



## MILITARY HERITAGE OF TAMERLANE

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**Annotation:** *this article tells about the military heritage of Amir Temur, a famous commander, statesman.*

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The greatest commander of the Middle Ages, the founder of the largest power of the era, the winner of the Golden Horde and the Ottoman state. The great Timur, who almost repeated the success of Genghis Khan in creating a world empire, was born in 1336. In Europe, he became known as Tamerlane (it comes from the Persian "Tamerlanleng" - "lame Tamerlane") and as "iron lame". He called himself "Gurgan" - that is, "son-in-law" of the house of the descendants of Genghis Khan, although he was not any relative of the Genghisides. The conquered peoples with fear called him Sahibkiran, which means victorious - the owner of a happy combination of stars.

Truly, he was a lucky man and a darling of fate. And truly - a horror for their enemies: one has only to recall Vereshchagin's painting "The Apotheosis of War" with a mound of skulls. This is how Tamerlane preferred to communicate with recalcitrant captives who did not want to recognize his will over their fate.

And there were many of them - for the swing of Tamerlane's saber reached far. to many countries. He was a worthy spiritual successor to Genghis Khan, who saw the limits of his empire where the hooves of the Mongol horses could reach. Tamerlane developed this idea even further: "The entire expanse of the populated part of the world does not deserve to have more than one king." Tamerlane himself.

Formally, Tamerlane never proclaimed himself a khan and constantly kept with him dummy khans from the Genghisides. Thus, he demonstrated his loyalty to the precepts of Genghis Khan and once again reminded everyone of his own roots. He was Barlas by origin - a representative of one of the four Chagatai tribes, descendants of nomads who once came to Central Asia with Genghis Khan himself and his heirs.

Tamerlane was born into the family of the Barlas bek Toragai, a poor but influential man, in the village of Khoja Ilgar, not far from the city of Shakhryyabz. He was brought up as a future warrior and early became a good rider and an excellent archer. But Tamerlane never forgot that he was the son of a bek, and therefore he always tried to be the leader in all children's games. By nature, he was a true leader and therefore already in adolescence he acquired four devoted nukers (future warriors, so far only horse servants). At the head of his nukers, he famously attacked distant and close neighbors, stealing almost every day either a sheep, or a cow, and occasionally a horse - the main value of yesterday's nomads.



At first, for Tamerlane, this was youthfulness, an attempt to prove to everyone, and above all to himself, that he can already live according to the great law of nomads, who consider everything that their neighbor cannot protect or hide as their own. Over time, this great nomadic wisdom became clear to young Tamerlane. For, following it, he became stronger and stronger. Not only by their own strength and polished military skills, but also by the number of their supporters. For the captured prey testified to his luck, one of the most necessary qualities of the future leader. Word of her spread throughout the area. As well as the news of his generosity, for he divided everything obtained with a generous hand among his associates. Believing that this prey is not what he wants for himself. That all of it is yet to come. And the surrounding youth whispered about this among themselves, deciding to link their fate with Tamerlane. Soon he had more nukers. And the goals of his detachment became different - the extraction of entire villages, caravans of merchants passing by.

In 1361, Tamerlane offered his services to the Mongol Khan Toklug-Tamerlane, who appeared with his army in Maverannahr. So Tamerlanleng became the ruler of Kashkadarya.

Soon the khan sent his son as governor of the whole country. But Tamerlane, not sparing the treasury, gathering soldiers, refused to recognize the power of the khan's son over Kashkadarya and proclaimed himself an independent ruler.

In many ways, this was possible thanks to Emir Hussein, the grandson of the great Emir Kazagan. The emir saw great inclinations in the young robber and began to help him, relying in his policy on the growing power of Tamerlane. They became related - and Hussein's sister Uljay Turkan-aga became the beloved wife of Tamerlane, from now on - also the emir.

Together, the two emirs went on campaigns against their neighbors. They were looking for glory, and more - prey. For Hussein was never too lazy to repeat that the strong is always right. However, he was not the only one who thought so - and therefore not every joint raid turned out to be successful. Once in Seistan, together with Hussein, they attacked the shepherds guarding the flock of sheep. But this time they were ambushed. Most of the detachment of Tamerlane was cut down. They wounded him in the right leg with a saber blow, knocked him off his horse and tried to finish him off on the ground.

Wounded, he accepted the battle and emerged victorious from it. True, having lost two fingers on the right hand, which fell under the cunning smashing blow of the rider. But with his left hand, Tamerlane managed to cut down the enemy. In 1365, his son Ilyas Khoja, expelled from here after the death of Toklug-Tamerlane, came to Maverannahr. Tamerlane and Hussein, having recruited an army, went to meet him. Between Chinaz and Tashkent, the troops met. And that began what will go down in history under the name "mud battle". A heavy downpour turned the clay into sticky mud. Tamerlane and Hussein were forced to flee to Samarkand, the possession of







Hussein, and further - beyond the Amu Darya, to the Balkh region, leaving the battlefield and their lands to the winner.

Fortunately for the people of Samarkand, there were many Serbedars in the city, which means "gallowsmen", because the Serbedars said that it was better to die on the gallows than to obey the Mongols. Tamerlane and Hussein by this time had already become related to the local population, while Ilyas Khoja was a real Mongol khan. And the Serbedars swore to defend the city from him.

