

## MIRZO ISKANDAR'S MARCH TO EASTERN TURKESTAN

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**Abstract:** The article analyzes the military campaign organized by Mirza Iskandar, who ruled the Ferghana Valley as the deputy of Amir Temur in 1389-1400, to Eastern Turkestan and its consequences. The factors that led to the organization of this march, the political and military processes that took place, the reasons, results and consequences that influenced the formation of the attitude of the central government to this march were researched on the basis of primary historical sources and opinions put forward in scientific literature.

**Key words and phrases:** Movarounnahr, Eastern Turkestan, Fergana, Andijan, Koshghar, Khotan, Yorkent, Torim, Aksuv, Ashpara, Timurid state, Mongolia, Amir Temur, Mirza Iskandar, Mirza Muhammad Sultan.

There is no information in the sources about the begs who ruled Ferghana, which was part of Movarounnahr, during the years 1393-1399. During these years, some events related to the history of the Fergana Valley took place, which are worth mentioning.

Amir Temur spends the winter of 1397-1398 in a newly established village near Chinoz, Tashkent region. It is during this winter that several important decisions will be made for the eastern regions of the country, including Fergana. First, in the winter of this year, Amir Temur married Tokal, the daughter of the Khan of Mongolia, Khizr Khojakhon, and thus the relations between the two neighboring countries were further strengthened. It was undoubtedly important for the security of the Fergana Valley.

Secondly, in February 1398, according to the decree of Amir Temur, the crown prince Mirza Muhammad Sultan was sent to strengthen the borders with Mongolia, accompanied by several famous amirs. "On the day of the sun (February 19), Amir Temur ordered," writes Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, "Let Amirza Muhammad Sultan go to the border of Mongolia and engage in conquest!" and build <sup>1</sup>a fort in Ashpara and cultivate it. And Berdibek put Sari Buga and amir Haji Saifuddin and Khudoydadi Hosseini and amir Shamsiddin Abbas <sup>2</sup>and other begs with forty thousand people at the disposal of the prince. So they traveled, passing through Kulan, they reached Ashpara, and then they settled down and engaged in building and farming" [13:191]. This was the beginning of preparations for the Chinese campaign [11:73-75]. But at the same time, the expansion of agricultural areas on the borders of Mongolia and the creation of conditions for its development, the construction of military fortresses was another important step towards ensuring the security of the regions on the eastern borders of Movarounnahr, including the Fergana Valley. Because the Mongol emirs considered the Ashpara fortress and its surroundings to be their territory, they used to organize raids on Movarounnahr through these places. Therefore, these creative works further distanced the Mongolian rulers from the settled areas of Movarounnahr. The presence of the crown prince in the borders of Mongolia from February 1398 to May 1399 shows how seriously this task was taken. Mirza Muhammad Sultan was only recalled to rule Samarkand in connection with the departure of Amir Temur on a seven-year campaign. When Amir Temur left for the Indian campaign, the administration of Samarkand was handed over to Mirza Umar, the son of Mirza Mironshah. After it became known that Mirza Mironshah had mismanaged his estates, Amir Temur decided to take Mirza Umar, who had gained experience in managing Movarounnahr, with him to Azerbaijan, and Muhammad Sultan was called in his place.

In 1399, Amir Temur made administrative changes in the provinces on the eastern borders of Movarounnahr before embarking on a seven-year campaign. Even after Crown Prince Mirza Muhammad Sultan was recalled to Samarkand, the eastern borders of the country did not remain without a prince. Management of the Fergana Valley was entrusted to 15-year-old Mirza Iskandar, the son of the late Mirza Umarshaikh. Only the historian Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi left information about this: "Amir Temur placed the prince Muhammad Sultan in Samarkand, the capital of the kingdom, for the conquest of Turonzamin. Berdibek Sari Buga and amir Haji Saifuddin and Khudoydadi Husayni and amir Shamsiddin Abbas and Siddiq <sup>3</sup>Toban and Arghunshah Akhtachi <sup>4</sup>and Ilyashoja <sup>5</sup>and Sheikh Ali Bahadur and others,

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<sup>1</sup>Ashpara (Isfara) is an ancient fortress on the border of Mongolia. It was restored according to the decree of Amir Temur. It should not be confused with Isfara in the Fergana Valley.

