

AMIR TIMUR: THE FOUNDER OF A GREAT EMPIRE

*Umirzakova Barno**Pastdargom district, Samarkand region**11th grade student of school 69*

Abstract: This article analyzes the historical significance of Amir Timur's state governance, military art, and cultural heritage as a great statesman and skilled commander. It explores the establishment of a centralized state by Sahib Qiran, its administrative system and legislative foundations, as well as the distinctive features of state building.

Keywords: Amir Timur, Timurid Empire, "Temur's Code", centralized state, military art, cultural heritage.

The historical situation that emerged in Central Asia in the late 14th - early 15th centuries necessitated the formation of a unified centralized state in the region. During the weakening of Mongol rule, conflicts between local authorities, and economic crisis, the region needed strong central authority. It was during this period that Amir Timur emerged on the historical stage with his unique state governance and military prowess. He established the most powerful empire of his time not only as a great commander but also as a skilled statesman.

Foundations of State Governance

Amir Timur based his state governance on the principle of "Power in Justice." As stated in "Temur's Code": "I conducted nine-tenths of state affairs through counsel, deliberation, and consultation, and only one-tenth through the sword". This statement demonstrates that Sahib Qiran relied on justice and consultation in governing the state.

The administrative structure of the Timurid Empire was complex, incorporating both central and local governance systems. The central administration was carried out through divans (ministries). The main divans were:

- Devoni buzurg (Grand Vizier's Office)
- Devoni mol (Ministry of Finance)
- Devoni tog' (Ministry of Military Affairs)
- Devoni insho (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

In the local administration system, provinces were divided into districts, governed by hakims and darughas. As Ibn Arabshah noted: "Timur administered the country in such a way that he was informed daily about the condition of every province and city"

Legislative and Legal Foundations

The legal system in Amir Timur's state was formed based on Sharia laws, customs, and "Temur's Code." The Code reflected rules regulating state administration, military organization, tax system, and social relations.

In state governance, Amir Timur based his rule on 12 principles:

1. Adherence to religion and Sharia

2. Consultation and deliberation
3. Fair tax policy
4. Rule of law
5. Military discipline
6. Officials' integrity
7. Public welfare
8. Development of science and culture
9. Freedom of trade
10. Construction and development
11. Diplomatic relations
12. Order and discipline

Military Art and State Defense

Amir Timur developed unique tactics and strategy in military art. He organized the army into tumen (10,000), hazara (1,000), sada (hundred), and daha (ten) units. According to Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi's "Zafarnama": "Amir Timur studied enemy forces in advance before battle and effectively used military strategies"

The army structure consisted of the following main parts:

- Central part (Qol)
- Right wing (Barangar)
- Left wing (Javangar)
- Vanguard (Hirovul)
- Reserve force (Chandovul)

Before military campaigns, Amir Timur held special councils to develop battle plans. He paid particular attention to studying enemy forces in advance, using intelligence data, and making quick decisions.

Economic Policy and Tax System

The economic life in Amir Timur's state was based on trade, craftsmanship, and agriculture. The tax system was conducted according to the order established in "Temur's Code." Main types of taxes included:

- Kharaj (land tax)
- Zakat (property tax)
- Tamgha (trade tax)
- Boj (customs duty)

International trade was developed through ensuring the safety of trade routes, building caravanserais, and protecting merchants' interests. Ibn Arabshah writes: "During Timur's time, merchants were so well protected that they could travel from one country to another without any fear".

Cultural and Educational Achievements

During Sahib Qiran's reign, massive construction works were carried out in Samarkand, Shahrisabz, Bukhara, and other cities. Amir Timur, as a patron of culture and science, gathered many scholars, artists, and craftsmen in his court.

In architecture:

- Ak-Saray Palace (Shahrisabz)
- Bibi-Khanyim Mosque (Samarkand)
- Gur-e-Amir Mausoleum (Samarkand)
- Shah-i-Zinda Complex (Samarkand)
- Ahmad Yasawi Mausoleum (Turkistan)

Ruy González de Clavijo writes in his "Embassy to Tamerlane": "The city of Samarkand was so beautiful and magnificent that its splendor and wealth were famous throughout the world. Such grand buildings were constructed in the city that words fail to describe their beauty".

In science and culture, Amir Timur focused on:

- Gathering scholars and intellectuals at court
- Establishing libraries
- Building madrasas
- Organizing scientific assemblies
- Supporting the creation of historical works

Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Relations

Amir Timur gave great importance to diplomatic relations in foreign policy. He established regular connections with China, India, Egypt, Byzantium, and European states. Trade and cultural relations were strengthened through diplomatic missions.

According to Clavijo: "Ambassadors from various countries were constantly hosted at Timur's court. They were received with royal feasts and shown great respect and honor".

The state established by Amir Timur holds an important place in world history with its administrative system, military power, and cultural advancement. His experience in state governance, military art, and cultural heritage remains significant today. The state traditions created by Sahib Qiran continued to influence the development of statehood among Central Asian peoples in subsequent periods.

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