom of Imereti is weakened by Turkish invasions, which results in establishment of 4 semi-independent principalities at different times – Abkhazia, under Shervashidze Princes, in 1491 and again in 1757, as was largely subject to Mengrelian Principality in between. (Mengrelia, under Dadiani Princes, 1320, Guria, under Gurieli Princes, 1491, and Svanetia, under Gelovani, later Dadeshkeliani Princes). Grandees were sovereign within their own domains, enjoying the power of life and death, but owing allegiance to the king. It’s also important to note that former districts of Tskhumi/Sukhumi and Odishi at this point become part of Mengrelian principality under the rule of Giorgi Dadiani. Shervashidze rules only the former district of Abkhazia.

- Arab writer Al-Mukhibi (d.1384) and Al-Kalkashandi in “The Encyclopedia of Islam” notes “Georgians have two kings David who rules Tbilisi, and Dadiani who rules Sukhumi and the Abkhaz, both are known as Georgian Kings”. This was also confirmed by Giorgio Interiano and Venetian traveler Josaphat Barbaro (“Mengrelia stretches to Circassia”, “Dadiani rules Sebastopolis (Sukhumi), make peace with Bediani ruler of Sebastopolis (Sukhumi) etc.

- This a XVI century map (left) drawn up by one of the most famous Portuguese cartographers
Diego Homem, and is currently kept at the Paris National Library (Paris, B.N. Cartes et Plans. Res). We can clearly see the city of Pizondd (Pitsunda, one of the west most towns of Abkhazia) is within Mengrelia (Georgia) region.

- Carniolan diplomat, writer, historian and member of the Holy Roman Empire Imperial Council, Baron Sigismund von Herberstein wrote in XVI century after visiting Russia “after the r. Kuban situates Mingrelia”

- Dutch cartographer’s Willem and Joan Blaeu’s map drawn up in 1636 clearly shows the city of Sebastopolis/Sukhumi within Mengrelia (Georgia)

- Map drawn by French cartographer N. Sanson in XVII century (below), clearly shows territory of modern day Abkhazia within Georgian Kingdom

- Genoese Annals note, that to establish colonies (in Gagra, Pitsunda, New-Athos etc) and have a consul in Sukhumi, they needed permission of the Bediani (Dadiani) Prince.

- Catholic Bishop Peter Geraldi writes “In Sebastopolis/Sukhumi live Georgians, Muslims and Jews…”

- Kelem-Bey Shirvashidze (1789 – 1806) and Aslan-Bey Shirvashidze (1806 – 1810) were the only ones to marry an ethnic Abkhazian (Apsua) and Jiketian princesses. Previously and afterwards Shirvashidze Princes exclusively married Western Georgian nobility, mainly – Dadiani, Dadeshkeliani, Tsulukidze, Gurieli, Bagrationi and Eristavi families.

- Fragment of Genselius’s languages map. Approx. 1710

- Map by Joseph Nicolas de l’Isle (right) published in 1775, Venice, clearly shows Abkhazian principality as part of Georgian Kingdom, and borders of the principality of Abkhazia (Sukhumi is part of Mengrelia).
All sources note (Girardo Pinelli etc), that in between XV – XVII centuries Adyghe (Apsua related ethnic group) speaking mountaineers raid into Abkhazia and Tskhumi areas. This regenerated the local Abkhaz (Apsua) minority and ethnic Abkhaz (Apsua) nobles appear – Maan/Margania, Amarshan/Marshania, etc. Previously, except Achba/Anchabadze princes, all nobility was exclusively Georgian – Shervashidze (XII), Chkhotua (IX), Apakidze (XIII), Shavliani (IX), Gabunia, Keidia, Lolua, Revia, etc.

Map created for Russian Tsar Peter the Great in 1730 by Dutch cartographers Covens and Mortier (left), clearly shows Georgian territory all the way up to Kuban river.

