

The life and activities of Amir Temur in the 16th-19th centuries in the pages of European historical works

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the information about the life and work of the great commander of the East, Amir Temur, presented in European historical works of the 16th-19th centuries. European historians in their works provided information about Amir Temur based on ambassadors, travelers and some eastern sources. This information, in turn, introduced the personality of Amir Temur to the wider European public for a long time.*

Key words: *Amir Temur, Italy, Jean Boden, Bayazid, Edward Gibbon, Francois Sharmois, Tokhtamysh, General history, Zafarnama.*

Introduction

In Europe, interest in the activities of Amir Temur dates back to much earlier times. Information about Amir Temur was brought to Europe by ambassadors and tourists. On the basis of this information, an attitude towards the personality of Amir Temur was formed. However, we would not be mistaken if we say that the scientific approach to the activities of Amir Temur in Europe dates back to the 18th century.

Interest in the activities of Amir Temur in Europe began five centuries ago. One of the first works based on information about Amir Temur in Europe was published by Perondino in Florence, Italy, in 1553. His work was called "The Greatness of Timur the Sicythian"[1:212]. The work also contains a number of reliable information about Amir Temur. The work is also of great importance in that it has provided information about Amir Temur in Europe for a long time.

One of the later studies of the history of Amir Temur in Europe dates back to the Florentine Poggio Barachiolini (1380-1459). During his work, he collected a number of interesting facts about Amir Temur, the famous commander of the East. His information mainly concerned Amir Temur's relations with the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid.

In France, the first information about Amir Temur was provided by Teodoro Spandujinon in his work "The Genealogy of the Great Turks"[1:213]. This work was published in Paris in 1519. It contains a lot of information about Amir Temur.

Another French historian, Jean Boden, paid attention to the relationship between Amir Temur and Bayazid in his research. He was also very interested in the capture of Bayazid, the Turkish sultan, by Amir Temur, and the events that followed. Another researcher, Guillaume Postel, also provided some information about Amir Temur. In his work "On the State of the Turks," which he began in 1540 and completed in 1560, he also provided some interesting information about Amir Temur, who captured Bayazid[1:213]. In the work, he described Amir Temur as a brave, fearless and courageous commander.



The Byzantine historian Laonik of Chalcocondil, in his work "The Decline of the Greek State and the Formation of the Turkish State," written in 1440, describes in great detail Amir Temur's relations with Sultan Bayezid[1:213]. Laonik's work consisted of 10 volumes. One volume of the work, consisting of 14 chapters, contains a lot of information about Amir Temur's activities. This work was translated into French in France in 1583. The work gave a great impetus to the formation of the concept of Amir Temur in France and other neighboring countries.

The activities of Amir Temur began to be widely covered in the 17th-18th centuries, both scientifically and literary. During this period, works of art about the activities of Amir Temur were created in many European countries. These works often depict Amir Temur in a legendary manner. However, the works also contain very important information about the activities of Amir Temur.

Saintain's work "Histoire des Grand Tamerlan tire d'un excellent manuscrit" written in Paris in 1677 contains some information about Amir Temur's reign. According to the work, Temur defeated his main rival, Hussein, with intelligence. After conquering the enemy's capital, Temur generously distributed most of the captured wealth to his army. Then he declared himself ruler.[2:32]

The activities of Amir Temur were one of the first European historians of the modern era to pay attention to the activities of Amir Temur. The historian, describing the history of the Middle Ages in the West and the East, also touched upon the activities of Amir Temur in a certain sense. Edward Gibbon also mentioned Amir Temur in his work "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire", written in 1776-1788[1:208]. In his work, the historian describes Amir Temur as trying to conquer the whole world. In addition, Gibbon also focused on several other characteristics of Amir Temur. He was amazed at Amir Temur's rise from a simple beggar to the ruler of Asia. This was also reflected in his work.

