



# Amir Temur – A Symbol of Justice and Power

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**Abstract:** This article explores the perception of Amir Temur during the Soviet era, the restoration of his historical role and significance following Uzbekistan's independence, and his contributions to the establishment of a centralized state. It discusses his governance, adherence to justice, economic and cultural progress during his rule, as well as his diplomatic relations with other states.

**Keywords:** Soviet era, Amir Temur, centralized state, state governance, "Power is in justice," "Temur's Code," historical sources, Amir Temur's empire, international relations, Amir Temur as the "Liberator of Europe."

**Introduction:** Independence is invaluable primarily because it restored our nation's sacred values, rich cultural and spiritual heritage, and, along with them, the truth about the great historical figure, Amir Temur. The rich historical legacy left by Amir Temur instills boundless strength and pride in our national identity.

During the Soviet era, this great leader was portrayed as a "conqueror and destroyer," and efforts were made to evoke not sincere respect but rather hatred towards him. Scholars who wrote the historical truth about Amir Temur faced persecution and criticism.

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, stated: "If a nation and a state are not independent, others may not only oppress their farmers and workers but also humiliate their poets, scholars, and statesmen at will, trampling on their human dignity."

Indeed, during the Soviet period, our people were subjected to numerous humiliations. Only with independence did the image of Amir Temur become a symbol of the Uzbek people, their pride, and honor.

First and foremost, he was a great statesman, the

founder of a centralized state, and a ruler who based his governance on law and justice. As a renowned commander, he was acknowledged across the seven climes.

It should be noted that the political struggles of his era shaped Amir Temur's path, paving the way for the realization of his grand objectives. His primary mission was to liberate the homeland from the Mongols, eliminate feudal fragmentation and internal strife, and establish a centralized state in Mawarannahr.

However, his great mission was hindered by the envious ruler of Balkh, Amir Husayn, who continuously obstructed his efforts. Consequently, in the spring of 1370, Amir Temur was forced to march against him, eventually defeating and overthrowing him.

One of Amir Temur's remarkable qualities was his magnanimity. Historian Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, in *Zafarnama*, writes about an instance where Amir Temur, addressing his commanders, stated: "I have forgiven his blood, I have drawn a line over vengeance."

For example, when Amir Kaykhusraw demanded revenge for his slain brother and asked Temur to hand over Amir Husayn for justice, the great leader responded with wisdom: "Abandon your claim; your brother's blood will haunt him regardless." This exemplifies Amir Temur's exceptional moral integrity.

Through his military campaigns, diplomatic prowess, and strategic acumen, Amir Temur freed many regions from Mongol rule, eliminated political fragmentation, and established a centralized state governed by intellect and legal principles. His famous words, "Nine parts of state affairs are accomplished through counsel, planning, and consultation, while the remaining one part is fulfilled by the sword," illustrate his governance philosophy. His life's purpose was "to be a remedy for the suffering of the nation."

Through his conquests, Amir Temur established a vast empire. While he allocated certain lands to his sons and grandsons, he never granted control over Mawarannahr, safeguarding its unity and sanctity as the heart of his empire. This demonstrates his deep patriotic devotion to his homeland.

Amir Temur's internal and external policies were aimed at elevating his state economically, politically, and culturally. His primary goals were to ensure justice, establish order and peace, improve citizens' welfare, strengthen infrastructure, and develop the state.

One of Amir Temur's greatest contributions was his governance based on a legal framework, known as Temur's Code, at a time when European states lacked written constitutions. In Temur's Code, he states: "I governed state affairs in accordance with the laws of

the empire. I maintained my rank and position in the empire by adhering to its regulations and statutes... I built the foundation of my empire on religion, Islam, and legal principles."

He took a highly responsible approach to implementing legal systems, setting a personal example of adherence to the law. He proclaimed: "I considered impartiality the foremost virtue. I treated everyone with equal seriousness and fairness, distinguishing no one from another, never placing the wealthy above the poor. I ruled with justice and integrity, ensuring that both the guilty and the innocent received fair treatment."

It is particularly noteworthy that Amir Temur introduced a legal foundation that accounted for the activities and interests of all social classes. This approach became the guiding principle of his legal framework.

In his administration, the grievances of ordinary citizens were taken seriously. To address this, he established the position of Arzbegi, responsible for reporting to him on military and civilian complaints, as well as the state of the nation. As Amir Temur wrote: "I ordered the appointment of an Arzbegi to oversee the affairs of soldiers and civilians, to bring their grievances to me, and to report on the prosperity or decline of the country."

