

**ON THE HISTORY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MAMLUK AND
TEMURIYS STATES**

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Abstract: This article analyzes the diplomatic relations that developed between the Mamluk Sultanate and the Timurid state in the 14th-15th centuries. The main attention is paid to the role of the two states in the international political arena, mutual trade relations, diplomatic missions, as well as the impact of military conflicts on diplomacy. The article reveals the essence of diplomatic relations between the Mamluks and Timurids, relying on sources such as Al-Maqriziy, Rui Gonsales de Klavixo, akad V.V. Bartold, and the works of modern researchers. As a result, it is scientifically proven that the relations between the two states, based on mutual competition and cooperation, were an important part of medieval Eastern diplomacy.

Keywords: Mamluks, Timurids, diplomacy, embassy, trade relations, military campaigns, Middle Ages, international relations, Al-Maqrizi, Ruy González de Clavijo.

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In the history of the Middle East and Central Asia in the XIV-XV centuries, two major states - the Mamluk dynasty (1250-1517), which ruled the territories of Egypt and Syria, and the Timurid state (1370-1507), which was established in Transoxiana, occupied a special place in the international arena. Their political activity, diplomatic relations, and mutual rivalry determined the political balance in the Muslim world of that time. The Mamluks, having turned Cairo into the center of the Caliphate, sought to maintain religious and political influence in the Muslim world. The Timurids quickly spread their influence from East to West, transforming Samarkand into a center of international diplomacy and culture. The relevance of this topic lies in the fact that the experience of the past plays an important role in the study of modern global diplomacy processes. Especially the Mamluks and Temuriys country.

The Mamluk state was formed in the territories of Egypt and Syria and established its center in Cairo. When Mamluk military commanders seized power in 1250, this dynasty soon became one of the main political centers of the Muslim East. The power of the Mamluks was explained, first of all, by the control over trade routes and the strength of the military system. The presence of the symbolic power of the Abbasid Caliph, preserved in Cairo, gave the Mamluk sultans religious legitimacy [1, 1963. 215 p.]. The Mamluks paid great attention to controlling the trade routes through the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. They established connections with European maritime republics such as Venice and Genoa, through which they ensured the delivery of valuable goods from the East to Europe [2, 1990. 112-b].

Thus, the Mamluks played an important role not only in the Muslim world, but also in trade and diplomatic relations with Europe.

Temuriys state

The Temuriy state was founded in the second half of the 14th century in Mawarannahr by Amir Timur. As a result of Timur's political skill and military campaigns, the state quickly transformed into a powerful empire extending to the East and West. As the capital, Samarkand became not only a political center but also a center of international diplomacy and cultural relations [3, 1999, p. 132]. The influence of the Timurid state in the international arena was strengthened not only by military force, but also by an active diplomatic policy. The Spanish ambassador Ruy González de Clavijo, who visited Samarkand in 1403-1406, left valuable information in his diary about international negotiations held at Timur's court, visiting ambassadors, and the cultural life of Samarkand [2, 1990. 112-b] The Mamluks and Timurids competed for leadership in the Muslim world of that time. While the Mamluks positioned themselves as protectors of the Abbasid Caliphate and sought to maintain leadership on a religious basis, the Timurids sought to strengthen their political influence through military victories and extensive diplomatic relations. Therefore, their interaction has always acquired a complex character and was accompanied by competition and cooperation. This process played a significant role in shaping the overall picture of international relations in the 14th-15th centuries.