Church in Abkhazia is still under the jurisdiction of Georgian Orthodox Patriarchate in Mtskheti, and all church ministers are ethnic Georgians.

Ethnic Abkhazians (Apsua) in general remain Christian, which shows that Georgian influence is dominant, while Abkhazia’s neighbors and ethnic relatives Adyghe-Circassians, and the rest of Northern Caucasus have turned to Islam.

Russian map of the Russian Empire (right) printed in 1793, shows Georgia at its borders with Mengrelia (Georgia) written over the territory of modern day Abkhazia.

Period XIX AD – XX AD

All of fragmented Georgia is absorbed by the Russian Empire. Modern day territory of Abkhazia becomes Sukhumsky Okrug (Sukhumi district), of Kutaisskaya Gubernya (Kutaisi Province), again we see that it is kept within Western Georgia.

According to the document issued in Russia which was Imperially sanctioned as of 11 August 1866 on the governing regulations of Sukhumi district, one of the points states – Head of the Sukhumi district,
in all cases (inc. military) is subordinate to General-Governor of Kutaisskaya Gubernya (Kutaisi Province – Western Georgia). Map of the Kutaisi Governate (left) - Brockhaus and Efron Encyclopaedia 1890.

- On march 23, 1899 elected by all social strata of Abkhazian people, - Prince B.Emukhvari, Prince M.Marshania, Prince T. Margani, Prince K.Inal-Ippa in their letter to General-Adjutant Prince Sviatopolk-Mirskoy characterized Georgian-Abkhazian relations in the following way: Since the time immemorial Abkhazia had been the part of the former Georgian Kingdom. The Georgian Kings had never excluded Abkhazia from the large Georgian family. And before the division of the Kingdom and after it, till the very last days of their reign kings were titled as the Kings of Georgia, Kartli, Abkhazia, Imereti and Kakheti. When the Georgian King Vakhtang VI at the beginning of the last century summoned all deputies from all provinces of the former Georgian Kingdom to involve them then in the work of establishing laws, there were deputies from the Abkhazian people that so far faithfully preserved the most ancient Georgian customs.

- Russians carried out a population census. Here are the results for Sukhumi District (Abkhazia):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1886</th>
<th>1926</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgians</td>
<td>34806</td>
<td>67494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abkhazians</td>
<td>28320</td>
<td>55918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenians</td>
<td>1090</td>
<td>25677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeks</td>
<td>2149</td>
<td>14045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russians</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>12533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>68773</td>
<td>201016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1886 Georgians made up 50,60%, Abkhazians 41,18%.
In 1926 Georgians made up 33,57%, Abkhazians 27,82%.

- The new ethnic Abkhaz nobility become georgianised, as they are surrounded by Georgian culture and intermarry with the Georgian nobility, especially with the previously mentioned western Georgian nobles (Dadiani, Asatiani, Gurieli, Tsulukidze, Gugushvili etc). This can also be seen by the fact that their surnames are only used in the Georgian form and not Abkhaz form – Marshania instead of Amashan, Margania/Marganidze instead of Maan, Emukhvari instead of Emkhaa etc. Many representatives of these families fought and died for Georgian independence!

**Period 1918 – 1921**

- Georgia becomes independent, with League of Nations (UN predecessor) accepted borders shown on map – Abkhazia is included up to the city of Tuapse.

- In the war with the Russians for independence, Russian general Lukomsky notes in his letter that Georgian population is cleared from Sochi region. Unfortunately Georgian population of that region never recovered.
Period 1921 – 1931

- Georgia becomes Soviet. Abkhazia within the new Soviet Georgia is incorporated into Transcaucasian Soviet Republic of the Soviet Union, as a federative unit with Armenia and Azerbaijan. The whole Transcaucasian Soviet Republic is governed by Georgians Sergo Ordzhonikidze (1921-26), Mamia Orakhelashvili (1926-29, 1932), Vissarion Lominadze (1929-31).