One of the most remarkable aspects of Amir Temur's governance was the introduction of the Amir of Justice position, a rank rarely seen in history. This role was equivalent to that of a minister and was responsible for resolving civil and military disputes through peaceful and fair means.

Unlike other rulers of his time, Amir Temur appointed two officials to oversee his activities, granting them the authority to observe, monitor, and participate in discussions between him and other officials.

Amir Temur's legacy continues to inspire leadership based on wisdom, justice, and the principles of governance that prioritize the well-being of the nation. His contributions laid the foundation for a powerful and organized state, shaping the course of history.

It is evident that one of the key advantages of Amir Temur's governance was his strict adherence to justice and the rule of law. During his reign, in all territories of the empire, the principle "Strength is in justice, not justice in strength" was upheld.

In Temur's Code, he wrote: "I opened the doors of justice in every country and blocked the path of oppression and tyranny." He also strictly demanded that his sons and grandsons adhere to the law, justice, and truth.

Theft and robbery were rigorously eradicated in Amir

Temur's state. He ordered: "... let thieves and bandits be punished according to 'Yasa,' let corrupt, immoral, and greedy individuals be expelled from the country."

He did not tolerate officials who disobeyed the law, abandoned justice and conscience, abused their positions, or committed treason against the state. Those guilty of such offenses were severely punished.

Furthermore, he paid great attention to eradicating poverty by ensuring employment opportunities. In Temur's Code, he stated: "... let the beggars of each country be given work and responsibilities so that the custom of begging disappears." He also instructed that "... after conquering a land, gather its beggars, provide them with food and daily necessities, assign them a task, and mark them to prevent further begging. If they continue begging despite this, let them be exiled to distant lands or sold off. Only then will beggary disappear from the country."

During his reign, Amir Temur focused on improving the material well-being of citizens, adhering to the belief that "If the people are prosperous, the state will be rich and powerful."

Every inch of land was utilized efficiently; all cultivable areas were turned into orchards and fields. The prominence of the Great Silk Road increased further during his rule, leading to the expansion of domestic and international trade, as well as the flourishing of craftsmanship.

Amir Temur placed great emphasis on the development of science and culture, fostering scholars, intellectuals, and artisans. His capital, Samarkand, became one of the most beautiful and prosperous cities in the world.

As historian Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi wrote in *Zafarnama*: "... due to the rule of this religiously devoted world conqueror, Samarkand reached such prosperity that it surpassed even Cairo in fame, with its wealth, thriving population, and frequent visitors from all corners of the world."

Ibn Arabshah, in *The History of Amir Temur*, also describes: "Temur built numerous gardens in Samarkand, erecting high and fortified palaces, naming them 'Eram Garden,' 'Adornment of the World,' 'Paradise of Bliss,' 'Garden of Winds,' and 'Superior Paradise.'"

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, emphasizes: "Amir Temur made Samarkand the capital of his great empire, turning it into one of the most powerful and prosperous cities in the world."

Indeed, both the governance of Amir Temur and his capital, Samarkand, gained worldwide fame.

Spanish ambassador Ruy González de Clavijo, who

visited Amir Temur's empire, wrote in his *Diary*: "This land is abundant in grains, fruits, poultry, and all kinds of meat products; in short, it is a land of plenty."

The flourishing markets, affordable prices, and vast availability of goods demonstrated the economic prosperity of Amir Temur's state.

By defeating Tokhtamysh Khan, Amir Temur not only secured his own country's safety but also played a significant role in Russia's path to independence.

Furthermore, his victory over the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid served as a crucial moment for Europe, earning him the title of "Liberator of Europe." In appreciation, European nations, including France, expressed gratitude, and his golden bust was displayed in museums in Paris.

His victories elevated both his personal reputation and the status of his state on the world stage.

Amir Temur was a visionary leader who prioritized international relations and cooperation for the advancement of his empire. As a result, he established diplomatic ties with Spain, England, France, and Italy, contributing to the strengthening of connections between Europe and Asia.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, through his remarkable statesmanship and military prowess, Amir Temur brought immense glory and power to his homeland. The towering, unparalleled architectural masterpieces built under his reign stand as a testament to the grandeur of his state, continuing to astonish humanity with their majesty and splendor.

As Ibn Arabshah noted, "Amir Temur was recognized as the ruler of the Seven Climes, the sovereign who governed the land and waters, the jewel among kings and sultans."

In recent years, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has embarked on a new era of progress, fulfilling the dreams of Amir Temur.

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