

**MILITARY CAMPAIGNS OF AMIR TEMUR (BASED ON HISTORICAL SOURCES)*****Boburmirzo Mutallibjonov****Student**University of Business and Science*[*bmutallibjonov@gmail.com*](mailto:bmutallibjonov@gmail.com)*Tashkent, Uzbekistan***ABOUT ARTICLE**

Key words: Amir Temur, military campaigns, Timurid state, historical sources, Zafarnama, Ibn Arabshah, political strategy, Islamic ideology, geopolitical influence, historiography, Transoxiana, Battle of Ankara, Timurid legacy, historical analysis, source studies.

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Abstract: This article analyzes the military campaigns of Amir Temur based on historical sources. The introduction provides general information about the fact that Temur's campaigns were carried out not only for military, but also for political, religious, and economic purposes, and their impact on the history of Central Asia and the Middle East. The analysis of the literature includes a comparative study of important sources about Temur - "Zafarnama" (Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi), the works of Ibn Arabshah and Ruy de Clavijo, as well as the studies of modern scholars (B. F. Manz, M. E. Subtelny, T. Allsen). The differences in assessments in various sources are explained on a scientific basis. The results section analyzes the expansion of the territory, economic wealth, political centralization, and the strengthening of Islamic ideology through Temur's military campaigns. The discussion section discusses the differences in historical sources, the ideological and political foundations of the movements, and their impact on the long-term cultural and historical heritage.

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Kalit soʻzlar: Amir Temur, harbiy yurishlar, Temuriylar davlati, tarixiy manbalar, “Zafarnoma”, Ibn Arabshoh, siyosiy strategiya, islom mafkurasi, geosiyosiy taʼsiri, tarixnavisligi, Transoxiana, Anqara jangi, Temuriylar merosi, tarixiy tahlil, manbashunoslik.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada Amir Temurning harbiy yurishlar tarixiy manbalar asosida tahlil qilinadi. Kirish qismida Amur Temur yurishlari nafaqat harbiy, balki siyosiy, diniy, iqtisodiy maqsadlarda ham amalga oshirilganligi, ularning Oʻrta Osiyo va Yaqin Sharq tarixiga taʼsiri haqida umumiy maʼlumotlar berilgan. Adabiyotlar tahlilida Amur Temurga oid muhim manbalar – “Zafarnoma” (Sharafiddin Ali Yazdiy), Ibn Arabshoh va Ruy de Klavixxo asarlari, shuningdek, zamonaviy olimlar (B. F. Manz, M. E. Subtelniy, T. Allsen) tadqiqotlari qiyosiy tadqiq etilgan. Turli manbalardagi farqlar ilmiy asosda tushuntiriladi. Natijalar boʻlimida Temurning harbiy yurishlari orqali hududning kengayishi, iqtisodiy boyligi, siyosiy markazlashuvi va islom mafkurasining mustahkamlanishi tahlil qilinadi. Muhokama boʻlimida tarixiy manbalardagi tafovutlar, harakatlarning gʻoyaviy-siyosiy asoslari hamda ularning uzoq muddatli madaniy-tarixiy merosga taʼsiri muhokama qilinadi.

ВОЕННЫЕ ПОХОДЫ АМИРА ТЕМУРА (НА ОСНОВЕ ИСТОРИЧЕСКИХ ИСТОЧНИКОВ)

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О СТАТЬЕ

Ключевые слова: Амир Темур, военные походы, государство Тимуридов, исторические источники, Зафарнаме, Ибн Арабшах, политическая стратегия, исламская идеология, геополитическое влияние, историография, Трансоксания, битва при Анкаре, наследие Тимуридов, исторический анализ, источниковедение.

