

ABSTRACT

This research deals with the problems of repatriation and reintegration of the deported Meskhetian population in Georgia. It provides information about the historical, legal, social and political contexts of Meskhetian problem. This doctoral dissertation is an interdisciplinary work focusing on the history, contemporary situation, prospects for repatriation and problems of integration of the deported Meskhetian population. The research is based on the abundant primary sources and archival documents, which reveal many interesting facts about various aspects of Meskhetian problem.

The doctoral dissertation consists of five chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the literature overview. The second chapter deals with the historical background of the Meskhetian problem. It enables the reader to understand the historical context of the Meskhetian issue. Second chapter covers main aspects of the history of Meskhete: it analyses ethno-historical processes in Meskhete, the impact of Russian and Turkish dominion on the ethno-confessional composition of Meskhete. It also describes the deportation of Meskhetian people from Southern regions of Georgia to Central Asia. The third chapter discusses the legal status of the deported people in various countries where they reside and describes Meskhetian organizations that deal with the Meskhetian problem. It also provides information about the human rights violations and discrimination of the deported people in various countries, especially in the Southern regions of Russia. The fourth chapter analyses the changing nature of Meskhetian identity and the problems of coexistence in the multi-ethnic environment of Samtskhe-Javakheti. It explores the ethno-confessional composition of Samtskhe-Javakheti and the strained relations between different ethno-confessional groups. The fifth chapter is a quantitative survey-based study on the problems of integration of Meskhetian repatriates in Georgia. It is based on a sociological survey, which was conducted among Meskhetian communities in different regions of Georgia in 2009. It provides the reader with the information about the problems and major obstacles to the reintegration process. The final part offers solutions to the Meskhetian problem.