

**HISTORICAL SOURCES RELATED TO THE TIMURID PERIOD AND THEIR  
SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION**

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**Abstract**

This article examines the birth, origin, early political activities, and military campaigns of Amir Temur based on medieval historical sources. The study analyzes the works of prominent historians, including Nizamuddin Shami, Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, and Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, which provide valuable information about Timur's life and state-building activities. Particular attention is given to his rise to power in Mawarannahr, the establishment of Samarkand as the capital of his empire, and his major military campaigns known as the three-year, five-year, and seven-year campaigns. The article also highlights the significance of primary sources such as Zafarnama and Ruznama Ghazavat al-Hindistan in the study of the Timurid era. Furthermore, it discusses the modern recognition of Amir Temur's historical legacy in Uzbekistan, including the celebration of his 660th anniversary, the establishment of the State Museum of the History of the Timurids, and the role of international scholars in promoting Timurid studies. The research emphasizes Amir Temur's contribution to statecraft, military leadership, science, culture, and international relations, as well as his enduring influence on the historical development of Central Asia.

**Keywords:** Amir Temur, Mawarannahr, military campaigns, "Zafarnama," system of state administration, science, education and culture, Timurids, Samarkand, Zafarnama, Nizamuddin Shami, Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, military campaigns, statehood, Central Asia, historical sources, Timurid Empire, UNESCO, State Museum of the History of the Timurids, Lucien Keren.

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### Introduction

The issue of Amir Timur's birth, origin, and the territories where he initially operated is extensively covered in medieval historical sources. The works of historians such as Nizamuddin Shami, Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, and Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur serve as primary and reliable sources for the scientific study of this topic. According to historical sources, Amir Timur was born on April 9, 1336, in the Kesh oasis of Mawarannahr, in the village of Khoja Ilgar near the modern city of Shahrisabz. This information is clearly and in detail presented, in particular, in the works of Nizamiddin Shami and Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi "Zafarnama." Amir Taragay, the father of Amir Timur, belonged to the Barlas clan, which at that time belonged to the Turkic-Mongol aristocracy and held a prestigious military and social position in the territory of Transoxiana. Timur's childhood and adolescence took place in the territory of Transoxiana, within the Chagatai Ulus, a period characterized by political instability, internal strife, and power struggles.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Amir Timur's early activities were directly related to Kesh (Shakhrisabz) and its surrounding areas. From a young age, he was formed in a military-political environment and began to participate in the struggles between local emirs. By the 1660s, Timur was actively involved in the political processes of Mawarannahr, gradually becoming an influential political and military leader<sup>1</sup>. According to historical sources, his activities initially intensified in the regions around Balkh, Bukhara, and Samarkand. In particular, the city of Samarkand became the center of Timur's political activity; in 1370, he captured this city and designated it as the capital of his state. This process is described in detail in Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi's work "Zafarnama." The political situation of that time in Mawarannahr played an important role in the formation of Amir Timur as a political leader. The fragmentation of the Chagatai Ulus, the weakening of the central government, and constant conflicts between local emirs created an important foundation for Timur's military and political potential.

Naturally, such a mature historical figure as Timur, his deeds, and his life left a vivid mark in Central Asia and many countries around the world; various information and legends exist about him. Some of them are close to the truth, the rest are legends, some were written during the time of Timur, and others were written in later periods. Most of this information belongs to the pen of authors who lived in the late Middle Ages and is known as Oriental manuscripts. The primary content of the surviving sources consists primarily of the description of Timur's military campaigns. In this regard, it is customary in historiography to divide Timur's famous and major military campaigns into three main periods: during the "three-year campaign," which began in 1386, the main struggle was waged against the Golden Horde khan Tokhtamysh, who had invaded Mawarannahr; The "five-year campaign," which began in 1392, included the conquest of the Caspian regions, Western Iran, and Baghdad, a campaign

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<sup>1</sup> J.Eshov .A.Odilov "O'zbekiston Tarixi" "Donishmand Ziyosi" Toshkent: 2020 B - 5

into Southern Russia, the defeat of Tokhtamysh's troops on the banks of the Terek River, and the invasion of India <sup>2</sup>.