They left the main roads free, while the inner narrow streets were blocked with barricades and chains were stretched from above. They placed archers above the key barricades. And from the flanks they hit the Mongols, when they, not expecting a dirty trick, were drawn into the city. In the very first ambush battle, Ilyas Khoja lost about two thousand soldiers. The rest were embroiled in a grueling urban war. Soon the invaders survived another blow - a pestilence began among their horses: out of every four, only one survived. A Mongol without a horse is not a warrior, and their khan hurriedly retreated from Samarkand, leading away his army, almost already on foot.

The Serbedars remained the masters of the city. Hussein and Tamerlane returned to Samarkand a few months later. They did not return immediately - they accumulated strength so that there was something to oppose to the armed citizens, who had tasted victory over a strong enemy and now were not particularly eager to submit to the old rulers again.

Without entering the city, the emirs stopped in a small village and widely informed everyone that they fully approved of all the actions of the Serbedars and invited their leaders to their headquarters. The first solemn reception was held in an atmosphere of love and friendship - all the rulers of the Serbedars were given almost royal signs of attention. The rumor about such an honor spread widely around the district. The next day, Hussein and Tamerlane again invited the people of Samarkand to talk about business, about the future of the city. They invited, knowing that they could not agree. Yes, they didn't really try - almost immediately they were seized and accused of usurping power, violating the rights of an existing dynasty, of causing offense to worthy people of the city ...

Almost immediately after the accusations were made, the leaders of the Serbedars were executed. And Samarkand, shocked by the decisiveness of the emirs, unconditionally recognized their power.

Soon disagreements began between the father-in-law and the son-in-law, each of whom wanted to be the first in the country. Disagreements ended in 1370 with the death of Hussein. In the same year, the military leaders of Maverannahr proclaim Tamerlane the sole sovereign of the country, and Tamerlane himself appoints Genghisid Suyurgatmysh as khan, the first of a chain of dummy khans, under whom he will be the real ruler for many decades.

In 1372, Tamerlane set off on a campaign against Khorezm, an ancient and rich country, and a year later undertook another campaign. The result of two campaigns





was the humility of Khorezm and the entry of its southern part into the state of Tamerlane.

Soon Khan Tokhtamysh ran from the White Horde to Tamerlane, the son of the closest associate of the Khan of the White Horde, recently executed for speaking out against the intention of the Khan of the White Horde to unite the entire ulus of Jochi under his rule, subjugating the Golden Horde.

Tamerlane several times helped Tokhtamysh organize a campaign against the Khan of the White Horde. In the end, in 1379, Tokhtamysh became the Khan of the White Horde, immediately forgetting about the help of Tamerlane and deciding himself to become the head of the entire Jochi ulus.

Fulfilling this intention, soon after the defeat of Mamai on the Kulikovo field by Dmitry Donskoy in the same 1380, he again defeated Mamai on the Kalka River. After that, he became the sole khan of the Golden and White Hordes, i.e., the ulus of Jochi.

His aggressive policy in Transcaucasia increasingly came into conflict with Tamerlane. So, Tokhtamysh incited the Shah of Khorezm to fight against Tamerlane. He moved in response to a campaign against Northern Khorezm.

Its ruler, Yusuf Sufi, closed with an army in his capital, Urgench. Seeing the impregnability of the walls of this fortress city, Tamerlane threw his army with fiery lava against the surrounding villages. Then Yusuf decided to try his luck and offered to meet Tamerlane in a personal duel.

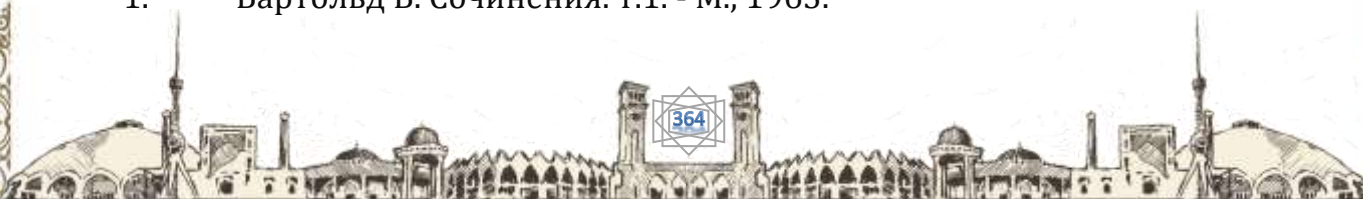
Tamerlane accepted the challenge - despite everyone's persuasion. In light armor, with a saber and shield, he shouted at the city moat for a long time, calling Yusuf and reminding him that death is better than breaking a word. Yusuf did not come out, suddenly remembering the glory of Tamerlane as a skilled warrior. The following year, he goes on a campaign to India, captures Delhi and takes out huge booty from there, including two white parrots, which for many years "guarded" the peace of the Delhi sultans. Immediately after the completion of the campaign to India in 1400, he began a fight with the Turkish sultan Bayazed and the Egyptian sultan Faraj. His army captured cities in Asia Minor and Syria.

Here, under Ankara, in 1402 the greatest battle of many, many eras took place. Both Tamerlane and Bayazed had more than 200 thousand troops each. Tamerlane won. Thus, stopping the influx of Turks into Europe, whose troops Bayazed had recently utterly defeated, and postponing the conquest of Constantinople and the fall of the Byzantine Empire. Who knows, if not for this respite, Europe would eventually have been able to find the strength to squeeze the Turks into Asia?

The West got bored, and at the end of 1404, Tamerlane moved to China with a 200,000-strong army. But he did not reach there, having died on February 18, 1405.

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