<sup>2</sup>Amir Shamsiddin Abbas - Amir Temur began to participate in political and military affairs in the later periods of his career. Amir Temur may have been the son of Abbasbek or Abbas Bahadur.

<sup>3</sup>Siddiq Toban is one of Amir Temur's generals. For the first time, he took an active part in the Mongolian campaign in 1390. He served mainly on the borders of Mongolia. For more information, see: Dadaboev H. Contemporaries of Amir Temur. - B. 157.

<sup>4</sup>Anghunshah Akhtachi is one of the great amirs of Amir Temur. Participant of many military campaigns. For more information, see: Dadaboev H. Contemporaries of Amir Temur. - B. 35.

these were the men engaged in the conquest of the Mongolian border. And Amirzade sent Iskandar ibn Umarshaikh (to Andigon) to conquer the border of the province" [13:225] Hafizi Abru states that despite the fact that Amirzade Iskandar was very young, he was sent to the land (Mongolia) to conquer Mongolia, in another section of his work stated that his place of residence was Andijan<sup>6</sup>. At this point, his information about the appointment of Amir Khudoidad Hosseini and Amir Shamsuddun Abbas to the service of Mirza Iskandar is not reliable. Because they were part of the military forces in Ashpara at that time. In Samarkandi, it is recorded that Mirza Iskandar was sent to Andijan and Mongolia [1:255]. We think that the information that Mirza Iskandar sent Hafiz Abru and Samarqandi to Mongolia came from the fact that he soon marched to this country or that he was also responsible for the situation in the valley bordering Mongolia.

Thus, in 1393-1399, in the Fergana Valley, which was governed by emirs, an ulus under the leadership of Mirzo Iskandar was established, which was subordinate to the central authority from the summer of 1399. Mirza Iskandar, as his father Mirza Umarshaikh, was entrusted with the tasks of paying attention to the security of the regions bordering Mongolia, constantly monitoring the situation in Mongolia, preventing Timurids from creating a situation there, and coordinating their actions with the emirs standing on the borders of Mongolia, including around Ashpara. was loaded. The subsequent development of events confirms that Mirzo Iskandar was entrusted with such tasks.

It is necessary to think about what Amir Temur intended by forming Fergana as a separate ulus and giving it to one of the princes as a vassal.

In particular, at this time there was no external political situation that required the re-organization of the Fergana Valley as a single strong governorate. Because the military threat from the Mongolian side had completely disappeared during this period. Therefore, the question of robust protection against external risk cannot be a reliable answer.

In 1404, the Fergana valley together with Eastern Turkestan was given to Ibrahim Mirza<sup>7</sup>, and the northeastern part of Movarunnahr together with Mongolia to Mirza Ulughbek allows us to make some comments. Amir Temur began serious preparations for the Chinese campaign from 1398. <sup>8</sup>For this purpose, he restored the cities in the regions bordering Mongolia and focused on expanding the agricultural areas around them and increasing the influence of the settled population. It seems that Amir Temur had the intention of conquering the lands as far as China and establishing two uluses consisting of agricultural and livestock oases, including the cities of Tashkent, Sayram and Fergana Valley. If these nations were to be established, Mongolia would be completely conquered and split into two, the lands up to China would pass into the hands of the Timurids, and full security would be established in the parts of the Great Silk Road from the borders of China to the shores of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Also, the presence of these two tribes guaranteed that there would be no danger of nomadic Mongols raiding Movarounnahr in the future. We think that the first step towards the realization of this idea was to give Fergana valley to Mirza Iskandar as a guardian. Soon after, this ulus was dissolved by Mirza Muhammad Sultan, the viceroy of Samarkand, but Amir Temur, who formed the Fergana ulus on the way to the Seven Years' Campaign, decided to re-establish this ulus in the above-mentioned form as soon as he returned from this campaign.

The most important historical event in the history of the Fergana Valley at the end of the 14th century and the beginning of the 15th century is the march of the Timurid army led by Mirza Iskandar to Eastern Turkestan.

