AMIR TEMUR'S ROLE IN SECURITY ISSUES IN CENTRAL ASIA AND STATE ADMINISTRATION

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Annotation. *This article extensively discusses Amir Temur's role in security issues in Central Asia and his recognition as a statesman, state administration and his experience in it.*

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There were many military leaders in the history of mankind such as Alexander the Great, Hannibal, Attila and Chingis Khan who left an unforgettable trace in the history of the military art. But the most prominent one among the all mentioned above was Amir Temur who founded a unique school of strategy, tactics of battle conduct and gaining victories over the enemy. When Amir Temur was ten years old, his advisors taught him different types of military art and sport games. Due to the personal courage and ability to choose true fellow-fighters and partners, Amir Temur won the fame of the Kashkadarya military nomadic youth leader. Moreover, Amir Temur became closer and made friends with the powerful Maverannahr emirs. In 1370 Amir Temur was appointed to the position of the Turan supreme ruler and mounted the throne at Samarkand, the capital of his dominions, and the entire territory of Maverannahr. He united the lands between the Amudarya and the Sirdarya Rivers which were called Maverannahr. Later on, he added Fergana and Shash to his dominions. At that period of time Temur‘s main goal was to create his strong centralized state power in Maverannahr and secure the country. But first of all his life‘s work was to found reliable guard units that were given certain privilege and consequently became the base of Temur‘s state power. When the lands between the

Amudarya and the Sirdarya Rivers had been united, the next Temur‘s goal was to establish one powerful state. By 1380 on the all conquered territories there was only ulus Hulagu, situated on the present day Iranian territory that was not subordinate to Amir Temur. At that period of time there was some danger from Mogolistan, the Golden and the White Hordes. They captured threatening Temur‘s lands. The northern and the eastern borders of Temur‘s state were constantly attacked by Mogolistan and the White Hordes. This fact made Temur start a wide range of military campaigns. In 1389 and 1391 Temur fought a few battles against Tokhtamysh – the Golden Horde khan. In 1391 there was a fierce battle where Temur heavily defeated the army of khan Tokhtamysh. The battle took place in the vicinity of Kunduzcha between the present-day city of Samara and the town of Chistopol.

During the five-year period of wars from 1392 till 1396 Amir Temur invaded Iran, Azerbaijan and Iraq. The western frontiers of his state included Syria and Asia Minor. So the distance between his capital Samarkand and the new western frontiers were 5,000 km long. In April 1395 there was a fierce battle between the two monarchs Amir Temur and khan Tokhtamysh on the bank of the Terek River. That battle ended in complete defeat of the Golden Horde army. On 18 June 1391 there was a fierce battle between two armies, numbered 400,000 warriors from each. The battle took place in the vicinity of Kunduzcha between the present-day city of Samara and the town of Chistopol in Russia. It was one of the greatest battles of that time. The combat formation was chosen by Amir Temur. For the first time in his military practice he built his combat formation in seven corps which had never been used before. On the opposite side khan Tokhtamysh divided his troops into five parts. The battle lasted for three days. At the height of the fighting Tokhtamysh banner was overthrown and his troops put to flight. There were appointed seven warriors to pursue Tokhtamysh army. Amir Temur pursued the warriors of sultan up to the Volga River in leaps and bounds. As a result, most of Tokhtamysh troops were destroyed. So one battle decided the

outcome of the whole campaign. Amir Temur came back to his troops in Samarkand at the end of the October, 1391. As a result of this campaign the following conclusions can be made: being in difficult conditions, Temur _s troops marched at a distance of more than 2,500 km; due to his efficient maneuvers Temur blocked the way for Tokhtamysh troops to the south where the Mongolian khan could get additional support from his Azov subjects; Amir Temur made Tokhtamysh enter the decisive battle and deprived the Mongols of the opportunity to exhaust his troops; for the first time in his military practice Amir Temur used a new combat formation where he split up his troops into seven parts and detached a strong reserve to it; before the battle Amir Temur delivered a psychological attack on the enemy and blew his moral spirit; the pursuit of Tokhtamysh army was so fast that his warriors didn‘t have time to get the troops together. The Mongols were dispersed and khan Tokhtamysh lost the battle. On 15 April, 1395 the second decisive battle between Amir Temur and khan Tokhtamysh took place in the valley of the Terek River. In that battle Amir Temur once again, like in the battle of Kunduzcha, split up his troops into seven parts.

