BG Pulse Journal USA
ISSN:1947-2536 http://www.bgpulseusa.com/index.php/bg
BG PULSE JOURNAL

POLITICAL AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES IN TEMURIAN DIPLOMACY

Hayitov Husan Rahmon oglu
Asia International University
1st year master's student
husanhayit@gmail.com

Abstract: This article analyzes the diplomatic relations of the Timurid Empire with Western European countries in the late 14th - early 15th centuries. In particular, the embassy relations established with the kingdoms of France, England and Castile after the Battle of Ankara, initiatives aimed at developing trade, and the mediation activities of Mironshah are highlighted. Based on the correspondence of Timurid Empire with Charles VI, Henry IV and Henry III, the political position of the Timurid Empire in the international arena and the strategy for strengthening economic cooperation with Europe are revealed[1]. Also, information about the embassy of Ruy González de Clavijo is evaluated as an important source for illuminating the protocol and hierarchy issues of medieval diplomacy. The results of the research serve to provide a deeper understanding of the changes that occurred in the geopolitics of Eurasia during the Timurid era and the development of political and trade relations between the East and the West.

Key phrases: Amir Timur, Timurid Empire, Battle of Ankara, Charles VI, Henry IV, Henry III, Mironshah, Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo, diplomatic relations, trade relations, Europe, embassy, medieval diplomacy.

Introduction. The rise of the Timurid Empire in the late 14th and early 15th centuries had a profound impact on the geopolitics of Eurasia. At this time, the Ottoman Empire under Sultan Bayezid was posing a serious threat to the Balkans and Europe, and on the other hand, the clash of the two great powers in Asia Minor was inevitable due to Timurid's "seven-year campaign" (1399-1404). In such a tense situation, the rulers of the Asia Minor emirates, the Byzantine Empire, and Genoa, who had suffered from Ottoman pressure, sought military and political support from Sahibkiran's camp in Karabakh to maintain their independence.[2] These factors laid the foundation for the formation of a kind of alliance against Turkey in the region and the beginning of the Battle of Ankara.

Literature analysis and methodology. Amir Temur's correspondence with the French king Charles VI is important in the context of his early diplomatic relations with Western European countries. Initially, Sahibkiran's political strategy was based on plans for a joint struggle against Sultan Bayezid, but the great victory in the Battle of Ankara in 1402 radically changed these relations. After military success, Amir Temur put forward a new diplomatic strategy aimed at strengthening friendly relations with the West, establishing embassies and free trade. Not content with subjugating the Byzantine emperor, Sahibkiran sent a special embassy to France and England in the summer of 1402 under the leadership of Archbishop John Galonifontibus. Arriving in Paris in May 1403, the ambassadors conveyed the news of the victory of Ankara to Charles VI and Henry IV and proposed concluding a bilateral free trade agreement. The legal basis for these relations is stated in Amir Temur's letter to Charles VI on August 1, 1402: "From now on, we would be very happy if your people would visit our lands and our people visit yours... if they would

benefit the merchants of our country. It should also be said that from now on, the safety of your merchants in our country will be ensured" [3].

Discussion. The role of the Vatican representatives in establishing diplomatic relations between the Timurid state and England was of great importance. In this process, the governor of the western provinces of Sahibkiran (Northern Iran, Iraq, Azerbaijan), Mironshah (1366-1408), showed particular activity. Mironshah was known in the West as the "patron of the Catholic religion" because he showed goodwill to Christian priests in order to revive trade relations with European countries and ensured the safety of merchants.[4] Since the territories under his jurisdiction were geographically directly connected with the Mediterranean countries, the first embassy initiatives with England were carried out precisely through the provinces under the rule of Mironshah.

In mid-1403, the English king Henry IV responded to the letters of Amir Timur and Mironshah, expressing his desire to conclude a mutual agreement, and entrusted this mission to Archbishop John (Galonifontibus). King Henry IV, in his letter of June 15, 1403, states: "I intend to expand the scope of our mutual relations, to ensure that the merchants of our countries meet with each other, as they did before, in the days of our ancestors." In conclusion, the diplomatic efforts of Miron Shah played an important role in the development of not only political, but also economic cooperation of the Timurid Empire with Western Europe.

Result. Amir Temur's victories over the Ottoman Empire and Egypt aroused great interest in Western Europe, especially in the Kingdom of Castile (Spain). King Henry III sent the first ambassadors, led by Payo de Sotomayor and Hernán Sánchez Palazuelos, to the residence of Sahibkiran in the spring of 1402 to study the situation. After the victory at the Battle of Ankara, Amir Temur received the Castilian ambassadors and followed them back with his representative named Muhammadqazi and special letters and gifts addressed to the king. In order to strengthen relations, Henry III sent a second embassy in 1403 under the leadership of Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo. The diplomats, who set off on May 21, 1403, passed through Constantinople, Trabzon, Iran, and Balkh, and reached Samarkand via the cities of Termez and Kesh. In the capital, the Spanish ambassadors were received with great honor[5]. In official ceremonies held in the palace and gardens, they were given a higher status than the ambassadors of many countries, including China, India, Rome, Egypt, and the Golden Horde.

This hierarchical aspect of medieval diplomacy is particularly noted by Clavijo in his diary: Amir Temur, seeing that the Castilian ambassadors were sitting below the representative of the Chinese king during an official reception, ordered them to be moved to a higher, more honorable place. After all, in the diplomacy of that period, the seating arrangement was an important criterion indicating the symbolic level of interstate relations. In general, these contacts served to develop new political and trade relations between Western Europe and the Timurid Empire.

Conclusion. Amir Temur's victory in the Battle of Ankara strengthened the position of the Timurid Empire in the international arena and opened a wide path for the development of diplomatic relations with Western European countries. Embassy relations with the kingdoms of France, England and Castile served to expand political cooperation and trade relations. These diplomatic relations were the result of Amir Temur's far-sighted foreign policy and played an important role in strengthening relations between the East and the West.

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