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Georgia on my Mind: Aborting Children through Adoption Policy

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Most politicians advocate that they want what's best for children. When it comes to adoption policy, however, what's best becomes murky indeed. In a previous article IBPP has described the psychopolitical phenomena fueling the controversy about the merits of transracial adoption. On a related topic, Mrs. Nanuli Shevardnadze, the First Lady of Georgia, has been strongly advocating against the adoption of Georgian children by "foreigners", viz., transnational adoption--especially by United States citizens. Although there are varied arguments about the degree of corruption attending some adoption procedures and of care provided the children in their country of origin, it is a certainty that transnational adoption policy involves more than what is medically, psychologically, and even spiritually best for children. Nationalism, ethnocentrism, psychosexual fixations, dehumanizing objectification, and power games of domestic and international politics are the usual suspects. As with other politics-permeated child issues--real and notional--from controversies over (1) the adoption of Romanian children, (2) bilingual education, (3) biased intelligence testing, to (4) allegations of child adoptions by representatives of biomedical research organizations requiring baby parts, the life and quality of life of children are too frequently aborted. (See Stanley, A. (July 16, 1997.) Issue of foreign adoption follows Shevardnadze to Washington. *The New York Times*. (<http://www.nytimes.com>); The political psychology of transracial adoption. (June 27, 1997.) *International Bulletin of Political Psychology*, 29, 6-9.)