## DISCUSSION

During the "seven-year campaign," which began in 1399, his son Miran Shah, the ruler of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus, defeated the invaders, waged war against the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid and the Egyptian Sultan Faraj, captured Sivas and Aleppo in Asia Minor, and subsequently conquered Damascus from Syria. In the famous Battle of Ankara in 1402, the "invincible" Bayezid's army was defeated. Having returned to Samarkand in 1404, Timur continued his preparations for the long-planned campaign against China. One of the earliest sources from the Timurid period is the work of the jurist Ghiyath al-Din Ali ibn Jamal al-Islam Yazdi, "Ruznama Ghazavat al-Hindistan," which provides a diary of the Emir's campaign to India. This "Diary" was written by the scholar between 1399 and 1403 by order of Timur himself <sup>3</sup>.

Another important historical source on the history of the era of Amir Temur is the work "Zafamoma" by Nizamiddin Shami. The author of this book, Nizomiddin Shami, was originally from Tabriz and later lived in Baghdad. He was also renowned as a court historian of Amir Temur. In 1401, Nizamiddin Shami received a commission from Timur to write a historical work describing the history of the empire in an understandable, accessible manner. The work "Zafamoma" has reached our time in two editions. The details of the events in it cover the period up to the end of 1404. The author of the book used many oral and written sources and relevant diaries in its preparation. In 1937, F. Tauer published the Persian text of Nizamiddin Shami's work "Zafamoma". Some parts of the book were translated into Russian in 1972 by Yu.E. Bregel. This work was first published in 1996 in Uzbek under the translation of Yu.Khakhimjonov <sup>4</sup>. On declaring 1996 the "Year of Amir Temur": In connection with the 660th anniversary of the birth of the great statesman Amir Temur, taking into account the numerous proposals received from the public of our country and his great historical contribution to the formation of the state administration system and the development of science, education, and culture, an important decision was adopted.

## RESULTS

The decision of the UNESCO General Conference to widely celebrate the 660th anniversary of the birth of Amir Temur in 1996 at the international level, as well as the activities carried out in this direction at the international and national levels, were also taken into account.

The Order of Amir Temur is awarded to citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan for outstanding merits in strengthening statehood, as well as for significant contributions to the development of architecture, science, literature, and art, including the enhancement of military skills. This order is also awarded to individuals who have made a special contribution to the development

<sup>2</sup> Temur va ulig'ek davri tarixi O'zbekiston fanlar akademiyasi tahrir institut "Qomuslar bosh tahriyiyati" Toshkent:2017 B - 12.

<sup>3</sup> Temur va ulig'bek davri tarixi O'zbekiston fanlar akademiyasi tahrir institut "Qomuslar bosh tahriyiyati" Toshkent:2017 B - 13.

<sup>4</sup> J.Eshov .A.Odilov O'zbekiston Tarixi "Donishmand Ziyosi" Toshkent: 2020 B - 6

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of interstate cooperation, the strengthening of peace, and the strengthening of friendly ties between peoples. It is established that the Order of Amir Temur may also be awarded to persons who are not citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

### CONCLUSION

In order to accurately reflect the high level of development of science, enlightenment, and culture during the era of Amir Temur and the Timurids, as well as to educate the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism by widely promoting these historical achievements and rich traditions, relevant tasks have been defined. To this end, in accordance with the resolution of March 14, 1996, the State Museum of the History of the Timurids was established in Tashkent within the system of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The French orientalist Lucien Keren served as the president of the "History and Art of the Timurids and French-Uzbek Cultural Relations" Association, established in France. His life path is unique in its complexity and richness of experience, which is largely associated with scientific research and international service. A participant in World War II, L. Keren works as an expert in Syria, Indochina, and the United Nations system in the post-war period. His first visit to Uzbekistan was carried out within the framework of this international activity <sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Bahodir Ermatov "Amir Temur G'arbiy Yevropa Adiblari nigohida "Navro'z nashrioti" Toshkent: 2019 B - 227.