



EDITORIAL: THE HINDU

GENERAL STUDIES 2: INTERNATIONAL RELATION

DATE: 18.02.2025

Georgia and the resurrection of the colour revolutions

Overview of the Color Revolutions

- **Origins and Influence:** Emerged in post-Soviet states like Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan as peaceful protests with Western support aiming at democratic reforms, contrasting with Russian perceptions of Western strategies to diminish Moscow's influence.
- **Impact and Perception:** These revolutions were initially seen as democratizing movements but often resulted in the replacement of one corrupt regime with another, leading to disillusionment and skepticism about the effectiveness of such externally influenced transitions.

Recent Developments in Georgia

- **Election Controversy and Political Dynamics:** Recent elections in Georgia saw the Georgian Dream party's victory and allegations of electoral malpractices by the outgoing President Salome Zourabichvili, who also participated in protests against the election results.
- **Allegations of Western Interference:** The ruling party claims that the protests are fueled by Western-backed NGOs, highlighting ongoing external influence in Georgia's politics.

Geopolitical Context and Implications

- **Russia's Position:** Despite a relative decline in influence due to its focus on conflicts like the Ukraine war, Russia remains a resilient regional power, cautious of color revolutions as a model for political change in its vicinity.
- **U.S. Influence and Global Context:** With shifting U.S. political dynamics and internal challenges, there's global uncertainty about America's role, impacting its ability to project soft power through initiatives like color revolutions.

Color Revolutions in Post-Soviet States

- **Rose Revolution, Georgia (2003):** Marked by peaceful protests leading to the replacement of President Eduard Shevardnadze with Mikheil Saakashvili, initially hailed as a move towards democratic governance.
- **Orange Revolution, Ukraine (2004):** Featured massive public rallies and sit-ins that resulted in a political upheaval, overturning a rigged election and leading to a re-run that was won by Viktor Yushchenko.
- **Tulip Revolution, Kyrgyzstan (2005):** Resulted in the overthrow of President Askar Akayev and was driven by widespread protests over corruption and electoral fraud.



Conclusion: The Future of Color Revolutions

- **Georgia's Strategic Importance:** Located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Georgia's political stability is crucial both for regional security and as a measure of the viability of color revolutions as a tool for political change.
- **Broader Implications:** The ongoing political dynamics in Georgia reflect the complex interplay of internal governance challenges and external geopolitical pressures, shaping not only Georgia but also the political landscape of other post-Soviet states.

The resilience of these states amidst evolving international relations will ultimately determine whether the color revolution model will persist or fade as a historical phenomenon of early 21st-century geopolitics.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/georgia-and-the-resurrection-of-the-colour-revolutions/article69231002.ece>

