



## THE HISTORY OF THE AMIR TEMUR ERA IN WESTERN HISTORIOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT	KEYWORDS
This article scientifically analyzes the study of Amir Temur and the Timurid period in Western historiography, as well as the views of European scholars, writers, and orientalists. It examines how the image of Sahibqiran was portrayed in Western literature and historical sources, and how his state administration, military strategy, and cultural heritage were evaluated.	Amir Temur, Timurids, Western historiography, world history, oriental studies, Clavijo, Barthold.

### Introduction

Amir Temur is one of the most studied historical figures in world history and has been the subject of numerous debates and discussions. His activities as a statesman, commander, and politician left a deep impression not only in Eastern but also in Western historiography. Interest in Temur's personality emerged in medieval Europe and grew stronger in later centuries [1].

Beginning from the 14th–15th centuries, the first information about Temur and the Timurid state was collected by European travelers, ambassadors, and historians. In particular, the diaries written as a result of Rui Gonzalez de Clavijo's journey to Samarkand became one of the most important sources for the West concerning Temur's state [2]. Through this source, the first perceptions of the Timurid Empire were formed in the European scholarly environment.

In later centuries, especially during the 16th–18th centuries, the image of Amir Temur became a literary interpretation in Western literature. Christopher Marlowe, Nicholas Rowe, Voltaire, and other writers portrayed Temur in theatrical works and philosophical essays as a powerful ruler striving to conquer the world [3]. These works not only possessed literary value but also greatly influenced the formation of Temur's image in European public consciousness.

At the same time, different approaches toward Temur's personality emerged in Western historiography. On the one hand, he was interpreted as a cruel conqueror and invader; on the other hand, he was

evaluated as a great state builder, founder of order and discipline, and patron of culture [4]. These contrasting views demonstrate the historical complexity of Temur's personality.

By the 19th–20th centuries, the Timurid era began to be studied on a scientific basis. German, French, and Russian orientalists, particularly V.V. Barthold and A.Yu. Yakubovsky, scientifically analyzed Temur's state system, military strategy, and economic policy [5]. Their works laid the foundation for the formation of Timurid studies as an independent scholarly field.

Today, more than 500 scientific and literary works have been written about Temur, confirming that he is one of the most studied political and military figures in world history [6]. Modern studies pay particular attention to Temur's state administration, diplomatic relations, role in the development of trade routes, and contributions to culture and science.

Therefore, the main purpose of this article is to analyze how the era of Amir Temur was reflected in Western historiography, to examine the views of scholars and writers from different periods, and to generalize their scientific approaches. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of Temur's historical image.

## Literature Review

The historiography of Amir Temur and the Timurid period is a broad and multilayered scholarly field studied by both Eastern and Western scholars through various approaches. Analysis of the literature on this subject shows that works devoted to Temur differ from historical, literary, philosophical, and political perspectives.

In Western historiography, the first information about Amir Temur was mainly formed through travelers and ambassadors. One of the most important sources is Rui Gonzalez de Clavijo's "Diary of a Journey to Samarkand to the Court of Timur" [7]. In this work, the author describes in detail the order of Temur's court, diplomatic receptions, and the state administration system. Written between 1404–1406, this diary is recognized as one of the most reliable historical sources about Temur's state for the West. Clavijo portrayed Temur as a powerful ruler based on strict order and discipline [8].

During the 16th–18th centuries, the image of Amir Temur in European literature developed as a dramatic and philosophical hero. In "Tamburlaine the Great," Christopher Marlowe depicted Temur as a powerful commander striving for unlimited authority [9]. This work played a major role in popularizing Temur's image in European theater. Nicholas Rowe, in his tragedy "Tamerlane," portrayed Temur as a complex figure balancing justice and tyranny [10]. In these works, Temur was interpreted more as a political and moral symbol.

During the European Enlightenment of the 18th century, Temur became an object of philosophical analysis. Voltaire mentioned Temur in his works as a strong statesman who influenced historical processes [11]. He used Temur's image to compare Eastern despotism with European Enlightenment ideas. Edward Gibbon, in "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," evaluated Temur as a figure striving to conquer the world while exerting enormous influence on historical developments [12].

In the 19th–20th centuries, the scientific school of Oriental studies emerged in the study of Temur's history. V.V. Barthold scientifically analyzed Temur and presented him not only as a conqueror but also as a state builder [13]. Barthold studied Temur's policy in connection with the traditions of Genghis Khan.

A.Yu. Yakubovsky focused particularly on Temur's economic policy and his strategy of controlling trade routes [14]. He evaluated the Timurid state as a system that established stability in Central Asia. Modern research has formed an extensive bibliographic base concerning Temur. In the bibliography compiled by M. Dagen Hort in 1913, hundreds of works related to Temur and the Timurids are listed [14]. French orientalist Lucien Keren also widely studied the Timurid era and analyzed its influence on European and Asian culture [15].