Period 1932 – 1991

- Georgia becomes a separate soviet republic within the Soviet Union. Abkhazia is part of Georgia as an autonomous republic.

- Soviet Union population census. Figures for Abkhazian Autonomy, within Georgia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Georgians</th>
<th>Abkhazians</th>
<th>Armenians</th>
<th>Russians</th>
<th>Greeks</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>158221</td>
<td>61193</td>
<td>64425</td>
<td>86715</td>
<td>9101</td>
<td>404738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>199595</td>
<td>77276</td>
<td>74860</td>
<td>92889</td>
<td>13114</td>
<td>486959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>213322</td>
<td>83097</td>
<td>73350</td>
<td>79730</td>
<td>13642</td>
<td>486082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>239872</td>
<td>93267</td>
<td>76541</td>
<td>74914</td>
<td>14664</td>
<td>525061</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1959 Georgians made up 39.09%, Abkhazians 15.12%. In 1970 Georgians made up 40.99%, Abkhazians 15.87%. In 1979 Georgians made up 43.89%, Abkhazians 17.10%. In 1989 Georgians made up 45.69%, Abkhazians 17.76%.

- During the World War II, Abkhazians (Apsua) are not required to fight on the same level as other nationalities due to the minority status. This resulted in many Georgian Mengrelians in Abkhazia to register as Abkhazians. This meant that Abkhaz population grew, and you still now meet Abkhazians with surnames, which have Georgian roots and ending -ia, -ua, -shi e.g. Chitinava (Bird), Lomia (Lion), Makharia (Happy) etc.

Period 1991 – Present

- Georgia becomes independent. Abkhazia is part of Georgia as an autonomous republic – accepted by the UN and all countries (except Russia).

- Up to 90% of Abkhazians (Apsua) living in Abkhazia today, have a Georgian mother or grandmother. That is not taking into consideration the previously mentioned Georgian Mengrelians who have been written down as Abkhazians during the WWII.
MISUNDERSTANDINGS

- “Abkhazians (Apsua) are first mentioned during time of Jason and the Argonauts, as Medeas brother is called Apsyrtus (similar to Apsua)”
  In Reality: Apsyrtus in Mengrelian (Western Georgian dialect, spoken in Colchis) means “killed, destroyed” (Aepsyrua), and was given to him after he is killed chasing the Argonauts.

- “Abkhazians (Apsua) are aboriginal to the territory of modern day Abkhazia”
  In Reality: This is partially true. Historians start to mention Apsilaë/Abazgoi (probable predecessors of modern Apsua) as early as I-II AD. BUT 1) they initially lived further north than today’s Abkhazia and slowly moved down with time. 2) – As we have seen they were just one of the ethnic groups in the area. 3) – The fact that in Abkhazian language there are no original words for “Sea” and “Ship”, in an area where there are at least 4 ancient ports (Diouscurias, Pityus, Gyenos, Anakopia), that are at least 2000 years old, seems at the very least a bit odd. 4) – There are no archaeological findings with Abkhaz language or with any differences to the rest of Georgia.

- “Shervashidze Princes were Abkhazian Princes Chachba”
  In Reality: Its true that ethnic Abkhazians (Apsua), call Shervashidze princes Chachba, but Shervashidze is not a Georgian version of the name Chachba because 1) – It doesn’t make sense as in other cases like Marshan – Marshania, Inalipa – Inalishvili, Dziapshipa – Dziapshishvili Abkhaz root is kept and only Georgian ending is added, but Chachba and Shervashidze have nothing in common 2) – Name derives from their origin of Shirvan Shahs, and they were known under that name since their move first to Tbilisi and later Abkhazia. The fact that Apsua’s call them Chachba became known only 4 centuries later. 3) – As we have seen from above they normally married ethnic Georgian nobility. 4) – Name Chachba is not a family name but more of a title initially, just like before with Abkhaz (Apsua) prince Achba which means “leader/ruler”. Chachba is Ch-Achba, “ruler of rulers”.

