
THE INTERPRETATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AMIR TEMUR AND TOKHTAMISH KHAN IN 1391 IN WESTERN HISTORICAL WORKS

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ABSTRACT: This thesis presents the information of European historians about the military operations between Amir Temur and Tokhtamish Khan in 1391. Their reaction to the incident was analyzed on the basis of the information provided in the works of Nizamuddin Shami and Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi.

KEYWORDS: Dashti Kipchak, Ural River, Kunduzcha, Golden Horde, Azerbaijan, Amir Temur, Tokhtamishkhan.

INTRODUCTION

Amir Temur, who has a lot of experience in military work, started a movement to clarify his relationship with Tokhtamysh. After thinking for a long time, he decided that it is necessary to punish the enemy on his land. For this purpose, he started preparing for the campaign in the late autumn of 1389. This huge army set out on January 22, 1391 [1].

Ali Yazdi indicated the date of Amir Temur's campaign against Khokhtamish as January 19, 1391 [2]. According to the historian, on Thursday Sahibgiron started marching against Tokhtamish.

Amir Temur fell seriously ill on the eve of his march. This situation of the owner made everyone in a hurry. As a result of the measures taken by the doctors, Amir Temur recovered and led the military campaign [3].

Since the beginning of the campaign against the halt, Amir Temur's troops faced difficulties in the waterless steppe, and even in such a situation, they did not stop their movement in order to find the enemy soldiers [4].

When Tokhtamysh learned that Amir Temur was invading his country with a large army, he did not know what to do. He tried to make peace with his army, knowing that it was impossible to go against Sahibqiran [5]. For this purpose, he sent his ambassadors to Timur and expressed his desire to negotiate.

Continuing the movement against the cessation, Temur approached the Ural River in May 1391. Amir Temur was in no hurry to cross the river. In order to find a suitable place to cross the river and ensure security, he sent a well-chosen army under the leadership of his grandson Muhammad Sultan. Muhammad Sultan studied the situation and brought important information about the changes in the enemy's army along with ensuring security." [3]

Nizamiddin Shami gave the following information about the crossing of Amir Temur's troops across the Ural River. He wrote that on May 29, 1391, a huge army came to the banks of the Yayik (Ural) river, and that Amir Temur was in no hurry to cross the river [6]. According to the words of the historian, there were three crossing points of this river called Aygiryoli, Burkajit and Chapmakajit. However, Shami Amir wrote down that Temur's troops did not pass through these three crossings. He considered this to be an act to avoid an enemy ambush.

In the works of Nizamiddin Shami and Ali Yazdi, he wrote that the pre-battle Tokhtamish troops changed their locations several times, and Amir Temur sent several of his trusted generals to find out where the main part of the enemy's army was located.

Before the start of the battle, the total number of Tokhtamish Khan's troops was significantly greater than that of Amir Temur. Amir Temur's army was in a rather tired state due to its small number. In addition, moving in lands considered foreign to them caused several inconveniences.[1]

On June 18, 1391, Amir Temur finally caught up with Tokhtamysh's troops in a place called Kunduzcha. Unable to escape, the enemy had no choice but to fight. Having thoroughly prepared for the battle, Sahibgiron divided the main army into seven independent parts. This tactic made him successful in battle.

We should look critically at the information of B. D. Grekov and A. Y. Yakubovsky that after the war, Amir Temur destroyed the cities of the Golden Horde and took their inhabitants captive. It was Ali Yazdi in "Zafarnama" that the events after the war were described in a very understandable way. It says that after the war, Amir Temur got a lot of property of the defeated side and captured some of the enemy's soldiers. But according to B. D. Grekov and A. Y. Yakubovsky, Amir Temur did not commit destruction.

After the defeat of Tokhtamysh, Amir Temur's troops started the holiday by planting grass near the Itil river. Again, this celebration lasted for twenty-six days.[7]

Western historians Jean-Paul Roux, Lucien Keren, and Tilman Nagel pointed out the inappropriate actions of Tokhtamysh Khan as the main cause of the conflict between Amir Temur and Tokhtamysh Khan. Russian historians A. Yu. Yakubovsky and B. D. Grekov clarified the conflict between the two and assessed it as a struggle for ownership of the territory of Azerbaijan. It was found that there is truth in the information of Western and Russian historians about the causes of the conflict, comparing it with the works of Ali Yazdi and Shami.

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