

Role of the European Union in Shaping of Political Economy of Russia- Georgia Conflict

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ABSTRACT

Since August 2008, the European Union has been playing the main role in conflicts resolution and the peace building process in Georgia. Unfortunately its facilitation efforts have had unsatisfactory results so far. On the one hand, the EU's concrete decision to respect Georgia's territorial integrity is in harmony with the existing principles of international law, while on the other hand, such position hinders its acceptability as a mediator for the other parties to the dispute. Mediation process includes the economic appreciation to the conflict area. Considering all these aspects, a better strategic plan is necessary to make the EU more involved in the conciliation process while considering the economic as well as political interests in this region. In other words, this needs to be analysed as what are the features of EU's mediation process especially in terms of economic rationale behind this conflict. Eventually this will involve EU in a better political stance between the conflicting sides. This paper is an effort to explore the political as well as economic implications of EU's mediation process.

Key Words : European Union, Georgia, Russia, War, Mediation process, Conflict

INTRODUCTION

Georgia, a Black sea bordering country, came into the independence after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union in 1991. It's not only the European Union but countries like United States of America had also reflected its earlier interests soon after its formation. These interests from the developed block does not confine only to the settlement of conflict in this area but remained an active part of their foreign policy via economic and trade related interests. As per the USAID report (2012), Georgia's potential power culminates from its strategic location as an east-west and north south trade and transit corridor. Being a member of WTO, Georgia experienced a slowdown in its economic front because of the world economic downturn in 2008-09 and more from the Russian-Georgian conflict. The conflict of August 2008, between Russia and Georgia has been proved as substantial loss to latter's economic profile which made US the largest aid donor to Georgia. The United States has been Georgia's largest bilateral aid donor, budgeting cumulative aid of \$3.37 billion in fiscal year 1992 to 2010 and even thereafter, through various programmes and agencies. Georgia's membership with NATO makes this point more clear that developed nations especially US and European Union has been more concerned about the democratisation as well as economic reforms in this affected region. The focus of this paper is regarding the involvement of European Union in the conflict of Russia and Georgia, because of two important reasons. Firstly, Russia always wanted to reaffirm its position

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