

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



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AMIR TEMUR'S EURASIAN DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY: A NEW PARADIGM OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Abstract

This article explores Amir Temur's diplomatic system through the analytical frameworks of contemporary international relations theory, particularly realism, liberalism, and constructivism [6, p.112]. It seeks to reinterpret Temur's foreign policy not merely as an extension of military expansion, but as a structured and strategically balanced diplomatic model shaped by geopolitical, economic, and socio-cultural determinants [1, p.45; 6, p.118].

The study focuses on key dimensions of Temur's diplomacy, including the institutional development of interstate relations, the strategic utilization of transcontinental trade routes such as the Silk Road, and the deployment of cultural-symbolic power as an instrument of political legitimacy [6, p.120]. Special emphasis is placed on the normative aspects of governance reflected in the so-called "Temur's Code," which demonstrates early elements of diplomatic regulation and interstate conduct [1, p.52].

The findings indicate that Amir Temur's diplomatic practice embodies an embryonic form of multipolar international order, where hard power and soft power were effectively integrated [2, p.97; 6, p.130].

Keywords: Amir Temur, diplomacy, geopolitics, soft power, Silk Road, international system, integration.

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Introduction

In contemporary international relations theory, interactions between states are analyzed through approaches such as realism, liberalism, and constructivism [6, p.110]. Studying Amir Temur's diplomacy within these theoretical paradigms allows for a deeper understanding of his political legacy.

In Temur's state, diplomacy was elevated to an institutional level and became a systematic mechanism for implementing foreign policy. The diplomatic norms outlined in the "Temur's Code" can be regarded as early elements of international law [1, p.60].

Theoretical and Methodological Foundations

The following approaches were applied in analyzing Amir Temur's diplomacy:

- Realism — the primacy of power and security
- Liberalism — trade and mutually beneficial cooperation
- Constructivism — the role of culture, values, and ideology [6, p.115]

These approaches demonstrate the multidimensional nature of Temur's diplomacy.

Geopolitical Strategy and Balance of Power

At the end of the 14th century, the balance of power in Eurasia underwent significant changes [6, p.135]. The rise of the Ottoman Empire posed a strategic challenge to regional actors.

Following the Battle of Ankara in 1402, Temur reshaped the geopolitical balance in Eurasia. His diplomatic relations with European rulers can be interpreted as a strategic alignment against a common threat [2, p.101; 3, p.2].

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Economic Diplomacy and the Liberal Approach

A key feature of Amir Temur's diplomacy was the prioritization of economic interests and trade stability. He placed great emphasis on restoring and developing trade along the Silk Road [6, p.140].

From the perspective of liberalism, this process can be evaluated as:

- strengthening mutual economic interdependence
- ensuring peace through trade
- institutionalizing international cooperation

The trade security guarantees introduced by Temur are considered an early example of economic diplomacy [1, p.75].

Intellectual Diplomacy and Soft Power

Intellectual influence played an important role in Amir Temur's diplomacy. His interaction with Ibn Khaldun is a notable example of intellectual diplomacy [4, p.210].

In modern political science, this phenomenon is interpreted through the concept of "soft power," introduced by Joseph Nye. It refers to achieving goals through cultural and intellectual influence rather than coercion [6, p.150].

In Temur's diplomacy, early manifestations of this concept can be observed:

- promotion of science and culture as state policy
- engagement with prominent scholars
- transformation of Samarkand into a cultural center
- use of architecture and culture as political symbolism [6, p.152]

Diplomatic Protocol and Political Symbolism

According to the Castilian ambassador Ruy González de Clavijo, diplomatic receptions in Amir Temur's court were highly organized and conducted according to strict protocols [5, p.88].

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From a constructivist perspective, state power is shaped not only by military or economic factors but also by symbols, image, and cultural codes [6, p.155].

The Temur Model in the International System

Amir Temur's diplomacy can be described as a comprehensive model consisting of four components:

1. Military power (hard power)
2. Economic interest (trade diplomacy)
3. Intellectual influence (soft power)
4. Protocol and symbolism

These factors worked in synergy, reinforcing one another and strengthening Temur's international position [2, p.110; 6, p.158].

Conclusion

In conclusion, Amir Temur's diplomatic strategy represents a complex and multidimensional system that transcends the explanatory limits of any single theoretical paradigm. His foreign policy simultaneously incorporated realist principles of power maximization and security, liberal tendencies toward economic exchange and trade facilitation, and constructivist elements rooted in cultural influence and ideological legitimacy [6, p.160].

The maintenance of a relative balance of power across Eurasia, particularly in the post-Ankara geopolitical environment, reflects Temur's adaptive strategic thinking and long-term vision of regional stability [2, p.115].

The normative principles attributed to the "Temur's Code" further suggest an early attempt to systematize diplomatic behavior and interstate relations, anticipating foundational ideas of modern international law [1, p.82].

Ultimately, Amir Temur's diplomacy should be interpreted as an integrated governance model combining military capability, economic rationality, and cultural influence.

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