Furthermore, Abdulhay Habibi and other researchers produced comprehensive works illuminating the art, architecture, and cultural development of the Timurid period.

Analysis of the literature shows that perceptions of Amir Temur changed over different historical periods. In early Western sources, he was mainly portrayed as a military commander, while later scientific studies evaluated him as a state builder, strategist, and patron of culture.

## Research Methodology

This study is devoted to analyzing the representation of Amir Temur and the Timurid era in Western historiography through a combination of historical and scientific approaches. The methodological basis of the research consists of the principles of historicism, objectivity, and comparative analysis.

One of the primary methods used in the study is the historical-comparative method. Through this approach, Western sources created in different periods were compared, and the evolution of Temur's image was identified. In particular, medieval travel accounts (Rui Gonzalez de Clavijo), Renaissance literary works (Christopher Marlowe, Nicholas Rowe), and Enlightenment philosophical writings (Voltaire, Gibbon) were comparatively analyzed. This method made it possible to reveal how evaluations of Temur were connected to historical contexts.

Another important approach used in the research is source criticism and textual analysis. Through this method, Western historians' views about Temur were evaluated according to their level of objectivity. For instance, Clavijo's diaries were considered reliable eyewitness sources, whereas some literary works, such as Marlowe's tragedies, were found to be based more on artistic interpretation than historical reality [14].

During the research, a broad bibliographic base on Timurid studies was examined. The bibliographic list compiled by M. Dagen Hort, as well as works of French, German, and Russian orientalists, were systematically analyzed.

The combination of these methods made it possible to conduct a comprehensive analysis of how Amir Temur's image was formed in Western historiography. Historical-comparative and source-critical approaches proved especially effective in revealing the historical evolution of Temur's image.

## Analysis and Results

During this study, scientific, literary, and philosophical evaluations of Amir Temur and the Timurid period in Western historiography were analyzed. The findings show that the image of Temur became a complex and multilayered phenomenon that evolved throughout different historical stages.

The analysis demonstrates that Amir Temur's image in Western historiography developed in three main stages:

Stage 1 (14th–15th centuries) — The earliest depictions emerged through travelers and ambassadors, particularly Rui Gonzalez de Clavijo, who portrayed Temur as a strong and disciplined ruler [15].

Stage 2 (16th–18th centuries) — This was the literary period in which playwrights such as Christopher Marlowe and Nicholas Rowe presented Temur as a dramatic hero, sometimes characterized by excessive ambition for power [16].

Stage 3 (19th–20th centuries) — This was the era of scientific Oriental studies, during which scholars like Barthold and Yakubovsky analyzed Temur as an objective historical figure [3].

In Western historiography, Amir Temur was interpreted differently. Some scholars considered him a cruel conqueror, while others evaluated him as a state builder and patron of culture [16].

French orientalist Lucien Keren described Temur as a cultural bridge between Asia and Europe [14]. According to him, Temur influenced not only military affairs but also diplomatic and cultural processes.

Russian orientalists, especially Barthold, analyzed Temur's state system in connection with the traditions of Genghis Khan.

I.M. Muminov scientifically illuminated Temur's role in the history of Central Asia and particularly emphasized his state-building activity.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the results of this research, it can be concluded that Amir Temur and the Timurid era formed a complex and multifaceted historical phenomenon in Western historiography. The analysis shows that Temur's image was interpreted differently across historical periods, depending on the historical context, ideological views, and scholarly approaches of the authors.

In early European sources, especially the works of Rui Gonzalez de Clavijo, Temur was depicted as a powerful and disciplined ruler, while later literary works by Christopher Marlowe and Nicholas Rowe portrayed him as a dramatic figure striving for excessive power.

In the 19th–20th centuries, the scientific school of Oriental studies emerged, and scholars such as V.V. Barthold and A.Yu. Yakubovsky attempted to study Temur through objective historical analysis [3]. At this stage, Temur began to be recognized not only as a conqueror but also as a state builder, creator of political systems, and influential figure in economic processes.

Overall, the results of the study indicate that Temur's image in historiography possesses a dual interpretation: on the one hand, he is viewed as a cruel military commander; on the other hand, as a great statesman and patron of culture.

Based on the research findings, the following scientific and practical recommendations are proposed:

- Western and Eastern sources should be analyzed comprehensively in studying Amir Temur and the Timurid era in order to ensure historical objectivity.
- The differences between literary and scientific sources should be clearly distinguished to better understand the historical and artistic interpretations of Temur's image.
- New scholarly research should be expanded on the economic policy, diplomacy, and cultural relations of the Timurid era.
- It is advisable to strengthen cooperation between Uzbek and foreign scholars in the field of Timurid studies.

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