

AMIR TIMUR: THE BRIGHT GENIUS OF THE UZBEK PEOPLE

Gayratjon A. Madyorov

The Senior Instructor of the Academy
of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan



The article provides information about the Amir Timur's ability to establish a state, his military genius and diplomatic skills. Timur is by far the greatest conqueror in the history of humanity. one of the rare historical figures who could affect the civilization as well as the Eastern Civilization, and the traces of his legacy could be carried from the Middle Ages to the present day.

Key words: Amir Timur, Sahibkiran, Timurids, history, military campaign, strategy, troop, state, battle, fight.

The state independence of Uzbekistan, among many other important achievements, has made it possible to rethink the great history of our people, to cleanse it of previous ideological dogmas, outright slander and distortion.

Over the years of sovereign development, many previously unknown pages of national history have been rediscovered, entire layers of the historical past have been revealed. As a result, national history began to fulfill its most important function – to serve the people and the spiritual progress of society.

In restoring historical truth, the study of the life and work of great personalities who left a deep mark on history becomes of great relevance. These include the outstanding statesman Amir Timur.

The leadership of our country paid special attention to perpetuating the name of Sahibkiran and reviving his personality in history. In 1993, monuments to Amir Timur were erected in Tashkent, and later Samarkand and Shakhrisabz. In 1996, in connection with the 660th anniversary of the birth of Sahibkiran, the State Museum

of Timurid History was built next to Amir Timur Square. In the same year, the Amir Timur International Charitable Public Foundation was founded. Taking into account the attention of the world scientific community to the personality of Amir Timur, at the 28th session of the UNESCO General Conference, held in October-November 1995, special resolutions were adopted on celebrating the anniversary of Amir Timur in 1996, holding an international scientific conference in Paris “The Prosperity of Science, culture and education during the Timurid period”, which took place on April 22 of the same year. An international conference on the topic “Amir Timur and his role in world history” was also held in Tashkent [1].

Thirst for the air of freedom

The village of Khuzhailgor, like the entire ancient Maverannahr, was in a kind of slumber when, on April 9, 1336, a man was born here, with whose name the creation of a huge state, the revival of the nation, the flourishing of the economy and culture of this region would be associated [2].

The first half of the 13th century is an important coordinate point. Temujin-Genghis Khan with his hordes invades the lands of flourishing Transoxiana. Dozens of cities and thousands of villages with their populations were destroyed. Scientists and artisans were turned into slaves and taken to the metropolis. The basis of statehood and law has been destroyed. Mosques and madrassas were burned, holy books were thrown under the hooves of the conquerors' horses.

First half of the 14th century. The cultural and economic crisis is deepening even more. The struggle between the Mongol khans for the throne and power is intensifying. Political anarchy, unbearable taxes – all this makes the life of the people unbearably difficult. It seemed that there was no hope for salvation, not to mention revival and development.

The earth, which was the cradle of several great civilizations, which raised Zoroaster, which in powerful waves spread outstanding spiritual, moral and ethical

principles of human existence into the surrounding world, suffered from a severe decline due to the Mongol yoke.

According to the laws of Truth and Justice

Month of Ramadan 1370, Balkh. Here at the kurultai the fate of not only Transoxiana or Asia, but also vast territories and other continents is decided. There are many contenders for the throne. Who will be given great honor and assigned equally great responsibility?

The ulema and military leaders gathered at the kurultai unanimously elect Amir Timur to the royal throne and take an oath of allegiance to Sahibkiran.

From this day a new era begins in the life of Transoxiana. Full of energy and great plans, young Amir Timur from the very first steps based his policy on a deeply moral principle – to check everything with the laws of Truth and Justice. It is symbolic that the famous words were engraved on his gold ring: “Strength is in justice” [3].

Amir Timur understood with all his soul the enormity of the task that fate set before him. One hundred and fifty years of the Mongol yoke were years of unprecedented humiliation and insult to the dignity and honor of its people. He understood and firmly believed that first of all it was necessary to free the people of Transoxiana from their shackles, raise them from their knees, and revive their spirit and pride. This is the only way to unite forces and direct the enormous potential of the people to creation!

During the Mongol invasion, all defensive walls of cities and fortresses were destroyed. Amir Timur gave instructions to rebuild them. Before others, walls were erected around Samarkand. Here, in the fall of 1370, he convened a national kurultai, where the most important issues of reviving the lost statehood of Maverannahr, improving cities and villages, and developing trade and handicrafts were considered.

The rapid changes that soon began affected not only the political and economic spheres, which, undoubtedly, are the basic conditions for the prosperity and development of the state. The fresh air of renewal also revived cultural life, providing a surge of energy in urban planning, landscaping, folk applied and fine arts, and the production of pottery and ceramic products.

Breadth and majesty

Urban planning in the XIV-XV centuries, thanks to the tireless search for original solutions, experience and tests, began to develop on a completely new vision, a philosophical rethinking of the canons of Eastern architecture. The buildings of that period were distinguished by their majesty and grandeur, perfectly in harmony with their elegant external and internal design.

A great friend of Uzbekistan, the famous Japanese archaeologist Kyuzo Kato, in one of our conversations about Sakhbikran, enthusiastically noted: “Amir Timur is a great historical figure. His activities have always been characterized by breadth and majesty. There is simply no average. Let’s take construction. We noticed how, under the conditions of seismic activity in Central Asia, innovative solutions were applied to ensure the stability of the grandiose buildings of the Khoja Ahmad Yassawi Memorial, the Cathedral Mosque, and Aksaray. This required the most modern technical knowledge of that period, the talent of architects attracted by the ruler for construction. We needed precise calculations for laying literally every brick! In other words, they realized the plans and requirements of the main architect - Amir Timur himself” [4].