While giving information about this incident, Nizamiddin Shami limited himself to the words "Amirzada Iskandar Bahadir, the son of Amirzada Umarshaikh Bahadir, even though he was young, led an army towards Mongolia, the Almighty granted him victory and victory, defeated and humiliated the enemy soldiers, and conquered the country of his father's homeland." [9:278]. Although Fasih Hawafi does not mention the Mongolian campaign in his chronicle, he recorded the arrest of Mirza Iskandar and the execution of his father and 26 servants [6:120]. Khondamir, like Nizamiddin Shami, was satisfied with emphasizing that Mirza Iskandar's Mongolian campaign ended in victory [12:197]. Although Muiniddin Natanziy covered the information about the Fergana Valley more widely than other authors, he did not mention this campaign at all [7:264]. Mirza Iskandar's Mongolian campaign is described in detail by Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, Hafizi Abru and Abdurazzaq Samarkandi [13:225-226, 1:255].

Not enough attention was paid to this march in the scientific literature. V.V. Barthold and H. Fayzievin their works limited themselves to recording that Mirza Iskandar marched to Eastern Turkestan and besieged the city of Aksuv [4:84, 5:61]. While addressing this issue, B. Akhmedov gave incorrect information that the Timurid army retreated to Khanbalik [3:237]. A number of scientific works do not discuss this issue [10:87, 2:74-83].

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<sup>5</sup>Ilyashhoja is the son of Sheikh Ali Bahadir, one of the great emirs of Amir Temur. For more information, see: Dadabaev H. Contemporaries of Amir Temur. - B. 77.

<sup>6</sup>حافظ ابرو. جلد دوم. - ص. 938-883.

<sup>7</sup>Ibrahim Mirza (1394-1435) - Ibrahim Mirza ibn Mirza Shahrukh ibn Amir Temur Kuragon. Mirza Shahrukh is the second son, during his time he ruled the country of Persia. Patron of science and culture. He sponsored and led the writing of Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi's work "Zafarnama". For more information, see: Faiziev T. Family tree of the Temurs. - B. 325.

<sup>8</sup>In the sources, this phrase was used because Amir Temur's campaign to the east, which began in 1404, was called the Chinese campaign. In our opinion, Amir Temur planned to conquer lands as far as China in this campaign. There is no sufficient reason to believe that there was a plan to invade the central provinces of China.

The death of Khizr Khoja Khan, Khan of Mongolia, a struggle for the throne began between his sons. <sup>9</sup>Seeing this situation as a favorable opportunity to march into Mongolia, the amirs encouraged young Mirza Iskandar to war. V.V. Barthold also noted that after the death of Khizr Khoja Khan, wars began between his four sons and that the Governor of Fergana decided to use this favorable opportunity [4:84]. Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi tells a detailed story about it. "I am a poor man," writes the historian, "because Khizr Khoja Oglan, the king of the Jeta clan, died, his sons were at odds with each other, and the clan was in disarray. Prince Iskandar heard this news, seized the opportunity, and all his greatness, fifteen At the age of 20, he gathered the Andijan army, and his elders, such as Pir Mohammad Tagay Bugai Barlos and Nurak Barlos, and Bayon Temur Bekkichik Jeta and Pir Haji Malash and Shermatkim, the son of Bahman Joniqurbani, went to Mongolia" [13:225]. The march began in the autumn, a few months after the appointment of Mirzo Iskandar as the governor of Fergana. The Timurid army enters the territory of Eastern Turkestan through the pass.

When the Timurid army entered Eastern Turkestan from the Fergana Valley, the Timurid army led by the emirs stationed in the regions bordering the Mongolian Ertis region was also monitoring the situation in the khanate. The beggars around Ashpara marched to Mongolia and joined the army of Mirza Iskandar. "And those who were beggars were killed on the border of Jeta with judgment, such as (Berdibek) and Pir Muhammadbek and Khudoydadi Hosseini and Shamsuddin Abbas and Dawood Malik Barlos and Siddiq Toban and all the others were shocked when they heard the news about the prince. The beggars came to Prince Koshghar and joined them and together they went to Mongolia" [13:225]. As can be seen from this passage, the march was started by the governor of Fergana, Mirza Iskandar, and the emirs of Ashpara, when they heard about it, joined him near Koshghar. It is not clear whether Mirza Iskandar invited them to his side or whether they acted independently. Taking into account that Amir Temur left an army of forty thousand people on the borders of Mongolia, Haji Saifuddin, Arghunshah Akhtachi, Ilyas Khoja and Sheikh Ali Bahadur among the emirs who were left there did not participate in this campaign, the number of the army that joined the army of Mirza Iskandar can be estimated at 20 thousand people. If you pay attention to the absence of famous emirs in the ranks of the army under the leadership of Mirza Iskandar, it becomes clear that their number is less than those who came to help.

