

# ON THE HISTORY OF AMIR TEMUR'S DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE EGYPTIAN SULTANS

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## ABSTRACT:

**The article explains the diplomacy of Amir Temur and the sultans of Egypt on the basis of sources. Particular attention is paid to embassy relations, military operations and agreements between the two countries.**

**Keywords: Amir Temur, Sultan Barquq, Sultan Boyazid, Atalmish, Qara Yusuf, Sultan Faraj, Xalab, Damascus.**

## INTRODUCTION:

The study of the diplomacy of the Amir Temur period will be a great impetus for widely understanding of the history and maintenance of our national statehood. Sources and historical evidence show that in Amir Temur's diplomacy there was peace, mutual respect, compassion for his opponent and a great opportunity for him, respect for the ambassador in any difficult situation, as well as strict adherence to the rules of diplomacy, inviolability of human life, humanism. indicates that the verses are a priority.<sup>1</sup>

Egyptian scholar Fathi al-Guwayli was right when he said that **"the diplomatic methods used by Amir Temur in his relations with other statesmen and some of their subtleties deserve a deep theoretical and practical study."** Amir Temur's political relations with the Egyptian state are very edifying from a diplomatic point of view.

Due to the specific international situation that emerged at the end of the 14th century, Ottoman Turkey, the state of Amir Temur, and Egypt emerged as political powers in Asia, partly in Africa, and part of Europe. In 1382, Sultan az-Zahir Barquq came to power in Egypt. He was directly involved in Amir

Temur's military operations with Kara Yusuf. When Amir Temur's troops withdrew from Tabriz in late 1388, Qara Yusuf sent a letter to the Egyptian sultan Barquq, minting money in his name in Tabriz, stating that his name was being read in mosques, and asking for his appointment as the sultan's deputy in Tabriz.

Temurid scholar Ubaydullo Uvatov writed that, **"The official relations between Amir Temur and Sultan Barquq date back to 1385. In a relatively short period of time, from 1386 to 1405, there were about 25 exchanges of letters and ambassadors between Amir Temur and the Egyptian sultans Barquq and Faraj, as well as their deputies in Syria"**.

It is known that in November 1385 Amir Temur sent a letter to Sultan Barquq through a special envoy. The ambassador was well received by the ruler of Egypt in Cairo, and gave him a decent reply. However, the embassy did not change relations between the two countries. Because the sultan of Egypt Barquq did not stop helping Amir Temur's enemies. Therefore, this embassy connection also ended ineffectual.

In 1388, between Amir Temur and the Mamluks, first weapons crash happened. The clash stemmed from the fact that the Turkmen of Sivos turned to Amir Temur for help due to the Mamluk attack. Because of the small number of Amir Temur's troops in the war, the victory was in the Mamluks led by Aleppo's deputy Yalbuga an-Nosiri.

After the war of 1388, Sultan Barquq's attitude towards Amir Temur worsened. We can see this from his sentences below. He always said, **"I am not afraid of him, because**

**everyone supports me against him, I am only afraid of Ibn 'Uthman (Bayazid)."**<sup>4</sup>

After the war of 1388, relations between Amir Temur and the Sultan of Egypt remained tense. The return of Amir Temur to Baghdad in 1393 also affected relations between the two countries. In October of this year, Amir Temur, who was in Baghdad, sent a special letter with valuable gifts to the special envoys under the leadership of Sheikh Sovai, one of the most authoritative scholars. When the ambassadors arrived in the Syrian city of al-Rahba, the city's trustee told them to ask Sultan Barquq for permission to enter the country. The ambassadors were imprisoned by order of the Sultan of Egypt. Amir Temur ordered to send letters and gifts to Cairo.

In a letter to the Sultan of Egypt, Amir Temur demanded the expulsion of Sultan Ahmad ibn Uwais, the former governor of Baghdad, who had fled to Egypt. In addition, the letter called on Amir Temur to establish good-neighborly relations due to the border with Egypt, to exchange ambassadors and to strengthen friendly relations, so that traders and merchants could move from one country to another without any difficulties. Such suggestions were made. But these proposals were not accepted by Sultan Barquq.

Practical cooperation between the Egyptian Sultan Barquq and the Turkish Sultan Boyazid and other groups began at this time. Meanwhile, during the battle with Atalmish, a close relative of Amir Temur, the captain of the fortress of Kara Yusuf Avnik captured him and sent him to Sultan Barquq. The Sultan immediately throws him into prison. In April 1394, the Egyptian sultan Barquq began military operations against Amir Temur. He will arrive in Damascus in May this year. At that time, Amir Temur left his son Mironshah in Baghdad and returned to India to prepare for his trip. Taking advantage of this situation, Sultan Barquq provided all possible assistance

to the former governor of Baghdad, Ahmad ibn Uwais. In addition, with the help of the Turkmen Kara Yusuf, the city of Baghdad was taken from Mironshah.