After Edward Gibbon, among European historians, Friedrich Schlosser also paid attention to the activities of Amir Temur. The historian mentioned the name of the commander several times in his work "General History"[1:208]. Schlosser gave a unique description of Amir Temur. According to him, Amir Temur was a successful warrior and was the new sultan of the world in his time. Schlosser assessed his rise to this level as the result of correctly chosen military tactics. The historian condemned pomposity in assessing the appearance of Amir Temur. At the same time, Schlosser also touched on the fact that Amir Temur had created his own regulations on state governance.

Amir Temur's activities were also noted by one of the modern European enlighteners, François Voltaire. In his work "Treatise on the Spiritual World and Customs of Peoples", written in 1753-1758, he focused on Amir Temur and his grandson Mirzo Ulugbek[1;209]. Voltaire highly appreciated the creative work of Amir Temur.

The history of Amir Temur was also viewed with particular interest by the German historian Georg Weber. In his work "General History", he gave Amir Temur a very high rating. Weber emphasized that Amir Temur, in addition to being a great commander, was also a famous jurist. At the same time, the historian also touched upon the fact that Amir Temur patronized scientists and artists in his work.

In his work, Georg Weber also focused on the personal qualities of Amir Temur and Bayazid, emphasizing the superiority of Amir Temur in all respects when comparing the two commanders. He cited Bayazid's excessive greed for wealth and disregard for anyone as the reasons for his defeat by Amir Temur.

French historian R. Margan, in his work "History of Tamerlane" (Paris, 1739), gave a number of details about the activities of Amir Temur[3:43]. The work states that the commander achieved victory over his



enemies as a result of his strong will. "He defeated his main enemy, Hussein, through intelligence and cunning, and laid the foundation for the beginning of his reign," writes Margan.

Information about the activities of Amir Temur in the 18th century was also provided by B. Law and Pharson Berwick in their work "The history of the Life of Tamerlane the Great" in 1782[4:16]. It specifically focuses on the origin of Amir Temur. The historian covered his military skills in more detail than other aspects. The fact that Amir Temur's beginnings in politics were also mentioned is reflected in the following information. "Tamerlane grew up to be very skilled in military affairs. From a young age, he regularly performed military exercises with his peers. His father, Taragai Bakhodir, seeing his son's interest in the military field, began to pay special attention to him."

Information about the history of Amir Temur was also studied by the French orientalist François Bernard Sharmois, who lived and served in St. Petersburg in the 19th century. Having studied Nizamuddin Shami's "Zafarnama", he focused on the relationship between Amir Temur and the Golden Horde Khan Tokhtamysh. Having collected a lot of information about the battle between the two commanders in 1391, François Sharmois published his work "Temur or the Campaign of Temurbek against the Khan of Jochi Ulusi Tokhtamysh in 798 ah" in 1833. This work contains information about the battle between Amir Temur and Tokhtamysh in 1391[5:84]. This work has not lost its significance to this day.

The 19th-century Hungarian traveler Arminius Vamberi also provided some information about Amir Temur in his work. In 1860, he published the work "The History of Bukhara or Transoxiana" based on the information collected as a result of his travels. In this work, A. Vamberi provided many interesting information about the life and activities of Amir Temur, who was a famous commander of the East in his time. In particular, A. Vamberi provided the following information about the year of birth of Amir Temur. According to him, "Amir Temur was born on the fifth of Sha'ban in the year 736 (1333 ad), on Tuesday evening, in the neighborhood of Kesh called "Shahrisabz" because it was a lonely green place. Later, the whole city was called by this name [6:215]".

In addition, A. Vamberi also touches on the political activities of Amir Temur and cites the following information in his work. According to him, Amir Temur was especially fond of military work from his youth. In his autobiography, Amir Temur mentioned that at the age of ten, he felt signs of extraordinary power and greatness. According to A. Vamberi, when Amir Temur was eighteen, he felt a strong talent for horsemanship and hunting. He spent his life reading the Quran, playing chess and practicing horse riding[6:216].

In conclusion, we can say that the military campaigns of Amir Temur in the Middle and Near East, in turn, attracted the attention of European historians. In European historical works, information about Amir Temur mainly focuses on his military campaigns in the Middle East and Asia Minor. However, European historians also paid attention to information from Eastern sources. Therefore, the works of European historians are of great importance in studying the history of Amir Temur.

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