The Timurid army first captured Koshghar, and this city served as the main base during the continuation of the campaign. After that, the territories of Yorkent, Sariqkamish, Kalpin, Alakol, Yorkurgan, Chahortok, Kuyukbog, Uchturfon, Aksuv <sup>10</sup>were conquered one after another. If we observe the march of the Timurid army through the map, the following direction is formed. After occupying Koshghar, the army moved to the southwest, that is, to the city of Yorkent. After the conquest of Yorkent, the army changed its direction to the northeast and moved along the Yorkent River. A part of the Lashkar must have moved from Koshghar directly towards Aksuv. Because this road was the closest road to Aksuv, it was very convenient to subjugate the settled and semi-nomadic and nomadic population around it. One of the conquered territories listed in the historical source is Kalpin, one of the mountain valleys in the northeast of Koshghar. It was emphasized by A.Ahmedov and H. Bobobekovs [13:347]. If such a course of action was chosen, the second part of the army should have joined together again around the town of Maralboshi on the Koshghar-Aksuv road. Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi's one-by-one mention of the names of many addresses and residential areas in the area before the Aksuv indicates that each area was fully controlled by the Timurid army during the pursuit of the retreating opponent.

The peak of internecine warfare in Mongolia is also evident from the fact that as a result of disunity, large-scale battles with rivals do not occur. It seems that the nomadic tribes took as much of their property as possible and tried to retreat into the deserts. In our opinion, mainly settled and semi-nomadic population faced the blow of Timurids. The sources do not provide information about large-scale open field battles or, in the parlance of the time, long-distance warfare. "And they went and chased Yorkent. And after passing Sariqkamish and Kalpin and Alakol and Yorkurgan and Chahortok and Kuyukbog they beat them all. There was a group of people in three groups, some of them became Tobi', and some of them were moved and brought to the Aksuv road" [13:225]. The relocation of the population mentioned in the historical source must have been in the direction of Uchturfon - Aksuv - Koshghar, because it was said that the population was taken from the Aksuv road. Also, the Aksuv-Koshghar road was close several times from the Aksuv-Yorkent-Koshghar road.

The rulers of Mongolia may have expected that the Timurid army, after conquering several territories and destroying the existing defense structures, would be satisfied with the spoils and return. But as the Timurid army continued to advance deep into the interior of the country, it finally began to encounter serious resistance. First, the fortress in Uchturfon was conquered by assault. It is probably because Hafizi Abru Mirza Iskandar faced serious resistance in Uchturfon, that is where the events of this march begin <sup>11</sup>. Then the three strong fortresses in Aksuv were subdued by forty days of fighting

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<sup>9</sup>Khizr Khojakhan is the son of Togluq Temurkhan. Khan who had a great position in the 80s and 90s of the XIV century. Amir married his daughter to Temur and established kinship ties with him.

<sup>10</sup>Yorkent is one of the largest historical cities in East Turkestan. It is located south-east of Kashgar, on the Kashgar-Khotan road. Sariqgamish is one of the places around Yorkent, Kalpin is one of the mountain valleys in the north-east of Kashgar, Alakol, Yorkurgan, Chahortok and Kuyukbog are places between Kashgar, Yorkent and Uchturfan, Uchturfan is a city in the east of Kashgar. Located on the Issikkul-Aksuv road, Aksuv is a large city in the east of Kashgar. Kashghar - on the road.

<sup>11</sup>.895. جلد دوم. - حافظ ابرو. - ص. 895.

