



Amir Temur`S Conquest Of India Interpreted By Barthélemy D'herbelot De Molainville

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ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the views of the French historian of the 17th century Barthélemy d'Herbelot de Molainville given in his work “Bibliothèque orientale” on the conquest of India by Amir Temur, based on Timurid sources.

KEYWORDS

Amir Temur, Pir Muhammad Jahangir, Sultan Mahmud, Barthélemy d'Herbelot de Molainville, Giasiddin Ali, Nizamiddin Shami, Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, Muiniddin Natanzi, Fasih Havafi, Khondamir, Multon, India, Delhi.

INTRODUCTION

Barthélemy d'Herbelot de Molainville[1], one of the great representatives of the French school of oriental studies in the 17th century, wrote extensively about the medieval history of Asia in his work “Bibliothèque orientale”. He

tried to explain conquest of India by Amir Temur, which was a part of his life and state activities, in short lines.

By the 80-90s of XIV century, political unrest was raging in India. As a result of the death of Feruz Shah of Delhi in 1388, the desire for independence among his emirs and many Indian feudal lords intensified. At this time, Pirmuhammad Jahangir, one of the grandchildren of Amir Temur, crossed the Sind River to expand his territory. This indicates that he took control of the area up to the Sindh River prior to this incident. He crossed the river and besieged the city of Molton. But the armed forces under the command of Pirmuhammad Jahangir were not enough to conquer territories east of the Sindh River. Knowing about these processes in the capital city Samarkand, Amir Temur began his next campaign to India in March 1398. There is no exact information in historical sources that this campaign was planned in advance by Amir Temur or not. But for Amir Temur, who was following the political situation in India, it was a very convenient situation to attack India after the end of the five-year march. The first victories of his grandson Pirmuhammad Mirza on the banks of the Sindh River also confirmed that the situation was favorable for the conquest of India.

There are different opinions about the reasons for the start of Amir Temur's campaign to India. For example, according to the viewpoints of L. Keren [2. 91-93] and B. Akhmedov [3.574], the goal of Sahibkiran Timur in the campaign to the Indian subcontinent was the accumulation of wealth and the fight against the pagans. B.Usmonov [4. 97-98] believes that one of the main goals of Amir Temur's campaign to India was to ensure the safety of the caravan routes leading to this country, and to establish full control over the Great Silk Road as a result of ending the constant tyranny of Afghan tribes along this path.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Barthélemy d'Herbelot de Molainville did not focus on the reasons for the beginning of the struggle of Sahibkiran for the Indian subcontinent. The author briefly described the dynamics of the events that took place before the conquest of Delhi and declared: "In 800 AD Tamerlane went to India. Along the way, he found many castles occupied by bandits and rebels. He conquered all places, cleared the country of ignorance, spared neither gebras, nor Buddhists, nor fire worshipers who took refuge in Persia on the border of India "[5. 881]. Interestingly, d'Herbelot also noted that during Amir Temur's campaign against India, the main attention was paid to ensuring the safety of caravan routes, clearing them of Afghan pirates, capturing fortified strongholds of Afghan pirates along the way and ensuring stable security of the trade route with India. Although historians Giyosiddin Ali [6. 72-78], Nizamiddin Shamiy [7. 226-239], Sharafiddin Ali Yazdiy [8. 192-197], Muiniddin Natanziy [9. 161-162], Fasikh Havofiy [10. 119], Ibn Arabshoh [11. 171] and Handamir [12. 170-171] wrote about the above process in their work, but did not report that the Gebras fled to Persian territory. Based on the data of these historians, it is worth noting that Amir Temur conquered Gebras on his way to Delhi, and the survivors retreated to the capital of Delhi. Information supporting this point of view is also available in historical sources. For instance, Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi mentioned the following: "Firstly, Sahibkiran reported he cleaned Andarob from Gebras, then Khovak, Kabutarkhana, Durin, Eriob fortress and Shanuzon districts [8. 192-197]. Thus, d'Herbelot's conclusion that the Gebras retreated to Persia is incorrect.

The author also expressed several conflicting views on the occupation of territories up to the

doorstep of Delhi by Amir Temur. "He (Amir Temur - our note, N. Israilov) - wrote d'Herbelot - started a war against the Indians, conquering the cities of Kashmir and laying siege to a powerful fortress called Uldugin, but this fortress was invincible while he was besieging it, he sent many troops to the southern countries, towards Delhi, where Sultan Mahmud, the grandson of Firuz Shah ruled"[5. 881]. D'Herbelot correctly evaluated the dynamics of the direction of Amir Temur's marches. However, there is no information about the area associated with the Uldugin fortress in the sources of the Timurid period. It should also be noted that Batnir was considered the most rebellious fortress during the reign of Amir Temur in India. "The Batnir fortress had been strong for centuries," wrote Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi, "and a slave was walking further along the road, and there was a desert on all four sides. And their water came from a large lake, it was not far from the city, and the water came from Pashshakol. And any army never came. And Indian kings never did controlled there"[8. 201].

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

D'Herbelot also gave information about the relationship between Amir Temur and Sultan Mahmud, commenting in general on the details of the battle in Delhi: "801 was preceded by the army of Tamerlane, and there was a great battle with Mahmud, who added the strong and brave soldiers and commanders of neighboring princes and kings of the Indians to his fighting troupe." [5. 881]. The author's commentary on this battle corresponded to the views of historians ideas, such as Giyosiddin Ali [6. 108-128], Nizamiddin Shamiy [7. 246-254], Sharafiddin Ali Yazdiy [8. 201], Muiniddin Natanziy [9. 163-164] and Handamir [12. 180-184], and this means its high scientific value.

The author also mentioned the outcome of this battle, the return of Sakhbikiran to the capital Samarkand, which is of scientific importance, as well as some controversial points. "Mahmoud and other princes were defeated in battle," wrote D'Herbelot, "and were forced to retreat to the other side of the Ganga river. After the capture of the capital, Timur divided the governments of the provinces under his control and with the large booty captured there went to the royal city of Samarkand"[5. 881].

D'Herbelot did not cover Amir Temur's activities in India after his conquest of Delhi. The historian Natanziy also finished his story about the campaign of Sahibkiran to India with the conquest of Delhi. And it shows that he based on Muiniddin Natanziy's coverage of these events [9. 164].

In fact, even after the conquest of Delhi, Amir Temur captured a number of cities and fortresses in India. Regarding the events of January after the conquest of Delhi, Nizamiddin Shami emphasized: "During these thirty days, seven strong and famous fortresses of India were conquered".[7. 265]. Giyosiddin Ali [6. 129-174], Sharafiddin Ali Yazdiy [8. 209-218], Fasikh Havofiy [10. 119-120], Khondamir [12. 187-189], such historians also highlighted in their writings about the activities of Amir Temur in India after the conquest of Delhi.

CONCLUSION

To conclude we can say, d'Herbelot gave a general description of events related to Amir Temur's interpretation of India prior to the conquest of Delhi. But after the capture of Delhi, he did not cover Amir Temur and his activities. He did not pay attention to the

available datas given in many historical sources.

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