

AMIR TEMUR'S DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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Annotation: *This article briefly describes Amir Temur's diplomatic relations with Western European countries.*

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The great Amir Temur not only attracted the attention of contemporary rulers of the world, but also influenced world political life. As is known, during this period, on the one hand, the pressure of Sultan Bayazid on the states of the Balkan Peninsula was increasing, threatening the whole of Europe. On the other hand, Bayazid himself was under strong pressure from a dangerous opponent - Amir Temur, who was rapidly moving towards the West. In such a political situation, a certain unification of forces against Bayazid was natural.

First of all, the rulers of the countries of Asia Minor, who were defeated by Bayazid and deprived of their lands and possessions, sought help from Amir Temur, went to his camp in Karabakh and found a solution. Even the viceroy of Byzantium and Galata, the king of France, and the Catholic missionaries of the city of Sultania turned to Amir Temur for help. In return, they promised to help him during his military campaign and to pay Amir Timur the tribute that Constantinople and Pera had paid to Bayezid. This offer was acceptable to Amir Timur. Because he needed naval support to cut off Turkey from its coastal stronghold. Thus, at the end of the 14th and beginning of the 15th centuries, a favorable political situation arose to strike at Sultan Bayezid. Amir Timur skillfully took advantage of this situation.

During this period, Amir Timur, along with conducting diplomatic correspondence with Bayezid, tried to use the warships of Trebizond and Constantinople in the upcoming conflict. For this purpose, he sent ambassadors with gifts and letters to Genoa and Venice.

On the issue of mutual assistance, Amir Timur also corresponded with the viceroy of Constantinople, John VII Paleolog. According to the content of Amir Temur's letter to John VII Palaeologus on May 15, 1402, the viceroy of Constantinople and the governor of Genoa in Pera undertook to serve Amir Temur in the fight against Bayezid, and even to assist him with men and 20 to 40 warships each. This was also noted by the Spanish ambassador Clavijo in his diary. During this period, Amir Temur established diplomatic relations and corresponded with the French king Charles VI (1380-1422), the English king Henry IV (1399-1413), and the king of Castile and Leon Henry III de Trastamara (1390-1407). In order to protect the lands and possessions of the Genoese, who were considered French citizens, especially their colonies in Galata, Charles VI, in turn,



sought support from Amir Temur and tried to establish diplomatic relations with him. According to the correspondence between Amir Temur and Charles VI, Sahibkiran seriously supported the king. After the great victory over the 160,000-strong Turkish army near Ankara, the content of Amir Temur's relations with the countries of Western Europe changed radically. Now Amir Temur paid attention to issues such as strengthening friendly relations with them and establishing mutual trade relations.

Embassy relations. In the summer of 1402, Amir Temur sent letters to France and England through special envoys to Charles VI and Henry IV. The ambassadors arrived in Paris in May 1403. The ambassadors proposed to ensure free trade relations for the merchants of the two countries and, if the king and the dukes agree, to strengthen this free trade with an appropriate agreement or treaty. Therefore, in his letter to the French king Charles VI, Sahibkiran Amir Temur specifically emphasized the following about this: "From now on, if your people come to our lands and our people come to your country as in the days of our ancestors, if they praise your and our names everywhere, if they bring benefits to the merchants of our country, we would be very happy. It should be said that now the safety of your merchants in our country will be ensured." The French King Charles VI's reply to Amir Temur on June 15, 1403, indicates that Amir Temur's proposals were accepted with satisfaction by France.

At the same time, Miran Shah, the governor of the western provinces, took an active part in Amir Temur's diplomatic relations with King Henry IV of England. Miran Shah, the governor of the possessions that included Northern Iran, Iraq, Tabriz, and Sultania, attracted the attention of Western European rulers during Amir Temur's old age. During this period, he showed favor to Christian clergy and took measures to ensure the immunity of merchants in order to revive trade relations with European countries. Therefore, Miran Shah soon gained fame in the West as a patron of the Catholic religion.

Henry III, the king of Castile (Spain), was very interested in the East. In the spring of 1402, Spanish ambassadors were first sent to Amir Temur's residence in Asia Minor. The ambassadors were tasked with finding out the power, wealth, and size of the army of Amir Temur and Bayezid, as well as collecting accurate information about the customs, religions, and laws of the peoples living under their rule. Along with the ambassadors of the Eastern and Western states, the Spanish ambassadors were received by Amir Temur and sent off with special letters and gifts written in the name of the king. In addition to them, Amir Temur sent his representative named Muhammadqazi as an ambassador to Spain. Henry III sent special ambassadors to Amir Temur for the second time in 1403. Clavijo was appointed as their head. On May 21, 1403, the ambassadors who had left Spain arrived in Samarkand. The Spanish ambassadors were solemnly received by Amir Temur in Samarkand, where they were shown great attention and respect.

The Spanish ambassadors led by Clavijo visited Samarkand in September-November 1404. In connection with Amir Temur's march to China, the Spanish ambassadors, along with the ambassadors of many other states, were sent from Samarkand on November 21, 1404. Clavijo returned to Spain in March 1406. Clavijo's impressions of the trip were published several times in Spanish under the titles "History of the Great Temur" and "Temur's Residence", "Journey to Samarkand".

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