<sup>12</sup>. After the Timurid army arrived in Aksuv, it first marched towards the northwest, entered Uchturfon, and after conquering it, returned back to Aksuv. Because the later conquest of three fortresses near Aksuv, in our opinion, is connected with their location to the west of the city. Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi mentions them after the fortress in Uchturfon. It should be mentioned here that the Timurid army could move from Uchturfon along this road and pass through two passes to the Ettisuv region. But since winter was approaching and this campaign was being conducted only by the army in the Fergana Valley and a part of the military units that Amir Temur had left around Ashpara, Alexander did not like to take risks. As we said above, Mirza Iskandar will return the army from Uchturfon to Aksuv.

We need to understand the three strong fortresses located in a row along the same road in Oksuv as small city-fortresses located on this branch of the Great Silk Road. V.W.Barthold notes that large merchants trading with China lived in these forts and survived by paying large tributes [4:84]. Indeed, after the surrender of these fortresses, Mirza Iskandar spared them and did not harm them. Yazdi states that the movement of the Timurid army continued as follows: "... andin Boy<sup>13</sup> and Kusin sent<sup>14</sup> sori chopkin. And Boy is a meadow and Kusin is a village. Amirzada's accomplice Boy and Kusin ran away and captured Khizrshahbek's harem Malik and his daughter Ihsan Malik" [13:225]. Hafizi Abru called them Haji Mulk Aga and Esan Mulk Aga<sup>15</sup>. B. Ahmedov in his study "Temur and Kamariddin" mentions the names of the princesses in the form of Haji Mulk agha and Eson mulk [3:335]. B.Ahmedov's opinion in this work that the Timurid army invaded the lands from Khotan to Khanbalik during this campaign and spent the winter in Khotan, in our opinion, is far from the truth. First of all, we did not find a record of the march to Khanbalik in the sources. Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi only gave information about the distance to Khanbalik. Secondly, the historian Mirza Iskandar noted that he spent the winter in Kashgar [13:226].

The fact that the queens were captured in Boi and Kusin indicates that the main forces of the opponent were defeated in the battles in these areas. Because after this battle, the Timurid army will not face any resistance. It is clear from the sources that the Timurids continued to march east even after Aksuv. They conquered the village 150 km of Boy, approximately from Aksuv, and 300 km the city of Kusin, i.e. Kucha, approximately from it.

The army that continued to march conquered Torim<sup>16</sup> and displaced part of the population there. Hofizu Abru noted that a part of the army was sent to Torim<sup>17</sup>. Although Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi is limited to the name Torim, it is believed to be Chora, the only city in the Torim oasis [13:347]. The city of Chora was the farthest place Timurid's army went to the east, it was about 700-800 km away from Aksuv.

Although the source does not say exactly where the inhabitants of the Torim oasis were moved to, it can be assumed that they were moved to the Fergana Valley. First, it is known that Mirza Umarshaikh moved a part of the population of Eastern Turkestan to Ferana Valley [7:192-193]. Mirza Iskandar seems to have continued this work.

After the Timurid army conquered Torim and returned to Aqsuv, there was a dispute about the continuation of the campaign: "After these conquests, Amirzada Alexander wanted to occupy all the regions of Mongolia. Amir Khudaidad, Shamsiddin Abbas, Berdibek, Davud Malik Barlos and Siddik Toban did not agree to this. And they said that Hazrat Sahibgiron ordered us to spend the winter in the region of Chud. We are getting fat as an invader<sup>18</sup>." It seems that the emirs from Ashpara did not want to continue the march towards Khotan. Attacking Khotan, in the south of East Turkestan, would take them away from Ashpara, their main settlement. After that, Mirza Iskandar may have continued the march only with what was at his disposal. Because the names of the emirs from Ashpara are not found in the sources. Khotan after Torim<sup>19</sup>, stayed in Koshghar due to the approach of winter and the closure of the pass, and returned to the Fergana valley in the spring. About this, Yazdi writes the following: "They sacked Torim and brought many people to the Andes." And after the victory, Prince Iskandar Aksuddin Khotan was very happy. ... Alqissa, Prince Iskandar went to Khotanga, and then they went out with a few fishermen and became friends. And then the castles were destroyed. And Amirzade went to Karangutog and then returned and killed him in Koshghar" [13:226]. It is also interesting how Mirzo Iskandar's army returned from Torim to Khotan. Although the source does not mention it, there were three paths before him.

