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**POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC OPINION IN GEORGIA
AND UKRAINE IN THE XXI CENTURY IN THE CONDITIONS
OF TRANSFORMATION OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS: DIPLOMATIC AND STRATEGIC ASPECTS**

**ПОЛІТИЧНІ ІНСТИТУТИ ТА ГРОМАДСЬКА ДУМКА В ГРУЗІЇ
ТА УКРАЇНІ XXI СТОЛІТТЯ В УМОВАХ ТРАНСФОРМАЦІЇ
СИСТЕМИ МІЖНАРОДНИХ ВІДНОСИН: ДИПЛОМАТИЧНИЙ
І СТРАТЕГІЧНИЙ АСПЕКТИ**

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In 2026, the European integration paths of Ukraine and Georgia have diverged significantly, moving in opposite directions despite their shared starting point as candidate countries. This study aims to examine the role and significance of the strategic and everyday narratives in Georgia and Ukraine, using the concept of Euroscepticism as an example, in the context of the transformation of the modern system of international relations.

Methodology: comparative approaches are used, embraces the principle of interdisciplinarity, and engages with the concept of multiple modernities. Scientific novelty: attention is focused on the peculiarities of the 21st century

in the economic, foreign policy, diplomatic spheres regarding the role of civil society in the political and diplomatic vector of modern states and in crisis conditions (war, revolution, political conflict, pluralism of narratives and ideologies etc.).

In Georgia, Euroscepticism is a complex, evolving phenomenon characterized by a sharp divide between a highly pro-European public and a government that has increasingly shifted toward anti-Western rhetoric and policy. Governmental Drift: Since late 2024, the ruling Georgian Dream (GD) party has significantly distanced itself from the EU [1, c. 338–348].

In November 2024, the government announced it would suspend EU accession negotiations until 2028, leading to massive domestic demarche (disagreement). Euroscepticism in Georgia has become a tool for the self-preservation of power of the ruling party, which has led to the deepest political crisis since the Rose Revolution [2]. On the other hand, the government's decision to suspend Georgia's EU integration process foreseeably sparked widespread demarche (disagreement) among the Georgian public, given that four out of five Georgians support EU membership. However, at the same time, the part of Georgians support the government delaying EU membership negotiations, indicating that Euroscepticism, propagated through government channels, has made some inroads among a share of the public. [3, c. 27–30].

In 2026, Euroscepticism in Georgia and Ukraine presents a contrasting picture: in Georgia, it is primarily top-down and driven by the political elite, while in Ukraine, it remains marginal but is evolving into a more «mature» skepticism focused on the terms and speed of accession. In Georgia, there is a sharp divide between the pro-European public and the ruling political class (Elite-Led «Strategic Divergence»). Euroscepticism in Georgia has moved from the fringes to the mainstream, primarily driven by the ruling party, Georgian Dream (GD). In Ukraine, Euroscepticism remains marginal but is evolving into a pragmatic, «on our own terms» sentiment rather than a rejection of the European vector («Conditional» Euro-Optimism). Euroscepticism in Georgia and Ukraine presents contrasting prospects, shaped by different political trajectories and societal resilience. The development and establishment of the post-Soviet states in the twenty-first century requires studying and generalizing the acquired experience. In most post-Soviet states, democratization was followed by very difficult and dramatic processes of rational and bureaucratic modernization of the state and consolidation of the nation. [4, 5, c. 851–862].

An effective way to resolve the numerous contradictions and paradoxes in modern Georgia and Ukraine might be the application of the theory of historical institutionalism, which focuses on the chronological sequence of transformations, as well as on regional and institutional consequences

of differences in social and political ways of development. Today, both Georgia and Ukraine are at an important institutional stage of transition, which involves the institutionalization of democratic political institutions under the conditions of institutional influences of international politics and everyday narratives (Eurorealism, Euroromanticism, Euroskepticism). Further stabilization and consolidation of the democratic political regime in Georgia and Ukraine can be facilitated by a public consensus regarding the strategic priorities of the Georgian state and the Ukrainian state in the context of European integration, an expanded normative framework of democracy, modern democratic practices and joining political Europe.

