

MILITARY ART AND TACTICS OF AMIR TEMUR

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Abstract: This article analyzes the military art, principles of army organization, management system, strategic planning and combat tactics of Amir Temur, who had high military-political potential in Central Asia in the 14th-15th centuries. It is shown that Amir Temur's military skill was based not only on the number of troops and weapons, but also on reconnaissance, rapid maneuver, selection of the battlefield, purposeful distribution of forces, use of reserves and a centralized system of army management. His military experience is covered on the basis of the works of Nizomiddin Shami and Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi "Zafarnoma", "Temur's Regulations" and modern research. The significance of the tactical methods used by Amir Temur in the development of the military art of that time is assessed from a scientific point of view.

Keywords: Amir Temur, military art, strategy, tactics, army, cavalry, maneuver, reconnaissance, reserve, order of battle, "Temur's rules", "Zafarnoma".

Introduction

Amir Temur (1336–1405) occupies an important place in the history of Central Asia not only as a statesman and political leader, but also as one of the greatest military commanders of his time. His military activities were inextricably linked with the formation of a centralized state in Transoxiana, the strengthening of its political and economic position, and the organization of military campaigns against external opponents (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Amir Temur

Modern studies note the organizational structure of the army, strict management, intelligence, logistics, choice of battlefield, rapid movement and maneuverability as the main features of Amir Temur's military art.

Important sources for studying Amir Temur's military art are "Temur's Regulations", the works of Nizomiddin Shami and Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi "Zafarnoma", and the information of Ibn Arabshah. However, when analyzing these sources, it is necessary to

take into account the period of their creation, the political views of the authors, and their attitude to historical events.

1. *The organizational structure of Amir Temur's army.*

One of the important aspects of Amir Temur's military system was the management of the army based on a clear organizational order. Historical and modern studies provide information about the use of units such as tens, hundreds, thousands and districts in the army. Such a system facilitated the management of the army, the transmission of orders and the coordination of the movement of units in battle. The main force of the army was cavalry. At the same time, infantry also performed important tasks. In particular, infantry was used in the siege of fortresses and cities, the capture of defensive structures and in some episodes of battles. In the army of Amir Temur, the unification of military forces drawn from different regions and tribes into a single management system was of great importance [1].

2. *Intelligence and military planning. Amir Temur attached great importance to collecting information during his military campaigns.*

Obtaining advance information about the enemy's number, location, direction of movement, roads, water sources, and natural and geographical features of the territory was an important component of military planning.

Modern studies also note the presence of special reconnaissance units in Amir Temur's army and their role in collecting information before the battle. This indicates that the principle of "knowing the situation before the battle" played an important role in Amir Temur's military art [2].

3. *Order of battle and distribution of forces.*

The order of battle of Amir Temur's army was formed in accordance with certain tasks. Sources and studies indicate the use of elements such as the vanguard, main forces, wings, and reserve.

Researchers emphasize that the reinforced "kunbuls", the vanguard, and a reserve consisting of selected fighters played an important role in his tactical system. This formation allowed the commander to redeploy forces as the situation changed during the battle. The presence of a reserve force was especially important tactically. By using the reserve at the decisive stage of the battle, it was possible to increase pressure on a weakened part of the enemy or support a part of his troops that was in danger [3].

4. *Maneuver and mobility.*

One of the important features of Amir Temur's tactics is high mobility and effective use of maneuver. The use of cavalry as the main force allowed the troops to cover large distances relatively quickly, influence the enemy's flanks, and change the direction of movement during the battle.

Modern studies emphasize that one of the important principles of Amir Temur's strategy is to distribute forces in the necessary direction and regroup at a decisive point [4].

From this point of view, in Amir Temur's tactics, such methods as:

- mobility;
- rapid redeployment of forces;
- influence on the enemy's flanks;
- timely introduction of reserves into battle;
- directing the main force to the enemy's weak point were of great importance.

5. Military trickery and deception methods.

Misleading the enemy and influencing his decision-making process also played an important role in Amir Temur's military art.

Tactical actions such as false retreats, changing the direction of movement, and covert redeployment of forces in battle could force the enemy to spend his forces in the wrong direction [5].

Studies published in 2025 also separately analyzed the issues of military trickery, battle order, and force management in Amir Temur's campaigns. The main goal of these methods was to weaken the enemy not only with physical force, but also by influencing his decision-making capabilities.

6. Choosing a battlefield Amir Temur took into account the natural and geographical features of the battlefield in his military planning.

While an open field allowed for the effective use of the mobility of cavalry, issues of troop movement and supply in mountainous or difficult terrain required separate planning [6].

Therefore, before the battle:

1. study the area;
2. assessing the enemy's direction of movement;
3. choosing a convenient position for the troops;
4. taking into account supply opportunities;
5. planning a possible retreat and reserve movement were important factors.

Modern studies also note that Amir Temur's military campaigns paid attention to seasonal planning, choosing a battlefield, reconnaissance and communication systems.

7. The Battle of Ankara is an important example of tactical skill.

The Battle of Ankara in 1402 is of particular importance in studying the military art of Amir Temur. In this battle, Amir Temur's army fought against the army of the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid I.

Among the factors that influenced the outcome of the battle, strategic factors such as the location of troops, water sources, maneuver, the use of allies, and the use of internal contradictions in the composition of the enemy army are indicated.

Therefore, the Battle of Ankara is an important historical example of the interrelationship of tactics, operational planning, and political-strategic factors in the military art of Amir Temur [7].

8. Logistics and army supply.

The success of any major military campaign depends not only on actions on the battlefield, but also on the ability to provide the army with long-term support.

Amir Temur's campaigns over long distances required advance planning of food, water, horses, weapons, and other supplies.

Modern studies indicate that logistics and seasonal planning of campaigns are among the distinctive features of Amir Temur's military system. Thus, his military art cannot be limited to tactical methods used in battle. The system of mobilization, movement and supply of troops was also an important condition for military victory [8].

9. Command and discipline. In the military system of Amir Temur, along with personal command skills, strict discipline and hierarchical management were also important.

A clear division of tasks in the army, the responsibility of military leaders and the execution of orders ensured coordinated action during the battle.

Studies emphasize that his army management was carried out through units such as tens, hundreds, thousands and districts.

Conclusion

Amir Temur's military art is one of the important examples of military thought of the XIV-XV centuries. It is not enough to explain his success solely by personal courage or the numerical superiority of the army.

The results of the study show that the main features of Amir Temur's military system were:

- first, a clear organizational and management system of the army;
- second, reconnaissance and advance information about the enemy;
- third, high mobility and maneuver;
- fourth, concentration of forces in a decisive direction;
- fifth, the targeted use of reserve forces;
- sixth, taking into account the battlefield and natural and geographical conditions;
- seventh, the use of military stratagems and methods of misleading the enemy;
- eighth, advance planning of troop supplies and campaigns;
- ninth, strict discipline and centralized command.

Thus, the main feature of Amir Temur's military art is the integration of strategic planning, operational mobility and tactical maneuver into a single system. His military experience, when studied from a historical point of view, serves as an important source for understanding the level of development of military management and tactical thinking in medieval Central Asia.

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