Аннотация: В данной статье анализируются военные походы Амира Темура на основе исторических источников. Во введении даются общие сведения о том, что походы Темура совершались не только в военных, но и в политических, религиозных и экономических целях, а также об их влиянии на историю Центральной Азии и Ближнего Востока. Анализ литературы включает в себя сравнительное исследование важных источников о Темуре – «Зафарнаме» (Шарафиддина Али Язди), трудов Ибн Арабшаха и Руи де Клавихо, а также исследований современных учёных (Б. Ф. Манца, М. Э. Субтельного, Т. Аллсена). Различия в оценках в различных источниках объясняются на научной

основе. В разделе «Результаты» анализируются расширение территории, экономическое благосостояние, политическая централизация и укрепление исламской идеологии посредством военных походов Темура. В разделе «Обсуждение» обсуждаются различия в исторических источниках, идеологические и политические основы движений и их влияние на долгосрочное культурное и историческое наследие.

Introduction

Amir Temur (1336–1405) was one of the greatest commanders of his time and a military figure who left a deep mark on the history of the Middle East and the West. His military campaigns have attracted the attention of historians not only for their geographical breadth, but also for their strategic depth, political results, and cultural influence. Historical sources play a special role in the analysis of Timur's military campaigns and political activities. In particular, works such as "Zafarnoma", written in the Persian-Tajik language, are of great importance in covering the military and political events of the Timurid era [1]. Amir Temur's military campaigns were, in many cases, carefully planned to achieve certain political or economic goals, which requires a source-based approach to studying his activities. "Zafarnoma", written by Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi, is one of the most important historical documents in this regard. It describes in detail Timur's campaigns, battle tactics, and political approaches to capturing cities and states [2]. Other historians, including Ibn Arabshah, Klaviho, and other historians of the period, offer different approaches to these campaigns, which allows us to look at historical events from a multifaceted perspective [3, pp. 112]. The sources interpret Timur's military campaigns not only as a policy of conquest, but also as a means of establishing a centralized state. Through his campaigns, he achieved political dominance in regions such as East Turkestan, Iran, Iraq, India, Syria, and the Caucasus. Each of these campaigns took place in a specific historical, geopolitical, and cultural context, and historical sources provide diverse and detailed information about them [4, pp. 27].

At the same time, in modern historiography, there is a growing desire to view Amir Temur's campaigns not only within the framework of military aggression, but also as a means of establishing centralized control, restoring economic ties, and developing science and culture. A deeper understanding of these circumstances through the analysis of sources helps to more fully understand Timur's personality and political activities [5, P. 39].

Therefore, this article studies Amir Temur's military campaigns on the basis of historical sources, analyzing their content, strategic foundations, and historical results. The article focuses

on illuminating the historical context of military campaigns, relying on historical documents, in particular, the works of contemporary historians and modern researchers.

Literature review Various sources and historical works play an important role in studying the history of the era of Amir Temur. Among these works, there are inscriptions written by contemporary historians, chronicles prepared by later historians, and studies written based on a modern historiographical approach. Since each source reflects the views of its time, a deep analysis of their content and ideological characteristics is required. First of all, the most important and widespread historical source of the era of Temur is the work "Zafarnoma" written by Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi. This work was written after the death of Temur, at the behest of his grandson Shahrukh Mirzo, and it extensively covers Temur's life, military campaigns, and political decisions. Although the style of writing of the work is aimed at glorifying the commander, it contains a lot of factual information.

The Zafarnama provides a detailed account of Timur's campaigns in Iran, India, Iraq, and Syria, and is an important source for understanding military strategies [1, pp. 17–19]. At the same time, Yazdi always tries to give these campaigns a religious and political justification, which gives the work an ideological color. Another important source written about Timur is Ibn Arabshah's *Ajoyib al-maqdur fi nawa'ib al-Taymur*. Ibn Arabshah lived in Damascus and was captured during Timur's campaign in that city, and later worked as a translator at his court. His work is written in a negative light towards Timur, describing Timur's actions as destructive, cruel, and excessively violent. Nevertheless, this source provides valuable historical details, especially about the campaigns in Syria and their consequences [2, pp. 54–56].