The objectivity of this assessment can be clearly demonstrated by the example of the reconstruction of the capital of the state – Samarkand. To make this ancient city the most beautiful city in the world - this was the ruler’s cherished dream. The Ark alone in the city occupied 34 hectares and was surrounded by walls in two rows along the perimeter. Round watchtowers rose at the corners of the citadel. On the

outside of the structure, deep and wide ditches were dug, filled with water from the Novadon River.

But the special attraction of Ark was the beautiful Kuksaroy and Bustonsaroy. In Kuksaroy, whose high blue dome was visible from afar, there was the throne of Amir Timur, the state treasury and a rich library. Here he received ambassadors and court nobles. Kuksaroy served as the official residence of the Timurid rulers even after Sahibkiran [1, 5].

Under the direct leadership of Amir Timur, more than 20 grandiose architectural structures were erected in the capital. Historians of that time, including Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi and Nizomiddin Shomi, testify that Sahibkiran personally reviewed the projects for these constructions, made adjustments, and only after the plan took perfect form, gave permission for construction.

Modern European scientists also recognize the enormous merit of Sahibkiran in the construction of the capital. The famous French orientalist Jean-Paul Roux writes: “Undoubtedly, without Versailles, Louis XIV could not have become the Sun King. Likewise, without the miracle of Samarkand’s architecture, created by the constant personal participation and care of the ruler, he would not have become Timur.”

Amir Timur paid no less attention to improving the lives of residents of the capital than to the improvement of Samarkand. Historical sources indicate that he exempted them from various taxes several times. He firmly controlled the observance of justice and harshly punished those who raised prices for goods without reason. The Spanish ambassador Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo wrote: “In Samarkand the laws are unshakable, Mr. (Amir Timur) does not allow anyone to use violence against another person or offend him.”

Amir Timur, being a man of high culture and subtle nature, brought scientists, poets, artists, musicians, architects, talented craftsmen and craftsmen from all corners of the vast country to the center of the empire, patronized them in every

possible way, creating the proper conditions to stimulate their work. Thus, in the XIV-XV centuries, Samarkand became a large creative cultural laboratory of the East [6].

We find evidence of the rapid development of art and other spheres of culture in this era. Fine arts, artistic ceramics, artistic processing of metal, stone, wood, jewelry, and miniatures have reached unprecedented heights. It is also appropriate to mention the richest library of Amir Timur, consisting of several thousand volumes of manuscripts and stored in the beautiful Kuksaroy.

The Diamond on the Crown of Civilization

The reign of Amir Timur marked the awakening of the great Transoxiana, its new era. Then, years later, the learned world will call it the Timurid Renaissance, which not only radically transformed the life of Maverannahr, raised its people from their knees, but also had a huge influence on the fate of the peoples of entire continents!

New ideas of state and social development that arose in Samarkand spread in powerful waves in a radial direction not only in space, but, as history has shown, also in time. “The truth is that Timur possessed such an outstanding human genius that it is difficult to even imagine,” admitted the famous French orientalist Jean-Paul Roux. “The Timurid Renaissance became a priceless diamond on the crown of Muslim civilization.”

In one of the conversations with another scientist - the former head of the Association “History and Culture of the Timurids” in Paris, Lucien Keren, I inquired about the reasons for the highly respectful attitude of Europeans towards the personality of Sahibkiran. “Many people think that Europeans respect Amir Timur only as a sign of gratitude for the liberation of Europe from Eldirim Boyazid,” my French colleague said then. – Yes, it’s true. In the 15th-17th centuries, European intelligentsia, writers and poets often praised Amir Timur as the savior of Europe in

their works. After the 17th century, bright and unique examples of high civilization created by Amir Timur began to reach the Old World. And then Europeans began to perceive him not only as a man who gave Europe freedom, but also as a talented ruler who created a truly great civilization” [7].

Spring will definitely come!

Centuries have passed. The majestic structures erected during the era of Amir Timur and the Timurids were left to the mercy of fate. Especially in Soviet times, due to insufficient attention and care, many masterpieces of architecture turned into ruins. Clumsy buildings grew around them. Enormous damage was caused to the historical appearance of the ancient cities, which at one time were the most beautiful cities in the world. Such an undisguised disregard for the memory and culture of an entire people, obviously, had, among other things, political motives – to consign to complete oblivion the historical memory of the great past of the people [1,8].

But even after the most severe winter, spring always comes! This is the wisdom of life. With the acquisition of state independence of Uzbekistan, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, large-scale, systematic, painstaking work began to restore our ancient cities, including Samarkand and Shakhrisabz. This has become one of the most important directions of state policy in the field of culture, spirituality and education of the younger generation.

It is deeply symbolic that it was in the city recreated by the great Amir Timur that two years ago, on the initiative of the head of our state, the international conference “The Historical Heritage of Scientists and Thinkers of the Medieval East, Its Role and Significance for Modern Civilization” was held.

The popular American publication “The Huffington Post” published a “List of 50 cities in the world that you must visit.” Among them is the pearl of the East - Samarkand, which was the only one among the CIS cities in the rating list.

Many rare books from the libraries of Amir Timur, Boysungur Mirzo and Mirzo Ulugbek in Samarkand and Herat are today in famous book depositories and museums around the world. Together with the State Museum of the History of the Timurids, consistent work is being carried out to return them to our country. The unique exhibits of this museum, dating back to the era of Timur and the Timurids, are regularly exhibited at international exhibitions held in many countries.

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