

Amir Temur's Ambassadorial Activity in Diplomatic Relations with China (Min State) (In the Case of Fu An)

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ANOTATSION: This article discusses the deterioration of relations between the Chinese (Min) state and the state of Amir Temur, as well as the activities of the Mongol prince Fu An during the military campaign of Amir Temur in China.

Keywords: ruler, dynasty, diplomacy, ambassador, military march, prince, internal struggle, Great country, vassal, capital.

The culmination of diplomatic relations between Amir Temur's state and the Ming Empire was the 1500-person Fu An embassy sent from China to Samarkand in 1395. It would not be wrong to say that this embassy mission caused a clear tension between the two countries. Chinese sources have information that these ambassadors were tasked with asking for 1,000 horses from Amir Temur's palace, and in return they were given baochāo - "baochao", that is, paper money to present to the Timurid palace [4; 47]. This is enough to suggest that the sending of ambassadors may also have economic goals. In some historical literature, there are opinions that the group of ambassadors led by Fu An set out together with the ambassadors of Amir Temur returning from China [1; 102]. The emperor sent several hundred people, captured in the wars with the Mongols, as well as 1,200 Muslim merchants operating in Gansu, together with Fu An to Samarkand [14; 45]. However, Fu An and his group were lucky to return to China only after the death of Amir Temur. The ambassadors were arrested on the order of Amir Temur. In 1397, ambassadors from China headed by Chen Deven left for Samarkand. These ambassadors were also detained until the death of Amir Temur [4; 76].

Naturally, the question arises. Why were the ambassadors who came for the purpose of trade arrested? According to A. Khojaev, there are three reasons for the detention of Fu An ambassador:

- In his letter to Amir Temur, the Chinese Emperor Min Taitzu (i.e. Emperor Hun'u) described him as a ruler obedient to the Chinese Khan. Naturally, this greatly offended Amir Temur;
- Fu An wanted to go to Herat accompanied by 1500 people. This desire of the ambassadors aroused various doubts and suspicions in Amir Temur;
- The news reached Amir Temur that the Khan of Min had ordered the execution of 100,000 Muslims [10; 201-202].

There is no doubt that the first statement is correct. The treatment of the Ming emperors towards the state of Amir Temur as their vassals is fully reflected in Chinese sources and literature. A similar feature is characteristic of Chinese empires of all times. It is natural that this affected the honor of the ruler who founded a large centralized state and won over all his rivals. We did not find similar thoughts to the second opinion, that is, the details of the events about the ambassadors' desire to go to Herat, in any other historical literature. Nor do we see any political purpose or threat to the Timurid state in the desire to go to Herat. The Kurd dynasty (1244-1381), which owned small territories in Herat, was already terminated by Amir Temur, and it is difficult to believe that the Chinese ruler hopes to cooperate with them [9;]. Therefore, we have no reason to say that the above opinion is right or wrong. The third statement, in our opinion, is a little far from the truth. Because the news about the massacre of Muslims reached Amir Temur later. Muslim sources do not contain information about the specific ambassadors named Fu An and Chen Deven. However, Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi's "Zafarnoma" describes the arrival of Chinese ambassadors to Amir Temur, who was wintering in Ohangaron in late 1397-early 1398: "*Ва элчиларким, Хитой мамлакатининг (Тунгиз) хонидин келиб пешкашлар келтуруб эрдилар, беклар элчиларни соҳибқиронга кўрсатдилар ва сўзларини арз қилдилар[7; 191]*".

Min ambassadors came to Amir Temur's residence during the marriage ceremonies of the ruler with Tokal, the daughter of Khan of Mongolia Khizr Khojakhon (1389-1399). The news about the massacre of Muslims in China reached Amir Temur during the "seven years war", when the troops were wintering in Karabakh, i.e. in the winter of 1399-1400 [12; 225]. The chronological disparity is evidence that the arrival of this news is not a reason for the arrest of the Chinese ambassadors.

In our opinion, the fact that 1,200 Muslim merchants in China were confiscated and expelled from the country may be another reason why the Min ambassadors were punished.

It is unclear whether the Chinese ambassadors mentioned in Zafarnama are Fu An or Chen Deven's group. We only need six months to travel from China to the capital of the Timurids [2; 199], we cannot say that these ambassadors are the same

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group led by Chen Deven that set out in 1397. Also, if this is Fu An's group, we don't know why they spent more than two years to come to Samarkand. It is difficult to give a clear conclusion about this. However, with the arrest of the ambassadors, relations between the Min dynasty and Amir Temur's state were strained. The ideas in the works of Nizamiddin Shami and Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi can prove this. Yazdi "Zafarnama" tells the story of how Amir Timur went to the borders of Mongolia on February 19, 1398 to his great-grandson Muhammad Sultan and assigned the task of building strong fortresses and developing agriculture in Ashpara. To help him, Amir Berdibek, Amir Haji Sayfiddin, Amir Khudoidad Hosseini [3108-113], Amir Shamsuddin Abbas and other generals were sent with forty thousand men [7; 191]. Shami clearly mentioned that the purpose of this is to prepare for the march to China:

"Amir Sahibkiran's clear mind planned to march towards China and Khotan in order to uproot the pagans [13; 224]". It should be noted here that according to the work of Ibn Arabshah, Amir Temur sent Muhammad Sultan and Amir Sayfiddin to the borders of Mongolia to build the Ashpara fortress, when the troops returned to Samarkand from the "three-year war", that is, in 1388. According to "Ajaib al-maqdur", the daughter of the Mongol khan (Khonim Tokal) was brought as a bride at the same time [13; 118]. However, the dates in this data are, in our opinion, a bit confusing. After all, at this time, the danger of the attack of Qamariddin (1368-1392) from the Mongolian side was not completely eliminated, and Khizr Khoja Khan had not taken power. Taking into account that Muhammad Sultan was twelve years old at this time, it is somewhat unlikely that this task was entrusted to him. Most importantly, the year indicated by Ibn Arabshah does not correspond to the period when relations with the Ming Empire deteriorated, but to the period when diplomatic relations were just established.

Thus, both Chinese and Muslim sources confirm that the ambassadors who arrived in the winter of 1397-1398 caused the tension between the two countries. A detailed account of these events became known to the Min palace only after the death of Amir Temur. Fu An was taken to the cities of Tabriz, Isfahan, Shiraz, and Herat of the Timurid kingdom by order of Amir Temur [8; 156]. The purpose of this was to show the Min ambassador how vast and vast the country's borders are.

In short, the end of the 14th century and the beginning of the 15th century is the period when the political relations of almost the entire region made a radical change. Ambassador Fu An's activities in the diplomatic relations between Amir Temur and China (Min) have a special place in the history of international relations and diplomacy.

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