The first way is to bypass the Taklamakan desert<sup>20</sup> from the eastern and southern sides. This road was 3-4 times longer than other roads, and the Timurid army had not yet reached it, but the natural conditions were somewhat favorable. Mirzo Iskandar's army probably did not follow this road, because the sources do not mention the names of the settlements on this road.

The second route is the Kucha-Keria caravan route, which cuts through the heart of the Taklamakan desert. There were only a few residential areas in it. This was the road with the most difficult natural conditions. In about a third of it there

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<sup>12</sup>Hofizu Abru Aqsuv states that it was conquered after 12 days of fighting. See: حافظ ابرو. جلد دوم. - ص. 896.

<sup>13</sup>The area on the Boy-Aksuv-Kucha road. From the information in the sources, it is understood that there are many pastures.

<sup>14</sup>Kusin is the city of Kucha. A city located on the caravan route to China east of Aksuv and Boy.

<sup>15</sup>حافظ ابرو. جلد دوم. - ص. 895.

<sup>16</sup>Torim is an oasis around the river, the only city of Chora. It is located east of the street, south of Bagrashkol.

<sup>17</sup>حافظ ابرو. جلد دوم. - ص. 896.

<sup>18</sup>حافظ ابرو. جلد دوم. - ص. 896.

<sup>19</sup>Khotan is a large city located in the south of East Turkestan.

<sup>20</sup>Taklamakan is a large field in East Turkestan.

was a river of the same name, which flows from south to north, stagnant as far as the <sup>21</sup>town of Keria, after which its water dwindles and becomes almost dry. To get to Khotan, it would be necessary to walk about another 200 km distance from Keria to the west.

The third road, Aksuv-Khotan road, was the closest road in terms of distance. Also, the natural conditions were somewhat more favorable than the Kucha-Keria road. The main part of it passed along the Yurunkash Darya, which flows from south to north and is almost dry in summer, but has some water in autumn <sup>22</sup>. It is through this third road that the army of the Timurids reached Khotan. If this road was followed, then the army returned from Chara to Aksuv, and from there went south and reached the Khotan oasis and continued to march from Khotan towards the mountainous regions called Karagutog. <sup>23</sup>As a result, the tribes living on the slopes of Korangutog were conquered. After that, the victorious army returned to Koshghar through the cities of Khotan and Yorkent.

In general, as a result of this campaign, the Timurid army traveled several thousand kilometers and conquered almost all of Eastern Turkestan. Until Mirza Iskandar, no Timurid general had organized such a large-scale and long-lasting campaign across Eastern Turkestan. Amir Temur mainly marched towards the Ettisuv region of central Mongolia and the lands to its north, while his march in Eastern Turkestan was limited to the vicinity of Koshghar. Mirza Umarshaikh, according to the decree of Amir Temur, was content with conquering the surroundings of Koshghar, like his father, when he withdrew his army to Eastern Turkestan [7:192-193].

The fact that Mirza Iskandar spends the winter in Kashghar shows that there are no rivals left to threaten him in Eastern Turkestan. Although he abandoned all the conquered fortresses and cities (because the mirza's army was insufficient to keep them in constant obedience), he kept the city of Koshghar in his hands. After that, this city was under the control of the Timurids until it was conquered by the Dughlat emirs during the reign of Mirza Ulugbek [8:101-103]. When Mirza Iskandar was wintering in Kashghar, he sent an official named Sheikh Yasovul to Amir Temur <sup>24</sup>with gifts and reported the results of the campaign. Amir Temur received these gifts when he was on the Sham march [13:226]. Presents, including Mongolian horses, were also sent to Mirza Muhammad Sultan, who remained in Samarkand as the deputy of Amir Temur and ruled Movaroonnahr [13:226].