- “When Georgians rejected the Soviet constitution in early 1990’s, Abkhazia should legally become independent as they were incorporated into Georgian Soviet Republic under the Soviet Union”
  In Reality: When Georgia rejected the Soviet constitution, it automatically went back to pre-soviet Georgian constitution of 1918-1921 period, where as we have seen from above Abkhazia was incorporated into Georgia right up to the city of Tuapse.

- “Georgians became a majority in Abkhazia due to Stalin’s and Beria’s regime”
  In Reality: From the population census chart conducted by the Russians up to 1959 (Stalin’s and Beria’s death), we can see that not only Georgians were always a majority before their rule, but
the result of a decrease in Abkhaz population is a result of an increase in Russian and Armenian population, and NOT Georgian.

CONCLUSION

From the above we can see that territory of Abkhazia was always part of Georgia. This by no means suggests that ethnic Abkhaz (Apsua) did not live there. Even though there are no archaeological findings of the Apsua people, many historians mention their existence on this territory. But what’s important to note is that physically and culturally they were an integral part of Georgia, just the same as its other inhabitants of Georgia like Svans, Kakhs, Megrelians or Meskhetians. Since time immemorial Georgia has always had many national minorities and Apsua people are one of the elements that together with Georgian majority make up Abkhazia.

Just as reminder I would like to point out that Georgian sources were not used intentionally.
SOUTH OSSETIA

I am going to cover this case very briefly as all aspects of this issue be it historical or legal are very well known, and are very obvious.

- Territory of modern day S Ossetia is an area in the heart of Georgia, which makes up part of a larger region called Shida Kartli (Inner Kartli), after the self-name of the Georgians “Kartveli”, as it is a central region of Georgia. This area was always part of this larger region and was never a unit on its own. At the same time this territory is divided from N Ossetia by mountains over 4000m high, and the only way connecting the two regions is the Roki tunnel built in the 20th century (no historical mountain roots from northern Caucasus into Georgia pass through that region).

- Capital of so called S Ossetia, Tskhinvali derives from Georgian Tskhenis Vali meaning Horseshoe Trace, and was founded by a Georgian King Asphagur in mid III century AD. Historical princes that governed this area were naturally also Georgian – Machabeli, Saakadze, Asatiani, Taktaksihvili etc.

- First Ossetian name in Tskhinvali cemetery appears only in mid 19 century. Which is completely in line with the history of how most of the Ossetians moved to this region – in mid 19th century serfdom was abolished, and for the ruling Georgian princes of this area it was cheaper to import inexpensive ossetian labour force instead of more expensive Georgian. The fact that Ossetians were the poorest nation in the Caucasus and were carrying out all hard labour jobs on the Russian-Georgian border at that time is very well illustrated by such distinguished Russian writers as Pushkin (Journey to Erzerum), Lermontov (A Hero of Our Time, etc). Of course some Ossetians lived in Georgia and in nearby areas of Tskhinvali before that, mainly since the Mongol invasions when they found refuge in Georgia.

- Not only has the today’s territory of S Ossetia always belonged to Georgia (BC and early AD – part of Iberia (capital Mtskheta), V AD – XV AD part of Sakartvelo (capital Tbilisi), XVAD – XIX AD part of Kartli Kingdom (capital Tbilisi), under Russian Empire part of Tiflis Gubernya (Tbilisi Province), 1918 – 1921 part of independent Georgia, 1922 – 1990 part of Soviet Georgia (period when autonomy was given to this area), 1990 – to present part of independent Georgia) and as mentioned above was never even a separate unit within Georgia, BUT also parts of modern day North Ossetia were also historically a part of Georgia, e.g. Dvaleti region. And it’s probably for this reason that the coat of arms of North Ossetia – Alania still in use has been designed by a Georgian historian/scientist Vakhushti Bagrationi.

We invite any historian / scholar to challenge the statements made in this bulletin on a scientific basis.