



AMIR TEMUR'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST TO'XTAMISHXON

Mamajonov Soyibjon Halilovich

*Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Military Education, Fergana
State University*

ARTICLE INFO:

Received: 27.10.2026

Revised: 28.10.2026

Accepted: 29.10.2026

KEY WORDS:

*military genius, the
Hordes, the Golden
Horde, military
campaigns, against
To'xtamish, the Terek
River, arms and
equipment, army, ulus,
Jo'chi, O'risxon.*

ABSTRACT

This article offers a brief account of Amir Temur's campaign against To'xtamishxon. It is intended for students of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions who wish to become closely acquainted with the secrets of the art of war.

Amir Temur's military genius was most clearly revealed in his campaigns against To'xtamish and in India, as well as in his struggle against the Ottoman Sultan Boyazid Yildirim.

Amir Temur was well aware of the danger posed by the Golden Horde. Between 1360 and 1380, within just twenty years, the Golden Horde saw its khan replaced twenty-five times. In 1375, O'risxon, the ruler of the White Horde, resolved to reunite the two parts of the Jo'chi ulus: the Golden Horde and the White Horde. Were the Hordes to unite, they could pose a serious threat to Amir Temur's state. To forestall this danger, Amir Temur skillfully took advantage of the situation that had arisen.

To'y Xo'ja o'g'lon, one of the Uzbek amirs of the White Horde, was put to death by O'risxon for refusing to take part in a military campaign against the Golden Horde. His son, To'xtamish o'g'lon, fled the White Horde in 1376 and arrived in Samarqand.



Amir Temur decided to use him in the struggle against O'risxon. He believed that To'xtamish would become the one to carry out his policy within the Jo'chi ulus. The opposite proved true. Having become khan of the White Horde with Amir Temur's help, To'xtamish followed in O'risxon's footsteps: he set out to unite the Jo'chi ulus and began the struggle to create a mighty Golden Horde. Having become ruler of the White Horde (in 1377), To'xtamish resolved to exploit the defeat that his rival, the false khan Mamayxon, had suffered at the hands of the Russian prince Dmitriy Donskoy on the field of Kulikovo. That same year, on the banks of the Kalka River, he crushed what remained of Mamayxon's army. After this victory, To'xtamish became the supreme ruler of the Golden Horde, its khan, and set about uniting both parts of the Jo'chi ulus.

The disagreements between Amir Temur and the bold yet cunning To'xtamish developed into open conflict.

To'xtamish sought to restore the might the Golden Horde had enjoyed under O'zbekxon (1312–1320). To conquer new lands, he began a series of military campaigns. In 1386, To'xtamish's army invaded Azerbaijan. He seized Tabriz, and many cities of Azerbaijan were plundered and laid waste.

In 1387–1388, To'xtamish took advantage of Amir Temur's absence from Movarounnahr and launched an attack deep into his realm. He invaded the regions of Samarqand and Bukhara, and the cities were besieged by the forces of the Golden Horde. At that time Amir Temur, who was in Iran, sent an army of 30,000 to the aid of Movarounnahr and hurried back to his homeland himself. To'xtamish withdrew, but not before persuading Sulaymon So'fi, the ruler of Khorezm, to join him in the struggle against Amir Temur. These events compelled Sohirqiron to undertake, in 1388, his fifth and final campaign against Khorezm. He captured Urganch and brought the rule of the So'fi dynasty to an end.

To'xtamish's invasion of Samarqand and Bukhara left no doubt that it was driven not by a desire to seize any particular territory, but was an expression of his struggle against Sohirqiron's policy.

Of Amir Temur's three campaigns against To'xtamish (in 1389, 1391 and 1395), the last two, especially the crushing defeat he inflicted on him on the banks of the Terek River in 1395, deserve particular attention from the standpoint of the development of the art of war.

In the winter of 1391, Sohirqiron resolved to eliminate the danger expected from To'xtamish and to prevent the Golden Horde from forming an alliance with the Egyptian Mamluks against the state of Temur. He ordered the army to assemble in preparation for the campaign against To'xtamish, and food supplies were gathered for the troops. The assembled army marched out of Samarqand and crossed the Sirdaryo by a bridge built near the city of Xo'jand. In Toshkent, Temur held a review of his troops, and the warriors were ordered to equip themselves with all necessary weapons and gear. During the review on 19 January 1391, Amir



Temur declared war on the Jo'chi ulus. He arranged his army in marching order and appointed guides for each column.

Sohibqiron's army consisted of the vanguard (manglay), the center (qo'l), and the right and left wings (barang'or and juvang'or). To guard against a sudden enemy strike, Amir Temur ordered his warriors not to leave their units, to prepare large and small shields, to obtain the tools needed for digging trenches when camping, and to form reconnaissance groups in advance. To guard the camp, he assigned 30,000 warriors, who were to patrol its perimeter. To prevent the warriors of the Golden Horde from retreating, small detachments of Amir Temur's troops were to use feigned maneuvers to lure the enemy's units and formations into ambushes set in advance at favorable locations.

Amir Temur always made such thorough preparations before battle. After carefully studying information about the enemy and the features of the terrain, he drew his conclusions and gave his commanders the necessary recommendations in secret.

References

1. Рахматуллева А.Р. Историография жизни и деятельности Амира Темура в Узбекистане (1991–2009). Автореф. дисс... канд. ист. наук. – Ташкент: ИИ АН РУз, 2010. – 31 с.
2. Улжаева Ш.М. XX асрнинг 50–60 йилларида Амир Темура ва Темурийлар даври тарихшунослиги (шўро адабиётлари мисолида): Тарих фан. номз... дисс. – Тошкент: ЎзР ФА ТИ, 1999. – 154 б.
3. Harbiy tarix, darslik S.Mamajonov. Toshkent 2021. – 200 b.