

THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND STATE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM IN MAVAROUNNAHR ON THE EVE OF AMIR TEMUR'S ACCESSION TO POWER

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Annotation: This article provides a detailed description, based on various sources, of the political situation in Mavarounnahr on the eve of Amir Temur's rise to power and the struggle for authority among Tug'luq Temur, Amir Husayn, and Amir Temur. It also discusses the economic, social, and political reforms carried out during Amir Temur's rule, as well as the administrative structure of the state, including key positions and the duties and powers of their holders.

Key concepts: Battle of Loy, Sarbadars, false khan, royal court, divan (council), seven viziers, Temur's Code (Tuzuk-i Temuri), amir, tavochi, special guard, cannon, twelve tribes (aymoq), heart(qalb), hand(qo'l), burangar, juvangar, manglay, sentry(qoravul), qanbul, land tax (xiroj), shilon tax, sarishumor, khanashumor, and tag'ar.

INTRODUCTION

As history teaches us, the reign of Sahibqiron Amir Temur is closely associated with the flourishing period of the Mavarounnahr region. When the "ruler of the four corners of the world," Temur, established peace and prosperity in the country, this naturally led to the rise of culture and enlightenment among the people. However, before the birth of this historical figure, the situation in Mavarounnahr had been rather complex.

MAIN PART

After the Mongol invasion, our ancestors experienced one of the most difficult periods in the history of our land. Although the political situation remained relatively stable during the early rule of the Chagatai ulus, by the second half of the 14th century, it had become quite severe. In particular, the struggle for the throne that began after the death of Chagatai Khan Kebek weakened the state significantly, leading to the separation of Mavarounnahr and Moghulistan. Qazan Khan (1338–1346) made many efforts to resolve political conflicts in Mavarounnahr. However, due to the deep discord between Muslims and the Mongol conquerors, it was impossible to achieve stability. Years earlier, during the reign of Tarmashirin Khan, who pursued a policy of Islamization, the Mongols, opposing this policy, organized a conspiracy and killed him. Consequently, persecution of Muslims intensified.

However, the Turkic amirs soon recovered their strength and began an open struggle against the Mongol invaders. One of these leaders was the Turkic amir Qozog'on, who in 1347 struck a significant blow against Mongol authority and paved the way for the restoration of Turkic control over the region. During this period, Qazan Khan became the victim of a conspiracy

organized by nomadic tribes under the leadership of Amir Qozog'on [1, 34–35]. Amir Qozog'on (1346–1358) attempted to unify the country as much as possible. However, he too was killed by Tug'luq Temur, the commander of the Mongol forces. During this era of feudal fragmentation in Mavarounnahr, the rulers of Shahrissabz, Bukhara, Termez, Badakhshan, Khujand, and Shash (Tashkent) were engaged in constant wars with each other [1, 60]. According to other sources, in 1358 Amir Qozog'on was assassinated in a conspiracy organized by his son-in-law, Qutlug' Temur. After his death, his second son, Abdullah, ascended the throne. During Abdullah's rule, disorder, mismanagement, and fragmentation intensified to such a degree that he was no longer able to govern the state effectively, and a year later, he was killed [10, 60]. Taking advantage of this instability, Tug'luq Temur (1359–1363) launched a campaign to conquer Mavarounnahr. By January 1360, he halted near a place called Chanoqbuloq, located between the Syr Darya River and Tashkent. There he consulted with his nobles and sent them toward Kesh. At that time, Kesh was governed by Hoji Barlos, who was Amir Temur's uncle. Upon learning of the large army marching toward Kesh, Hoji Barlos decided to flee to Khorasan. Initially, Amir Temur accompanied him, but as they approached the banks of the Amu Darya, Temur realized the decision was mistaken and said to his uncle:

“If a country remains without a ruler, confusion will prevail, and the nation will be ruined by internal conflicts. Therefore, it would be wise if you go to Khorasan, while I return to the province of Kesh. I shall reconcile with the arriving amirs and serve the khan, so that the province will not be devastated and the subjects — the servants of the Almighty — will not suffer hardship or distress.” [9, 61]

Following this event, Amir Temur's rise toward the throne in Mavarounnahr began. While governing Kesh, Temur restored many devastated areas of the province, including ruined peasant households, and implemented measures to revive livestock breeding. To avoid further Mongol attacks, Amir Temur entered the service of the Mongol Khan, Tug'luq Temur. This decision was taken to protect the country, as Temur's forces were not yet fully formed, while Tug'luq Temur had invaded Mavarounnahr with a powerful army. This step was, of course, taken in order to safeguard the region and ensure its survival. At the age of twenty-five, Amir Temur was appointed dorugha (governor) of Kesh by Tug'luq Temur. Throughout his service, he pursued a just policy and openly exposed the misdeeds of the Mongol invaders. He reported to Tug'luq Temur about the Mongol troops' oppression and looting of the population and succeeded in halting their plundering activities in Mavarounnahr.

The rebellion that broke out in Moghulistan forced Tug'luq Temur to retreat. However, this did not prevent him from returning in 1361 and completely seizing control of Mavarounnahr. The unrest that arose again in Moghulistan in 1362 compelled Tug'luq Temur to withdraw once more. Before departing for Moghulistan, he appointed his son as his deputy in Mavarounnahr. His son, Ilyas Khoja, was a man inclined toward pleasure and entertainment, and the management of political affairs was handled by Amir Bekkichik. The latter intensified his intrigues against Amir Temur, and Ilyas Khoja supported him in these actions. Eventually, Ilyas Khoja himself removed Amir Temur from state affairs and even attempted to have him physically eliminated [3, 37]. Under these circumstances, Amir Temur formed an alliance with Amir Husayn, who was

determined to expel the Mongols from Mavarounnahr and seize power. At that time, Amir Husayn ruled over the lands around Balkh. To strengthen this alliance, Amir Temur married Amir Husayn's sister, Uljoy Turkon Agha, thereby establishing a familial bond that further consolidated their political unity.