After the death of Sultan Barquq in 1399, his eleven-year-old son al-Nasir Faraj ascended the throne of the sultanates of Egypt and Syria. The Turkish Sultan Boyazid took advantage of the instability in Egypt due to the death of Sultan Barquq to annex some territories.<sup>5</sup>

In the autumn of 1400, Amir Temur wrote a letter to the young Sultan Faraj, reminding him of the "mistakes" his father had made: the killing of ambassadors and the imprisonment of Atalmish. He demanded that Faraj release Atalmish immediately, otherwise he would "take revenge on the people of Syria and Egypt."

When the ambassadors of Amir Temur arrived in Xalab, the deputy of the city, as usual, sent a message about them to the sultan. Faraj, like his father, ordered the ambassadors to be imprisoned. Amir Temur, knowing that his ambassadors had been insulted for the second time, decided to punish Faraj. He therefore ordered military action against Egypt.<sup>6</sup>

In November 1400, Amir Temur's army marched on al-Bahasna. He soon captured Aleppo, which belonged to Egypt. After the occupation of this city, Amir Temur wrote another letter to Sultan Faraj, demanding the release of Altamish, and if so, announced the release of his captives and other captives.

Sultan Faraj again rejected the demands of Amir Temur. As a result, relations between the two countries deteriorated. Receiving a rejection from Sultan Faraj, Amir Temur left for Damascus. The sultan of Egypt also left Cairo and set out to defend Damascus. In January 1401, Sultan Faraj arrived in Damascus and stopped at the plain of Yalbu, two miles from the southern wall of the city. Amir Temur's troops were stationed in the village of Katana

on the outskirts of Damascus, watching the movements of Sultan Faraj's troops.

Amir Temur, who preferred a diplomatic solution to any conflict, once again sent a letter through ambassadors to the Egyptian sultan in Damascus in order to prevent war. This time, Amir Temur's efforts were ineffectual. Meanwhile, a revolt against Sultan Faraj in Cairo prevented a military confrontation.

After the victory of Amir Temur over the Turkish sultan Boyazid, the sultan sent a letter to Faraj. The main issue in this letter was the release of Altamish from prison. This time Sultan Faraj responded appropriately to the letter. He freed Altamish and presented him with five thousand dirhams. Then Amir Temur forgave him and said, "Because he (Faraj) was deprived of the shadow of his father's blessing when he was young, I adopted him for the sake of Allah. If he remains steadfast in his commitment to good service, I will continue to help him and give him the strength to lead the country."

In 1403, Amir Temur again sent ambassadors to Sultan Faraj with a letter on the establishment of friendly relations between the two countries. This embassy was more effective than the previous ones. Relatively good relations have been established between the two countries.

Despite the complexity of relations between the two countries and the fact that the two flags, which were a symbol of subordination, were not accepted by Amir Temur, Egypt was still under the influence of the state of Amir Temur. According to Ibn Arabshah, in the autumn of 1404 in Konigil near Samarkand, the Egyptian ambassadors also took part in a grand ceremony dedicated to the victory of Amir Temur over the Turkish sultan Boyazid and the wedding of Sahibkiran's six grandchildren. In response, Amir Temur sent ambassadors to Egypt. Abdullah Keshi was the ambassador. Through the ambassador,

Amir Temur invited the Egyptian sultan Faraj to sign a peace treaty. Ibn Doqman, a well-known Egyptian historian who lived in the late 14th and early 15th centuries and witnessed these events, testified that such a truce was indeed signed and that the sultan of Egypt recognized himself as a vassal of Amir Temur. In short, the relationship between the state of Amir Temur and the state of Egypt covers a period of twenty years. After the death of Amir Temur, the struggle for the throne led to the suspension of embassy relations between the two countries for some time. During the reign of Shahrukh, the youngest son of Sahibkiran, diplomatic relations with Egypt were restored. We have seen above that the relations with Amir Temur and the sultans of Egypt were various at different times. Amir Temur's first embassy exchanges with Egypt were relatively ineffective. The conflict between the two countries did not allow for good diplomatic relations for a long time. However, Amir Temur's victorious wars over Boyazid also affected relations between the two countries. Therefore, the relations between the two countries have a unique place not only in the history of Uzbekistan, but also in the history of the world.

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