Geographic Assessment of the Operational Environment of Tbilisi, Georgia

Physical Factors

Location: Central Georgia, Study Boundaries: political boundaries of Tbilisi. Tbilisi is located north of Armenia and Azerbaijan, south of Russia, and east of Turkey. Importance: strategic position in the region due to its location between eastern and western Transcaucasia, where it was able to control trade routes (Britannica, 2019).

Landforms and Surface Structure: In a valley and is surrounded by mountains to the south, west, and north. Many transportation routes across Georgia are funneled through Tbilisi. There is one mountain inside of Tbilisi – Makhata Mountain. The terracing and steep gorges is important to consider due to its effect on mobility. ("Geography and Nature," n.d.).

Hydrology: There is a large lake located in the center of Tbilisi, along with a major river – Mtkvari River – flowing northwest to southeast. The Mtkvari River divides Tbilisi into two distinct parts – on the right side of the embankment lies steep hills into the river due the Trialeti Range, and in the eastern tributary’s side of Tbilisi resides Makhata Mountain. Important consideration due to the need for water resources and power from the damned river. ("Global Energy Observatory," n.d.).

Climate Graph of Tbilisi, Georgia (Climate Data, n.d.).

Cultural Factors

Population: Tbilisi has a population of 1.114 million, which is 30% of the total population of Georgia. The population is 54.6% female and 45.4% male (“Tbilisi in Figures,” 2018).

Cultural Groups: The population is 90% Georgian, and Russian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Ossetian, and Yezidi make up the remaining 10%. Orthodox is the official religion, and Georgian is the official language (“Tbilisi in Figures,” 2018).

Transportation:

Map of the Baku-Suspa oil pipeline, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, and Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline running through Tbilisi, Georgia (Soares, 2008).

Climate Graph of Tbilisi, Georgia (Climate Data, n.d.).

Adapted from Soares, 2008

By Cadets Mary Arnold, Jasmine Conroy-Humphrey, Sydney Johnson, Andrew Krar, and Yuthok Rinzin