Hearing about the death of Moghul Khan, Mirza Muhammad Sultan himself came to Turkestan with the intention of attacking Mongolia, and when he was gathering troops, he found out about Mirza Iskandar's arbitrary march without the permission of the central authority. From the information of Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, it is understood that Mirza Muhammad Sultan learned about the campaign of the governor of Fergana only when he arrived in Turkestan, and the gifts sent by Iskandar from Kashghar arrived while he was in Turkestan. The angry prince returned to Samarkand due to the failure of his Mongolian campaign and the fact that Mirza Iskandar began to act without his permission. He did not accept gifts as a sign of displeasure [13:226]. Crown Prince Amir, as Temur's deputy in Samarkand, believed that the Governor of Fergana must obey him. However, it can be seen from his actions that Mirza Iskandar knew himself as a governor directly subordinate to Amir Temur.

Mirza Iskandar must have been afraid of Mirza Muhammad Sultan, but only after hearing that he was coming from Samarkand to Turkestan to gather troops, he tried to atone for his guilt by sending gifts. That is, he tried to soften the consequences of his separatist actions. Therefore, its representatives met Mirza Muhammad Sultan in Turkestan. But their efforts did not work. Muhammad Sultan could not turn a blind eye to these actions, which were carried out without the permission of the central government.

At this time, a disagreement occurred among Mirza Iskandar's army after Muhammad Sultan's reaction to this campaign became known. The issue of responsibility for arbitrary actions without the permission of the central government caused disunity among Mirza Iskandar's army. Some of the emirs returned to Andijan without his permission. Mirza Iskandar wanted to continue the march, but after some emirs went to Andijan, he had to turn back <sup>25</sup>.

As soon as Mirza Iskandar arrived in Andijan, he decided to go to Samarkand to meet Muhammad Sultan and ease the situation. However, when they arrived at Ak Kotal, Mirza Iskandar returned to Andijan, fearing that drastic measures might be taken against him, as he received new information about the extreme negativity of Mirza Muhammad Sultan's views on the issue of the "Mongolian campaign" [13:226].<sup>26</sup>

Hofizu Abru sent Mirza Iskandar Bayontemur, who returned to Andijan, to Samarkand to apologize, but Iskandar of the emirsHe claims that they captured Bayontemur on the road and sent Bayontemur to Muhammad Sultan, with the news that Iskandar had fled to Mogulistan <sup>27</sup>. It appears that the emirs tried to shift the blame entirely to Mirza Iskandar and his closest supporters in order to avoid responsibility.

After arriving in Andijan, Mirza Iskandar's entry into the fortress indicates that his trust in his emirs has weakened. Because Muhammad Sultan did not leave Samarkand and did not send an army to Fergana. In fact, it seems that the

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<sup>21</sup>Keria - a place located east of Khotan.

<sup>22</sup>Yurunkash Darya is one of the small rivers in East Turkestan, which originates from the Tibetan mountains and flows northward.

<sup>23</sup>Korangutog is a part of the Tibetan mountains in the south of East Turkestan.

<sup>24</sup>In Hafiz and Abru, this name is given in the form of Sheikh Barlos. See: 897. ص. - جلد دوم. - حافظ ابرو.

<sup>25</sup>939. ص. - جلد دوم. - حافظ ابرو.

<sup>26</sup>Ok Kotal - Andijon - Samarkand highway road.

<sup>27</sup>940-939. ص. - جلد دوم. - حافظ ابرو.

amirs who encouraged Mirza Iskandar to go on this campaign and acquired great wealth, were now afraid of responsibility and made a secret connection with Mirza Muhammad Sultan.

At this point, let's look at the composition of the emirs who were in the service of Mirza Iskandar. In the historical sources, the names of Pir Mohammad Tagay Bughai Barlos, Nurak Barlos, Bayon Temur Bekkichik Jeta, Pir Haji Malash, Shermat Bahman Joniqurbani's son are mentioned among the emirs in the service of Fergana governor Mirza Iskandar. Among them, Bayon Temur Bekkichik Jeta was one of the family members of the late Mirza Umarshaikh, and he was taken there when Mirza Umarshaikh handed over the governorship of Fergana and was transferred to the governorship of Fars region [13:225-226]. Bayon returned to the valley as his father when Temur Mirza Iskandar was appointed governor of Fergana [6:120]. Considering that Bayon Temur was of Mongolian origin (he was the son of Bekkichik Jeta of Mongolia), we believe that he was the main organizer of the Mongolian campaign. Pir Haji Malash is the son of Malash Aparidi, one of the prince's guardians who went to Persia with Mirza Umarshaikh, and it can be assumed that he was left in the Fergana Valley when his father was transferred to Persia. Because in 1376, when Mirza Umarshaikh was sent to Fergana, the district made up of the Aparidi tribe was mobilized to the valley along with him.

