About Rustavi

The name of "Rustavi" is a Persian word and means "Rural District". This shows the long term presence of Persians in this region. Rustavi is one of the ancient towns of Georgia: Rustavi as a city had been founded in the 5th–4th centuries B.C, it was the period of unification of Georgia; Rustavi was considered as a big political and administrative center. Rustavi was still a very important place when it was invaded by Arabs. As Arabs were defeated and driven out, another enemy invaded Georgia—those were Turkish-Seljuks. Later Mongols invaded the whole east part of Asia and they reached Georgia.

The history of Rustavi has two phases: an early history from ancient times until the city was destroyed in the 13th century, and modern history from the Soviet era to the present. During the Soviet era Rustavi was rebuilt as a major industrial center. It included ironworks, Selworks, chemical plants and an important railway station on the Tbilisi–Baku railroad line.
1948, a decree of the Supreme Soviet of Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic declared Rustavi a town of republican importance. The core of the city's industrial activity was the Rustavi Metallurgical Plant; Rustavi became a key industrial centre for the Transcaucasus region. The industrial activity expanded to include the manufacture of steel products, cement, chemicals, and synthetic fibers.
The fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 proved disastrous for Rustavi, as it also caused the collapse of the integrated Soviet economy of which the city was a key part. Most of its industrial plants were shut down and 65% of the city's population became unemployed, with the attendant social problems.