ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF PRESIDENCY IN POST-COMMUNIST GEORGIA

For Ukraine the important and topical is the notion of the presidency institute during the reforms in the context of change of its authorities. In this context it would be worthy to consider the process of establishment and development of the presidency institute in the post-communist Georgia, change of its powers, with the special attention given to the period of reforms.

One of the most well-known publications in the national literature about the change of Georgia was the translation of book by Larysa Burakova “Why Georgia managed”, which analyses the greatest changes, which took place in Georgia during the reforms period. Most of Ukrainian scholars like Larysa Burakova in their works give attention to the Georgian experience in the reduction of corruption, privatization, liberalization of economy and do not give enough attention to the changes of powers of the president of the country and political changes. For instance, the dynamics of influence of the presidential powers in Georgia, political changes, were researched by Valerii Machusky, V. Reshota analyzed the anticorruption policy in Georgia from the point of view of the Ukrainian practical experience. The topic of corruption overcoming was also researched by O. Stelmakh, D. Kanevsky, O. Bodnarchuk, etc.

The analysis of establishment and development of the presidency institute in Georgia was started since 1995, the period of political system stabilization. At that time the influence of the presidency institute was somewhat higher than in Ukraine. Obviously, for this reason, the scholars, due to the absence of the prime-minister’s position in the governmental system, were inclined to consider Georgia the presidential republic.

Since the approval of Georgian Constitution this document was changing on a constant basis. During the period of E. Shevarnadze’s presidency, the amendments were made six times, and for the period of M. Saakashvili’s presidency 17 changes and amendments were initiated to the key document of the state.
Possibilities of this institute after the constitutional changes of 2004, changes to the state legislation gave the reason to continue perceiving Georgia as the presidential Republic.

The team of the new president started quite quick, revolutionary changes to the Georgian Constitution, as without these changes they did not see the way to embody the promised reforms. Together with the approval of the new state symbols, flag, hymn, and emblem the norms were implemented which influenced the possibilities of the institute of presidency. Thus, the changes to the main law of the country, at first sight, by the formal characteristics, with the introduction of the prime-minister’s position, government’s liability in front of the parliament, extending of rights of the parliament as to the mistrust to certain members of government, changed the presidential republic into the presidential-parliamentary, but still they preserved the dominating positions of the institute of presidency in Georgian political system, characteristic for the presidential republic. This gave the possibility to the president of Georgia Micheil Saakashvili and his team to determine the direction of reforms and release them in the country.

If we assess the consequences of the third stage of changes of the presidency institute after 2013 and generalize them, it becomes obvious that the president’s powers reduction become obvious, as well as changing Georgia into the parliamentary-presidential republic.

The important consequences of the research are that characteristic continuous (from 1995 to 2013) existence of the essential influence of the presidency institute and its sharp reduction in 2013 gives the reasons to state that Georgia transformed from presidential into parliamentary-presidential republic.

At each election the country elected a politic to the position of the president of state opposing to the acting head of the state (Hamsakhurdia – Shevarnadze, Shevarnadze – Saakashvili, Saakashvili-Margvelashvili).

Dramatic social changes in Georgia which occurred in 2004-2012, were possible due to the essential influence of the country presidency institute, high public confidence to the president and political will of M. Saakashvili.