The battle formation of his army included three lines: the first line consisted of the vanguard that disrupted the enemy combat formation and made the Mongols feel frightened and panic; They were equipped with heavy weapons and assigned the mission to repel the enemy attack; and the third line was the reserve. The light-armed units were deployed in front of the main vanguard, as well as on the right and left wings of his combat formation. In the course of that battle all the units operated independently and were subordinate only to the Supreme Commanderin-Chief. Such combat formation had the following advantages: It ensured the massive, continuous enemy mounted and dismounted attack; the bulk strength of Temur‘s troops was under the cover of the light-armed units and his rearguard. Such combat formation and tactics used by Temur considerably increased defense stability of the forces and blocked their envelopment by the enemy both wings and the rear; Being absolutely

sure in their advantages of Temur‘s combat formation, Tokhtamysh took up the same one for his troops further battles; Tokhtamysh troops, not being able to endure the put on pressure, began retreating and suffered the destructive defeat. From the point of view of the military art development the battles of Kunduzcha in 1391 and the battle on the Terek River had the following pecularities: Amir Temur was able to take his troops across the Terek River using the ruse of war; Amir Temur managed to conduct stable defense and effective offense due to the column formation of his troops; Temur‘s victories in these historical battles demonstrated effectiveness of such types of tactics as swift shift to offense and defense, unexpected change from mounted to dismounted combat and setting an ambush; Effective cooperation of Temur‘s combat elements allowed his troops cope with difficult battlefield situations and gain convincing victories; The right choice of the main blow direction decided the battles‘ outcomes. Military campaigns to Asia Minor. One of the largest medieval battles between the troops of Amir Temur and the Turkish army commanded by sultan Bayazet I took place on 20 July, 1402 near Ankara. The formation of the Temur‘s army comprised the centre, the left and the right wings each of which had theirown vanguard. There were a few rows of archers, 32 fighting elephants with fire throwers in front of the Temur‘s troops. Behind the center there was the reserve manned by the best trained warriors personally commanded by Amir Temur. Both the flanks and the reserve of Temur‘s army were rather strong. The reserve of Bayazet I formation faced the mountains and had the routes for withdrawal on the right flank. The janissaries were formed up in the center. The center of the Ottaman army was strong enough, but the flanks were rather weak. In that battle the main forces of the Turkish army were surrounded and destroyed, accordingly, sultan Bayazet I was captured. At the end of the battle 30,000 Temur‘s warriors were ordered to pursue the retreating Turkish army.

The seven-year war (1399-1404) was the largest one among those Amir Temur ever conducted. As a result of that war, Temur captured a number of Syrian and Iraqi

cities such as Damascus, Baghdad and a large part of Asia Minor. In that battle Amir Temur gained a victory not only over Asia Minor but also over Sultan who was one of the greatest military leaders of the medieval times. As a result of campaign to Asia Minor and the battle of Ankara the following conclusions can be made: Amir Temur secured his right flank against the possible blows from Egypt and Syria; due to the use of competent and skilled operational maneuvers Amir Temur made his opponent accept his will and withdrew from the suitable positions; combination of the flanks‘ blows with the ones in the center and commitment of the reserve with the subsequent envelopment of Sultan Bayazet I army predetermined the outcome of the battle; the battle of Ankara was one of the largest one in the medieval history. Temur‘s victory brought him world fame in the countries of Western Europe. Amir Temur is one of the greatest military leaders who worked out his own strategy and tactics. Being a wise statesman and a great general, he, without any doubts, has remained a legendary hero in the world history since his life time. Amir Temur‘s tactics and strategy had the decisive character. The strategic basis of Temur‘s battles combined deep knowledge of war waging forms and methods as well as use of active offensive operations. Amir Temur‘s approach to the organization of his troops was creative. When it was necessary, he quickly changed his forces combat formation. Also, Amir Temur paid great attention to the tactics of combat maneuvers conduct. Amir Temur considered that success of any battle and fulfillment of his strategic and tactical plans depended on the strict principle of army command and control centralization. The main idea of that principle lay in subordination of all troops to one commander. To sum up, we can state that some battles of Amir Temur had a great influence on the development of the world military art tactics and strategy.

There is, of course, a big difference between the era in which our grandfather Sahibkiran lived and today's world politics and state governance. However, today's world politicians can learn and implement many aspects of state governance from

Amir Temur. In particular, Sahibkiran widely used the policy of councils in strengthening the pillars of the state.

Amir Temur relied on socio-political institutions such as kurultai and kengash in state governance and paid great attention to their activities. In particular, the Security Council, which was considered the highest body of the country's security system, was engaged in state governance, the formation of internal, external and military security policies. This structure was also entrusted with tasks such as preserving state sovereignty, ensuring socio-political stability, and protecting state borders. In addition, the council also carried out important work such as eliminating emergency situations occurring in the country and studying their causes.

Today, the need to comprehensively study and use Amir Temur's rich heritage and his statehood ideas is increasing.