

PECULIARITIES OF BATTLE FORMATION ORGANIZATION IN AMIR TEMUR'S ARMY

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Abstract. The study analyzes how Amir Temur's military forces organized their battle formations in unique ways which distinguished their battle formation practices from other armies of the time. The study shows that Temur's army used battle formations which combined Turkic-Mongol military customs with new tactical developments and their strict military leadership system.

Keywords: Amir Temur, battle formation, military tactics, medieval warfare, Central Asian military history, Turkic-Mongol traditions, army organization

Аннотация. В данной статье исследуются особенности организации боевого порядка в армии Амира Темура (Тамерлана, 1336–1405), одного из выдающихся полководцев средневековья. Исследование показывает, что боевой порядок армии Темура представлял собой сложный синтез тюрко-монгольских военных традиций, тактических новшеств и строго организованной командной иерархии.

Ключевые слова: Амир Темура, боевой порядок, военная тактика, средневековые войны, военная история Центральной Азии, тюрко-монгольские традиции, организация армии

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada o'rta asrlarning buyuk sarkardalaridan biri bo'lgan Amir Temur (Temurlong, 1336–1405) qo'shinida jangovar tartibni tuzishning o'ziga xos xususiyatlari tadqiq etiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari Temur qo'shinining jangovar tartibi turk-mo'g'ul harbiy an'analari, taktik yangiliklar va qat'iy intizomli qo'mondonlik tizimining murakkab sintezi bo'lganini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Amir Temur, jangovar tartib, harbiy taktika, o'rta asrlar janglari, Markaziy Osiyo harbiy tarixi, turk-mo'g'ul an'analari, qo'shin tashkil etish

Introduction. The military campaigns of Amir Temur, known in Western historiography as Tamerlane, constitute one of the most remarkable chapters in the history of medieval warfare. Temur established a vast empire that extended from Anatolia to India through his military victories which he achieved between 1360 and 1405 against his powerful enemies the Ottoman Empire and the Golden Horde and the Delhi Sultanate [1]. Temur achieved military success through his method of establishing army formations which involved organizing soldiers into distinct operational groups that had specific duties and designated locations and command structures. The Turkic-Mongol military tradition served as the basic structure for Temur's army yet historical records show that he developed major changes which made his military organization different from what his predecessors and contemporaries used [2]. The primary sources which include the court historian writings of Sharaf ad-Din Ali Yazdi and Nizom ad-Din Shomiy and the strategic document "Temur Tuzuklari" offer valuable information about Temur's battle formations yet modern military historiography has not studied their organizational patterns in a complete manner [3].

Methodology and literature review. The study employs a methodological approach which conducts qualitative research through its examination of primary historical documents and secondary academic sources that discuss the military structure of Amir Temur's troops. The research team primarily examined two major primary sources which included "Zafarnoma" by Sharaf ad-Din Ali Yazdi which contains detailed descriptions of Temur's military operations and his battlefield strategies and "Zafarnoma" by Nizom ad-Din Shomiy which serves as an earlier

historical account that presents direct military battlefield descriptions [3]. The text "Temur Tuzuklari" (The Institutes of Temur) which scholars believe Temur himself wrote contains military regulations that describe how the army should organize its forces and divide its troops and execute its combat operations [4]. The research study developed its analytical framework through secondary sources which included the historical works of well-known historians who conducted research in that field. V.V. Bartold's studies on the history of the Turkic and Mongol peoples provide essential context for understanding the broader military traditions from which Temur's practices emerged [5].

The research of Kh. Bobobekov on the military art of Amir Temur offers valuable insights into the tactical dimensions of his battle formations, emphasizing the continuity and transformation of steppe warfare conventions [6]. B. F. Manz's comprehensive study of the rise and rule of Tamerlane provides a critical Western perspective on the political and military structures of Temur's empire, including the relationship between tribal organization and military deployment [7]. The research of J. Masson Smith about Mongol and Turkic military traditions has enhanced this study's comparative analysis by showing how Temur's military formations combined innovative elements with traditional military practices [8]. The study also draws from the research of Hamidulla Amin who examined Central Asian military history to show how Temur's military methods relate to the historical development of warfare in that region [9].

Results and discussion. The analysis of the sources shows that Amir Temur's army battle formation used a complex three-level system which combined traditional Turkic-Mongol military methods with new military features. The basic combat unit of Temur's army operated according to the decimal system which Mongol emperors used to structure their military forces into groups of ten (o'nlik), one hundred (yuzlik), one thousand (minglik), and ten thousand (tuman) [4]. The system established a complete command structure which enabled fast communication and operational coordination between the two armies that reached their largest size of 200000 soldiers. Temur used this system to construct his military strategy because he needed to build an army which included different ethnic groups and regional soldiers who would fight for him as their main leader instead of their tribal identity [7].

The battle formation itself, as described in "Temur Tuzuklari" and confirmed by the chronicles, was typically arranged into seven principal divisions: the advance guard (manglay), the right wing (barangar), the left wing (jarangar), the center (qol), the right flank reserve (o'ng qo'l ixtiyot), the left flank reserve (so'l qo'l ixtiyot), and the main reserve under the personal command of Temur (kandul) [4]. The seven-division system introduced a new structure that differed from the traditional three-part formation which included a center and two wings used by Mongol and Turkic armies throughout history [8]. The combination of an advance guard together with multiple reserve units gave Temur outstanding tactical options which enabled him to withstand enemy assaults while searching for vulnerabilities and executing powerful counterattacks during crucial battle moments.

The advance guard served the dual function of initiating contact with the enemy and conducting reconnaissance in force, while the reserves enabled Temur to respond dynamically to the shifting circumstances of battle without committing his main body prematurely [6]. Temur established his battle order with a special element which created the position of supreme commander to function as a military reserve. Temur used his reserve forces to observe the battle while he stayed behind the main battle line because he wanted to identify the critical moment when his forces should launch their strongest attack against the enemy. The military practice demonstrated advanced comprehension of force economy principles together with the critical need to keep troops in reserve for future combat operations which became essential elements of contemporary military doctrine.

Conclusion. The analysis conducted in this study demonstrates that the organization of battle formations in Amir Temur's army was characterized by a distinctive combination of inherited Turkic-Mongol military traditions and significant tactical innovations. The seven-

division battle order, the strategic use of reserves, the role of the supreme commander as a decisive tactical instrument, and the integration of diverse troop types into a unified and disciplined formation collectively constituted a military system of remarkable sophistication. These features enabled Temur to achieve consistent victories across vastly different theaters of war, against opponents of varying capabilities and military traditions. The findings of this research confirm that Temur's contribution to the art of warfare extended beyond mere conquest; he developed a coherent system of battle organization that represented a substantive advance in the military practice of his era and left a lasting imprint on the military traditions of Central Asia and beyond.

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