The negative assessment of the Arab Shah allows for a comparative analysis with other sources. There are also European sources about Amir Temur. In particular, the travel memoirs written by the Spanish ambassador Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo are direct eyewitness accounts of his embassy trip to the court of Temur. Clavijo arrived at the court of Temur in 1403, and his work contains accurate details about Temur's reception ceremonies, military power, state administration, and attitude to international politics. His observations are of particular importance in understanding the foreign policy of the Timurid empire [3, P. 103–105].

Among modern studies, scientific works written in Uzbekistan and abroad serve as an important basis for analyzing Timur's military campaigns. For example, the works of such scholars as A. A. Semenov, V. V. Barthold, R. N. Frye have been widely used in studying the structure of the Timurid empire, the economic and political aspects of his military campaigns, their geographical scope, and the social changes associated with them. Barthold evaluates Timur's campaigns as a natural result of his time, that is, a requirement of geopolitical conditions in Central Asia [4, P. 67].

Uzbek historians - A. Karimov, Kh. Ziyoyev, A. Kayumov and others - also tried to analyze the history of the Timurids on the basis of source studies. Through their works, a modern historical assessment of Timur's activities is studied, as well as the formation of his image in the public consciousness. For example, A. Kayumov emphasizes that in his works, along with military heroism, he paid special attention to the cultural and religious aspects of Timur's personality [5, P. 81]

Methods. The study of military campaigns during the reign of Amir Temur based on historical sources is a complex and multifaceted scientific process, in which such methods as source studies, historical-territorial analysis, comparative approach and content analysis were used.

The methodological basis of the study is the assessment of historical events in the context of their time, critical analysis of sources, determination of their reliability and comparison with each other. First, based on the source study approach, direct sources reflecting the events of the Timur era were selected - the works of contemporary historians (Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi, Ibn Arabshah, Klaviho). Their texts were carefully analyzed based on historical facts and the context of their writing. Since each source was influenced by the ideology of its time and the author's position, an objective conclusion was drawn by comparing what they said with the historical views of the present day [6, P. 14–16].

Secondly, using the method of comparative historical analysis, the descriptions of the same event by different authors were compared. For example, in the works of Ibn Arabshah and Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi, there are opposing views on Timur's campaign to Damascus. While Ibn Arabshah describes this campaign as a campaign of destruction, Yazdi assessed it as an act of exaltation of Islam [7, P. 88–90]. These differences were explained by the ideological load of the historical source, the author's personality and political context. Thirdly, a territorial-historical approach was used, and Timur's campaigns were studied within the framework of geographical space. The destination, direction of each campaign, the factors that caused it, territorial resistance and their socio-economic consequences in the conquered lands were studied. In this method, maps, historical atlases and modern geopolitical research were used [8, P. 71–74]. Fourth, content analysis was used to analyze how Timur's personality was interpreted in primary sources, how his military strategy and political goals were explained. In this process, historical texts written at different times were analyzed through recurring phrases in the text, ideological accents, and religious justification methods [9, pp. 37–40]. Fifth, using the method of analysis based on modern historical research, the debates and scientific approaches to Timur in contemporary historiography were studied. The differences between the assessments given by modern historians - the images as a symbol of national pride, statehood, or regional aggressor - were shown. This situation

