

Protests Over Georgia's Future

by Geopolitical Futures - March 10, 2023

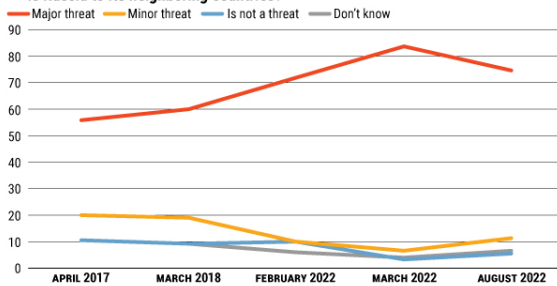


Georgia's Journey to EU Membership

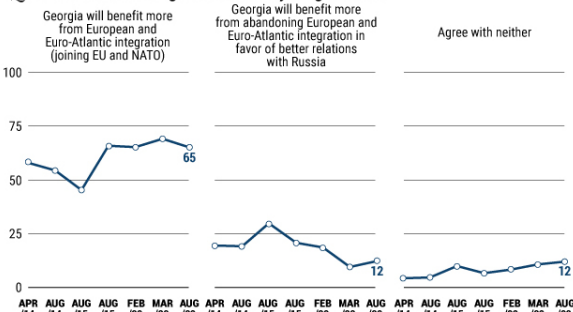
- 1991-1992**
Relations between the European Union and Georgia started just after Georgia regained its sovereignty in the wake of the break-up of the Soviet Union
- 7-12 AUGUST 2008**
Russia invades Georgia and gains control over Abkhazia and South Ossetia
- 2012**
Georgian Dream party gains power and will remain in power to the present
- 27 JUNE 2014**
Georgia and the EU signed the EU-Georgia Association Agreement
- 1 JULY 2016**
EU-Georgia Association Agreement entered into force
- 28 MARCH 2017**
Visa liberalization between the EU and Georgia entered into force
- 3 MARCH 2022**
Georgia presented its application for EU membership
- 7 MARCH 2022**
The European Council invited the European Commission to submit its opinion on this application
- 11 APRIL 2022**
Georgia received the first part of the questionnaire on the political and economic criteria
- 19 APRIL 2022**
Georgia received the part of the questionnaire on the EU acquis
- 2 & 10 MAY 2022**
Georgia provided its replies
- 17 JUNE 2022**
The European Commission presented its opinion on Georgia's application for EU Membership
- 23 JUNE 2022**
The European Council recognized Georgia's European perspective and endorsed the twelve priorities listed in the opinion of the European Commission

Sources: Europa, NDI

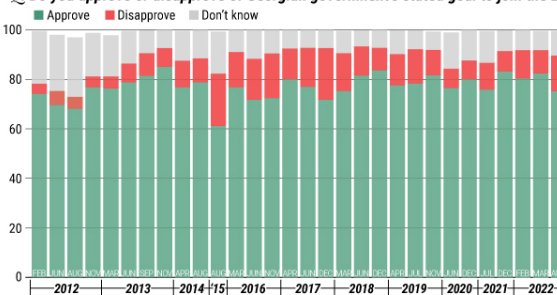
Q: In your opinion, how much of a military threat, if at all, is Russia to its neighboring countries?



Q: Which of the following statements do you agree with?



Q: Do you approve or disapprove of Georgian government's stated goal to join the EU?



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Georgia's capital erupted with protests early this week after parliament attempted to advance controversial legislation on civil society groups. The bill, which has since been rescinded, would have required nongovernmental organizations and the like to register with the government if they receive 20 percent or more of their funding from abroad. It did not escape opponents' attention that it closely resembles a Russian law, fueling speculation about Moscow's involvement.

At the center of the controversy is Georgia's place in the world. A post-Soviet state, Georgia retains some pro-Russian elements. However, it has also appealed to join the European Union (and, infamously, NATO). A majority of the public favors the Western camp, but the ruling Georgian Dream party is less sure. Tbilisi has a ton of work to do to meet EU membership requirements, but the prospect has kept its future in play.

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