

TÍTULO DA TESE EM INGLÊS: Nationalism and Ethnic Conflicts in the Caucasus – Subversion and Collapse of the State in the Tsarist and Soviet Transcaucasia

ABSTRACT

This thesis seeks to address various fundamental questions raised by nationalistic and ethnical issues in the Tsarist and Soviet Transcaucasia between 1830 and 1991 that could have a decisive impact in the fall of the Soviet regime in this region. The text provides a historical analysis of the Caucasus region until the Russian conquest in the XVIII century, aiming to explore the origins of the ethnic conflicts in this region that used to be called *jabal al-sun*, the mountain of languages. Primarily the thesis approaches the Tsarist state-building of the Caucasus that precedes the Soviet state building in the same region that is subsequently studied focusing on the relation among the Soviet politics in this region and the triggering of the sense of nationalism that may have empowered the emancipation of the non-Russian peoples whose urges maybe have outstated any other deliberated subversion strategy against the Soviet regime. The last section explores the binomial relation among the crisis of the communism and the resurgence of the nationalism whose concepts emerge in the frame of the turbulent relations between them, jeopardizing the Soviet *nomenklatura's* reasoning of the ethnical conflict's elimination. That proves that those conflicts were not but silenced during 70 years by the usage of Soviet repression force since they suddenly reemerge as soon as those repression measures were slightly slackened during the *perestroika* period, all claiming an important role in arising the popular nationalism and independence movements.

Palavras Chave: (• Transcaucasia • Russian Empire • Soviet Union • Armenia • Georgia • Azerbaijan • Nationalism • Subversion of State Power • Ethnic Conflicts in the Caucasus • Russification).