In matters of governance, Amir Temur could not formally proclaim himself as khan, since he did not belong to the lineage of Chinggis Khan. Therefore, after unifying Mavarounnahr and consolidating his authority in 1370, Amir Temur declared himself amir. Following the tradition inherited from the Mongols, he appointed figurehead khans to the throne. Among these were Suyurg'atmish Khan (1370–1388) and his son Mahmud Khan (1388–1402), both of whom were nominal rulers. Amir Temur's marriage to Saray Mulk Khanum, the widow of the slain Amir Husayn, played an important role in strengthening his political position and legitimacy.

In the state of Amir Temur, the qurultay served as an important governing institution. The administrative structure of Temur's government consisted of two main systems — the dargoh and the divan.

The dargoh was the supreme state authority headed by the sovereign himself. Information about this institution is found in Temur's Code (Tuzuk-i Temuri) [5, 44].

The divan functioned as the council of viziers.

Amir Temur described his system of government as follows: "I built the foundation of my state in accordance with the principles of Islam; I ruled it based on law (tura) and regulation (tuzuk). In my daily activities, whatever I undertook, I carried out in full conformity with the law." He established a state administration consisting of seven departments:

1. Council of the Chief Vizier (Divan of the Prime Minister) – responsible for state and civil affairs;
2. Ministry of War – in charge of military matters and the army;
3. Ministry of Finance – overseeing fiscal affairs;
4. Ministry of the Palace – managing affairs of the royal court;
5. Ministry of Justice (Divan of the Chief Qazi) – administering legal and judicial matters;
6. Ministry of State Security (Divan-i Mushrif) – supervising internal security and inspection;
7. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Divan-i Rasa'il) – responsible for diplomatic correspondence and relations.

The Council of Ministers (Arkan-i Dawlat) functioned as the central executive authority of the state [1, 93]. These ministries collectively constituted the divan, each supervising specific administrative sectors and fulfilling particular functions within the government.

The first vizier, responsible for state and civil affairs, oversaw agricultural production, collection and distribution of taxes across provinces and districts, public works, and financial accounting.

The second vizier, in charge of military affairs, was responsible for the condition of soldiers, their salaries, armaments, supplies, and overall welfare.

The third vizier supervised matters of economy and taxation.

The fourth vizier, or Minister of Finance, managed the treasury's income and expenditure, keeping records of funds and expenses, including those allocated for the royal stables and animals maintained within the palace.

In addition to these, there were also three other ministerial positions that were responsible for taxation, finance, and land ownership matters within the territories included in the empire as well as those dependent upon it.

All seven ministers were subordinate to the chief minister – the devonbegi.

The position of devonbegi was held by such figures as Amir Dovud, Jamoliddin Feruzshoh, G'iyosiddin Shohmalik, Alouddin Aliko Ko'kaldosh, and Alisher Navoi [2,94]. In addition, there were other ministries worth mentioning. For example, there was an eighth ministry, which served as the Ministry of Justice. It was responsible for judicial affairs, which in turn were divided into three types:

- Civil courts
- Courts operating under Sharia regulations (qazi courts)
- Military courts.

Moreover, there was also a Ministry of Communications, which at that time performed the functions of a postal service. The devon was considered an integral part of the royal court (dargoh), where positions such as shayxulislom, sadr-i a'zam, and ahdas qazi also operated.

The sadr-i a'zam was responsible for waqf (endowment) affairs, while the shayxulislom supervised the observance of Sharia rules among the population.

One of the positions within the royal court was the arzbegi, who reported complaints and petitions to the ruler. This indicates how effectively the justice apparatus functioned in the country.

The amins were responsible for eliminating disorder, injustice, and violations of laws and regulations in various regions.

Another important position in the royal court was the tavochi. His duty was to determine the number of soldiers in suyurg'ol lands, recruit troops, provide them with weapons and equipment, and ensure their timely arrival at designated locations.

As we all know, governing a state has never been an easy task. In this regard, Abu Bakr Tayabadi gave Amir Temur the following advice: in ruling a country, one must adhere to four principles:

- Consultation
- Decisive decision-making
- Deliberation and advice
- Caution.

In the local administrative system, Amir Temur divided the state into ulus, province (viloyat), district (tuman), and city (shahar) levels. In managing the empire, Amir Temur divided it into four uluses: Kabul, Ghazna, and Qandahar up to the Indus River were given to his eldest son Jahangir, and after his death, to his son Pir Muhammad; Fars was granted to his second son Umarshaykh; Western Iran and Azerbaijan to his third son Mironshah; and Khorasan to his youngest son Shahrukh. Authority in the provinces, districts, and cities was held by dorug'a, kalontar, and qorboshi respectively [6,49].

CONCLUSION

While establishing his empire, Sahibqiron relied heavily on his army during the conquest of vast territories. The army's structure was complex, consisting of light and heavy infantry as well as cavalry units similarly divided into light and heavily armed horsemen. In certain situations, the army was able to adapt its formation — infantry could become cavalry, and cavalymen could dismount to fight as infantry or join the ranks of archers. The cavalry itself was divided into special selected units.

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