Integration diplomacy and the tools of integration diplomacy are an innovative direction of building political and diplomatic models of states of the 21st century in conditions of uncertainty and international political stress resistance.[6; 7]. The transformation of the modern system of international relations and changes in the geopolitical and political-diplomatic space have created new challenges for Ukraine. First of all, it is a search for new models of diplomacy and strategies of foreign policy and diplomacy. In the conditions of war, Ukraine is working on effective tools of diplomacy [8, c. 99–106].

The modern model of diplomacy is impossible without a developed system of public administration, strategy of communicative influence of states, which is a phenomenon that is developing rapidly, institutionalized, characterized by a powerful flow of innovation, whose consequences are not always positive. So acute need for a reliable system of information and analytical support public administration in general, and the system of diplomatic service in particular. Effective management in diplomacy largely determine the adoption and implementation of administrative decisions based on the impact of modern information and communication technologies [9, c. 73–88].

Accordingly receipt, analysis, delivery and effective use of information – an essential condition to ensure effective foreign policy of Ukraine and introduction of effective model of diplomacy [6; 7; 10]. Since the beginning of the XXI century, the integration of the vast majority of countries into a single geoeconomic space is accompanied by the latest global trends, permanent systemic risks, and their asymmetric effects. All the factors mentioned above have a multi-vector and contradictory impact on modern global development. As well as they encourage the international community to develop preventive measures and restart the institution of diplomacy in general, and economic diplomacy particularly [6].

Economic Diplomacy in every country has a clearly defined goal. Chief among which is the protection of national export promotion and attracting

foreign investment. Modernization of economic diplomacy is a necessary condition for its effective operation in today's globalized world. Developed countries gradually reforming its diplomatic service. Ukraine can use their experience in reforming its economic diplomacy. Without improvement of economic diplomacy, Ukraine can not make effective foreign economic policies [11, c. 38–43; 12; 13; 14].

Economic diplomacy is a tool for ensuring national interests. In the fields of foreign policy, migration policy and security policy integration, becomes one of the most ambitious and, at the same time, contradictory dimensions of integration processes in the European Union, which has its own historical institutional traditions and strategic directions, in particular in the field of migration policy [4; 6; 14]. Georgia and Ukraine, in the conditions of transformational changes in the system of international relations of the 21st century, are in search of their geopolitical location as important actors of international relations [15, c. 469–501; 16, c. 38–43; 17, c. 24–33]. In these conditions, the concept of "Geopolitics", the concept of "Geostrategy" and the concept of "Strategic planning" play an important role. The geopolitical future of Georgia and Ukraine is their regional leadership in modern world political and diplomatic processes [18, c. 161–176; 19, p. 23–27].

A specific feature of the modern international system (1991–2026) if it is interpreted as a progressive state «diffusion» unipolarity, and/or as the initial phase of the transition to a multipolar (polycentric) model, there are changes that relate to the interests and motivations of political complications in the relations between the major powers and significant increase in the number of states that are increasingly engaged in dialogue on key global issues and identify potential collaborative solutions. The emergence of new great powers between former colonies and former Third World causes of traditional geopolitical division of the world into «System Center» and the periphery, as countries such as China, India and Brazil are the most important regional centers.

Redistribution loss of economic potential and power and power factor promotes the role of medium-sized countries that join the ad hoc regional combinations of interests and forms of interaction and, depending on their individual intentions and capabilities are more involved in regional coalitions. Strategies of communicative influence in interstate and inter-institutional relations in the face of today are of particular relevance. The strategic choice and geopolitical future of Georgia and Ukraine is their regional leadership, interstate cooperation and integration processes in the world political and diplomatic processes of the 21st century. Integration diplomacy is an important factor in the future of modern states of the world.

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