

## **Territorial Disputes behind the Declaration of Independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia by Some Latin American States**

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**Abstract :** Several days later after the end of 2008 Russo-Georgian War, Venezuela and Nicaragua formally recognized the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In 2009-10 both countries established diplomatic relations with self-declared republics. It is a paradoxical fact that after neighboring Russia-Georgian conflict territories were internationally recognized by two Latin American states with ongoing territorial disputes. The Venezuela-Guyana territorial dispute which officially began in the early XIX century became conflict-ridden again in the late 1990s and 2000s. Venezuela has long claimed the land which comprises 40% of Guyana's current territory. Territorial disputes of Nicaragua include dispute with Colombia over Caribbean Islands, with Costa Rica over the San Juan River and maritime dispute with Honduras. Based on historical and analytical research methods the purpose of this paper is to establish the relationship between the recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia by Venezuela and Nicaragua and Venezuela's territorial dispute with Guyana, as well as Nicaragua's with Colombia, Costa Rica and Honduras. The objective of the study is to investigate the factors that led Venezuela and Nicaragua to formally recognize Georgian conflict territories and how could their own territorial disputes affect on their decision.

**Keywords :** Latin America, Georgia, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Abkhazia, South Ossetia

**Conference Title :** ICLACS 2017 : International Conference on Latin American and Caribbean Studies

**Conference Location :** Paris, France

**Conference Dates :** October 19-20, 2017