Trade and diplomatic relations

In the 14th-15th centuries, international trade and diplomatic relations became an important factor in ensuring not only economic, but also political stability for the states of the Middle East and Central Asia. Trade interests also played a key role in diplomatic relations between the Mamluks and the Temuriys. Due to its geographical location, the Mamluk state became a hub of international trade routes. Trade routes passing through Cairo and Alexandria connected to the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea, making Egypt a major intermediary between East and West [7, 2002. 97 p.] The Mamluk sultans concluded trade agreements with Venice, Genoa, and other European trading republics, receiving substantial profits from trade passing through their territories. At the same time, active economic and diplomatic relations were established with Muslim countries. This process gave the Mamluk sultans not only material wealth, but also a strong position in international diplomacy. The Timurid state also paid great attention to trade routes. The Great Silk Road, passing through Samarkand and Bukhara, connected the country with Europe, China, India, and Iran. After his victory over the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid Yildirim in 1402, Timur further enhanced his influence and expanded diplomatic relations with European states. In particular, the arrival in Samarkand of the envoy Ruy González de Clavijo, sent by King Henry III of Castile, further strengthened the Timurids' position in international diplomacy [2, 1990. 112-b]. One of the important aspects of relations between the Mamluks and the Timurids was the interests of trade. Both countries sought to control the trade routes passing through the Great Silk Road. Although this often intensified competition, in some cases it also required cooperation. During the Timurids' campaigns into Syria and Syria, control over trade routes played an important role. Therefore, in diplomatic correspondence between the Timurids and the Mamluks, issues of trade interests, customs procedures, and the safety of merchants were often discussed. [1, 1963.] 215 p.]

Military campaigns and diplomacy

Diplomatic relations between the Mamluks and the Timurids were often closely linked to military actions. In the international politics of the 14th-15th centuries, negotiations conducted after the use of force and military victories occupied an important place. In 1400-1401, Amir Timur launched a campaign into Syria. During this period, Syria was part of the Mamluk state, and Damascus was one of the main political and cultural centers. Timur conquered Damascus and took control of the city. This event marked a turning point in diplomatic relations between

the two countries [3. 1845. 334-b] The destruction of the city by the Timurid army during the Damascus campaign and the displacement of many residents to other lands greatly worried the Mamluk government. Nevertheless, the Timurids saw this campaign as a means of increasing their political influence and gaining control over trade routes in the region. The Mamluks were unable to launch a direct military counterattack after Timur's campaigns in Syria. The reason was that during this period, political instability was strong within the state. Therefore, the Mamluks chose a diplomatic path and negotiated with Timur. According to reports brought by Maqrizi, the Mamluk sultans sent a letter to Timur, emphasizing the importance of preventing bloodshed among Muslims [3. 1845. 334]. However, Timur, in turn, tried to justify these campaigns as "Islamic interests" and sought to diminish the political position of the Mamluks. Although Timur's Syrian campaigns were a major blow to the Mamluks, their diplomatic relations were not completely severed. On the contrary, in subsequent years, diplomatic correspondence between the parties continued to discuss trade and religious issues. Thus, the military campaigns created not permanent hostility between the two states, but a new diplomatic balance. This process shows how closely power and political skill were intertwined in the diplomacy of that time.

In conclusion, it should be noted that in the 14th-15th centuries, diplomatic relations between the Mamluks of Egypt and Syria and the Timurid rulers played an important role in the economic, political, and cultural life of the peoples of these states. Both states, as a powerful force of their time, strived for leadership in the international arena. Although the Timurid campaigns in Syria and the conquest of Damascus caused short-term conflicts, these processes did not completely sever ties between the two states. On the contrary, trade interests, political balance in the Muslim world, and religious factors forced them to return to diplomatic dialogue. While the Mamluks sought to present Cairo as the political and religious center of the Islamic world, the Timurids turned Samarkand into a center of culture and diplomacy. Therefore, diplomatic relations between them were of great importance not only in the history of the two states, but also in the history of the entire Muslim East. In general, the diplomacy of the Mamluks and Timurids developed in harmony with mutual competition, periodic military clashes, trade interests, and religious cooperation. This experience occupies a special place in the history of medieval Eastern diplomacy and can still be assessed as a valuable historical lesson in understanding international relations.

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JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES AND INNOVATIONS

VOLUME 04, ISSUE 10
MONTHLY JOURNALS



ISSN NUMBER: 2751-4390

IMPACT FACTOR: 9,08

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