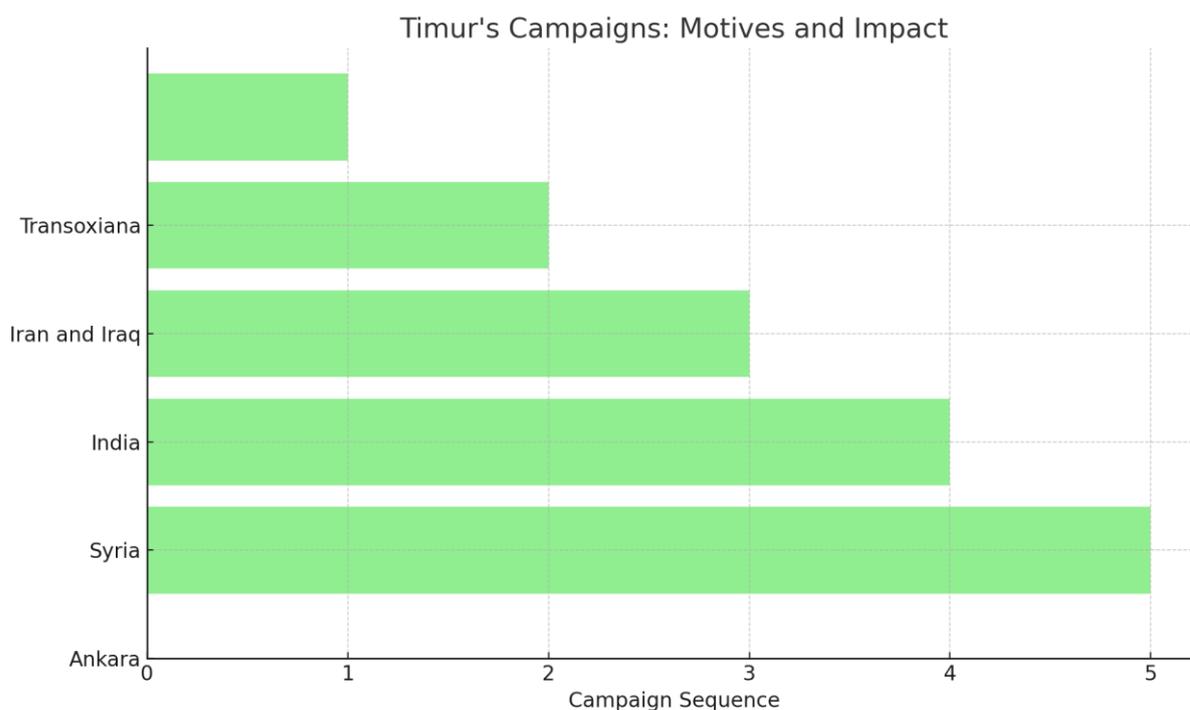
emphasizes the need for a balance between scientific objectivity and national consciousness in the formation of the historical image of Timur [10, pp. 25–28].

Results. Although the military campaigns carried out by Amir Temur provided great political and military achievements for their time, based on historical sources and modern research, it can be seen that they had a complex, multifaceted nature. The campaigns were not limited to a specific invasion or aggression, but were associated with many factors, such as the establishment of a centralized state, the spread of Islamic ideology, and ensuring internal political stability. The main strategy in Temur's military campaigns was the combination of military power, political alliances, and ideological foundations. In the sources, Temur often justified his actions with the strengthening of the Islamic religion, the fight against heresy and violence, and the approach to the ideal of the caliphate. This approach served to “legitimize” his rule in religious terms [11, P. 121–123]. Modern studies, in particular, the analysis of Beatrice Forbes Manz, note that Timur's campaigns were always based on a specific calculated political and economic strategy. His campaigns in Iran, Iraq and India were aimed at quickly destroying weak political structures in these regions and taking advantage of them [12, P. 213–216]. The Delhi campaign in particular shows the strength of economic motivations, as it brought a large amount of material wealth to Timur's empire. As a result of Timur's military campaigns, the empire occupied a huge territory, geographically encompassing East Turkestan, the Indus Valley, Iran, Iraq, Syria and most of Asia. At the same time, these campaigns caused devastation in many cities, casualties among the population and the loss of cultural monuments. This situation is especially critically reflected in Ibn Arabshah, Klaviho and Arab sources [2, P. 70; 3, P. 104].

Timur's victories demonstrated his military potential, organizational skills, and intelligence skills. He prepared each campaign in advance, skillfully taking advantage of geographical conditions, the political situation of his opponent, and internal conflicts [13, P. 62]. These methods were studied and evaluated by many subsequent commanders, even by military thinkers in Europe [14, P. 198]. The influence of Timur's campaigns also continued after his death. His successors, such as Shahrukh and Ulugbek, preserved the empire founded by these campaigns, laid the foundation for the development of science, culture, and knowledge [15, P. 55–57].