There is no information in the sources about who was entrusted with the management of the Fergana Valley after Mirza Umarshaikh was appointed as the governor of Fars region. It is natural that the valley was divided into several districts and managed by emirs who were appointed governors of large cities such as Akhsi, Andijan and Khojand. It is highly probable that one of these emirs was Pir Muhammad Taghai Buga Barlos and Pir Haji Malash. The fact that they later led the army against Mirza Iskandar shows that both of them already had a great position among this army. Also, their name is mostly mentioned after Mirza Iskandar in events related to Fergana. It seems that the amirs who ruled the valley districts in 1393-1399 did not like the appointment of Mirza Iskandar as the governor of Fergana and the fact that his father Bayon Temur, who was sent with him, had a high position.

Hofizu Abru Mirza emphasized that Iskandar's own emirs had slandered him. As we said above, the entry of Mirza Iskandar into the Andijan fortress in the absence of external danger indicates that the internal situation was not good. This is also confirmed by further information in the historical source [13:226]. According to the source information, Mirza Iskandar Pir Muhammad Tagai Buga Barlos and Pir Haji Malash, who was surrounded by the valley army in the Andijan fortress, agreed to leave the fortress. But it is natural that he did not allow his special talents to be captured. When Mirza Iskandar settled in the garden built by his father, the amirs who did not keep their word captured Mirza's servants and took control of him. The emirs quickly sent people to Samarkand and reported the incident. "And they sent someone to Prince Muhammad Sultan, "The prince had an idea of opposition, he entered the castle. We will arrest the relevant officials and give advice to anyone." Hearing the words of Prince Mohammad Sultan, I shouted, "Let Prince Iskandar and his retinue be brought to Samarkand!" Amirzada Iskandar was taken to Samarkand with his officials. In Kokhak Suyiga, Prince Muhammad Sultan was killed and Prince Iskandar was brought to him. Prince Iskandar was arrested, and Bayon Temur Bekkichikimm, his father, twenty-six people, I know, all the servants of Prince Iskandar, killed him [13:225-226].

Hafizi Abru Mirza states that his emirs slandered Iskandar, and that the arrest of the prince, who was kept under control, was carried out by Muhammad Sultan's servants, and Qazi Jalaluddin was sent to take him to Samarkand<sup>28</sup>.

It can be seen from the above that Mirzo Iskandar and his father and his followers are accused of crimes such as organizing an unauthorized march to Mongolia and rebellion against the central government. However, Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi Mirza emphasizes that the emirs of the valley understood the strengthening of Iskandar in Andijan fortress as a rebellion. Although Mirza Iskandar was arrested, his father and 26 servants were executed. V.V. Barthold notes that this event took place in the spring of 1400 [4:54].

As a result of Mirza Iskandar's march to Mongolia, his reign in Fergana lasted only for one year. Fergana was again returned to the central divan, and the management of the valley was entrusted to the amirs who helped Mirza Iskandar in captivity - Pir Muhammad Tagai Buga Barlos and Pir Haji Malash.

After Amir Temur returned from the "Seven Years" campaign, he decided to make further administrative changes in the eastern borders of Movarounnahr in preparation for the Chinese campaign. According to it, new uluses were established under the leadership of Ibrahim Mirza in the Fergana Valley and East Turkestan regions, and Mirza Ulugbek in the regions of Tashkent, Sayram and Mongolia [13:293]. The territories of Mongolia and Eastern Turkestan were intended to be conquered during the upcoming Chinese campaign. Thus, Amir Temur aimed to establish two new uluses in the north-east of Movarounnahr up to the Chinese border. However, with the death of Amir Temur on February 18, 1405, these two nations were not established, just as the Chinese campaign was not carried out.

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