

« Caucasians in Safavid Service in the 17th Century », in : Raoul Motika and Michael Ursinus, eds., *Caucasia between the Ottoman Empire and Iran, 1555-1914*. Wiesbaden, 2000, pp. 107-120.

Rudi Matthee

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- 1 This article, a preliminary study to what promises to become a more comprehensive in due time, points up the importance of Georgians in the administrative and military structure of the 17th century Safavid state. It offers much valuable information on the role of the Georgian *golām*-s during and after the reign of Šāh ‘Abbās I. (They had been imported as early as the reign of Šāh Ṭahmāsb but it is only under ‘Abbās that they would play a significant role in state operations.) The author discusses what we know about their recruitment, outlines the possibilities for a prosopographical study, and observes how specific functions held by Georgians were often connected to specific landed property. Above all, he emphasizes their lack of unity, a function, among other things, of the fact that Georgia itself was not unified.

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**Thèmes** : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qājárs

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