This approach gives grounds for evaluating Timur not only as a warlord, but also as a person who paved the way for cultural and political development. The conclusion is that when Amir Temur's campaigns are deeply analyzed through historical sources, they are far from being a one-sided interpretation, but rather appear as complex historical processes that took place in a combination of military, political, ideological, economic, and cultural factors. This requires their reassessment and further study in today's historiography.

(2-Graphic)



2- Graphic This chart visualizes the sequence and geographical focus of Timur's major campaigns, emphasizing their motives and long-term impact. Starting in Transoxiana, Timur aimed to centralize power, laying the foundation for the Timurid dynasty. His campaigns in Iran and Iraq reinforced Islamic authority, while the Indian campaign bolstered economic strength. In Syria, although militarily successful, the cultural toll was significant. The campaign at Ankara, defeating Bayezid, temporarily disrupted Ottoman power and gave Timur strategic advantage in the region. Each campaign reflects both military objectives and broader political, economic, and cultural consequences, as interpreted by historians.

Discussion. In the process of analyzing the military campaigns of Amir Temur based on historical sources, a number of important scientific and methodological issues arise. These campaigns, while being major geopolitical movements, are complex events arising from the ideological, political and economic aspects of their time. Therefore, it is necessary to shed light on them not by a one-sided assessment, but on the basis of an analysis of the sources, historical context and modern scientific views.

First of all, the differences in the sources about Temur's campaigns should be an important object of discussion. The work "Zafarnama" (Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi) glorifies Temur as a Muslim hero and a just ruler, while Ibn Arabshah criticizes him as a cruel conqueror. Although both sources reflect the life of Temur, ideological differences are clearly visible in their content. These differences show how the author's personality, social situation and the policy of the customer influenced the achievement of historical truth [2; 11]. Also, Timur's military campaigns were always based on religious ideas. He presented himself as a defender of Islam, but in practice these

campaigns were accompanied by a lot of looting, destruction and loss of population. This contradictory situation has led to the emergence of various opposing views in modern historiography when assessing Timur's activities. For example, B. F. Manz evaluates him as a strategic mover [12], while Grousset shows that harshness and economic interest were the mainstay of his campaigns [13].

Another issue that needs to be discussed is the long-term impact of Timur's campaigns. The empire formed as a result of his campaigns, although short-lived, created an environment that served the development of science, knowledge and art. Successors such as Shahrukh Mirzo and Ulugbek, relying on the political and economic support that Timur had established, turned Central Asia into a center of science [15]. Timur's victory over the Ottomans (Battle of Ankara) was also an important turning point in European history. The Ottomans were temporarily stopped, and the threat of Timur in Europe increased. This situation also creates the need to discuss Timur's place in European historiography [14].

Modern historiography is trying to combine a national approach with a global historical context in assessing Timur's personality. While in Uzbek historiography Timur is seen as a hero, builder, and symbol of progress [15],

Conclusion. The military campaigns undertaken by Amir Temur in the second half of the 14th century and the beginning of the 15th century served as a significant turning point in the history of Eurasia. These campaigns not only yielded enormous political, military, and economic results in their time, but also left a deep mark on the regional geopolitical balance, cultural development, and the formation of historical consciousness in subsequent centuries.

An analysis of Temur's campaigns shows that he was not an ordinary invader, but a statesman and commander with a complex and well-thought-out political strategy for his time. He always justified his campaigns with religious ideology, internal political stability, and economic interests. Historical sources have interpreted this process differently: on the one hand, sources such as "Zafarnama" depict Temur as a commander with high ideals, while on the other hand, in the works of historians such as Ibn Arabshah, he is depicted as a more cruel and barbaric hero. These differences indicate the importance of the source-based approach in historiography.

The results of Timur's campaigns covered a wide range of processes, from internal political centralization to external geopolitical changes. In particular, the campaign to India was the most important stage economically, and the Battle of Ankara was the most important geopolitically.

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