



Persons Responsible For The Supply Of The Army In The Reign Of Amir Temur and Their Duties

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DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.47134/pssh.v3i4.736>

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Received: 22-04-2026

Accepted: 22-05-2026

Published: 22-06-2026



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Abstract: This study examines the military supply system in the state of Amir Temur, focusing on the officials responsible for maintaining logistical support and the specific functions they performed. The success of Amir Temur's military campaigns depended not only on strategic planning and battlefield tactics but also on a well-organized and efficient supply network that ensured the continuous provision of food, weapons, transportation, clothing, and financial resources to the army. Using historical sources such as Temur's Regulations, Nizamuddin Shami's Zafarnama, Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi's Zafarnama, and other historical accounts, the study analyzes the roles of key officials, including bakovul, muhasib, muhassil, tamgachi, treasurer, yasovul, yurtchi, akhtachi, and ghajirchi. The findings reveal that the Timurid military supply system was highly centralized and operated through a coordinated administrative structure in which each official had clearly defined responsibilities. This organization facilitated effective resource management, secure transportation routes, orderly military encampments, financial control, and disciplined troop movements. The study concludes that the efficiency of this supply system was one of the principal factors behind the success, mobility, and long-term operational stability of Amir Temur's army during extensive military campaigns.

Keywords: Amir Temur, Army, Supply, Logistics, Bakovul, Yurtchi, Tavochi, G' Ajirchi, Military System

Introduction

The state founded by Amir Temur occupies a special place in history with its perfect military system. The success of Amir Temur's campaigns is connected not only with the combat strategy, but also with the careful organization of the army's supply. The army supply system means the uninterrupted supply of soldiers with food, weapons and vehicles. Therefore, during the Timurid era, this system developed as an important part of military management. There were persons directly and indirectly responsible for the army's supply, who ensured the uninterrupted, continuous operation of all types of supply. Amir Temur, along with continuing the traditions of military armament of his predecessors, also organized military units armed with modern firearms for his time, which means that new types of supply were also introduced in the army's supply. A special fire weapon in Amir Temur's army was the ra'd, and a special artillery unit was established to ensure the uninterrupted operation of this weapon. According to Nizamiddin Shami, the number of

ra'dandoz in Amir Temur's army was ten thousand. Ra'dandoz were first used by Amir Temur in the siege of Urgench in 1379. Ra'd is an Arabic word meaning "thunderstorm". The reason why the cannon was called a ra'd was because of the thunderous sound it made when firing shells. It was considered an effective weapon in besieging fortified castles and forts and inflicting heavy losses on enemy forces. Therefore, in Amir Temur's army, several types of supply, including financial, food, weapons, clothing, as well as logistics and service, operated according to a clear plan. The perfect functioning of this system depended on the people directly responsible for supply.

Literature Review

Historical sources provide information about the persons responsible for the supply system in Amir Temur's army and their duties. In particular, the works "*Temur's Regulations*", "*Zafarnama*" by Nizamuddin Shami, "*Diary of the Indian Campaign*" by Ghiyasuddin Ali, "*Ajoib al-maqdur fi tarikhi Taymur*" by Ibn Arabshah ("*The Wonders of Fate in the History of Temur*"), "*Zafarnama*" by Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi, describe the persons responsible for supply and the duties they were required to perform in the preparation for military campaigns and descriptions of the campaigns. The "*Temur's Regulations*" state that when the emirs and generals collected goods from the population, they should not demand more than the tribute in terms of cavalry, cavalry, and cavalry. This instruction indicates that Amir Temur attached great importance to the orderly and controlled supply of the army. That is, the supply system did not operate on an arbitrary basis, but on the basis of clear rules. Sources that also played an important role in military supply describe the tavochi and the tasks they were supposed to perform. In particular, Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi's "*Zafarnoma*" states that in 1386, before Amir Temur's three-year campaign, he issued a decree saying, "*The tavochi should go to the provinces and declare war!*" and that the tavochi gathered an army and came to the Supreme Horde, after which Amir Temur set off on a campaign towards Iran. Beatrice Forbes Manz provides information about several positions responsible for the supply of the army in her work *The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane*.

Methodology

This study employed a qualitative historical research approach to examine the military supply system during the reign of Amir Temur and to identify the officials responsible for managing military logistics and their respective duties. The research was based on documentary and literature analysis using both primary and secondary historical sources. Primary sources included *Temur's Regulations*, Nizamuddin Shami's *Zafarnama*, Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi's *Zafarnama*, Ghiyasuddin Ali's *Diary of the Indian Campaign*, and Ibn Arabshah's *Ajoib al-Maqdur fi Tarikhi Taymur*. These sources provide detailed descriptions of military administration, campaigns, and the roles of officials involved in army supply.

Data were collected through a systematic review of historical texts and relevant scholarly literature concerning Timurid military organization. The collected information was classified according to categories of military supply, including financial administration,

food distribution, transportation, logistics, taxation, and camp management. Comparative analysis was then conducted to identify the functions and interrelationships of officials such as bakovul, muhasib, muhassil, tamgachi, yasovul, yurtchi, akhtachi, and ghajirchi. The findings were interpreted using historical-descriptive analysis to explain how the supply system operated and contributed to the effectiveness, mobility, and success of Amir Temur's military campaigns.

Result and Discussion

The results of the study show that the supply system in Amir Temur's army was centralized and effectively managed. Each position had a specific task and they worked in harmony with each other. Some positions from the era of Amir Temur and the Timurids also existed in the states that ruled before the Timurids. In particular, positions such as Yurtchi, Tavochi, Yarguchi, Akhtachi, Bakovul, Bavurchi also existed in the states of Genghis Khan, the Elkhanids, the Ghigatai ulus, and the Golden Horde. Historical sources, including Timur's regulations and modern scientific research, were used in the study of this topic. These sources provide important information about the structure of the army, military management, and the supply system.

The careful organization of the army's supply led to the following results:

- fast and efficient implementation of military campaigns
- high combat readiness of soldiers
- maintaining stability during long-distance campaigns

Discussion

Amir Temur's army had a clearly organized supply system, in which various officials played an important role. In particular, the bakuvols controlled the distribution of food and order within the army. The yasovuls ensured the execution of orders and participated in strengthening military discipline.

Mukhosib (Accountant) — (also referred to in some sources as "accountants", "financial controllers") were important officials in the Timurid army who kept accounts of military finances and supplies. Sheikh Nuruddin's arrival and joining the army during the Indian campaign is described in Nizamuddin Shami's "Zafarnama" as follows: "The prince Sheikh Nureddin, who had been left as governor in Persia, arrived at the blessed camp in good health and with booty. He brought such a large number of valuable gifts from the warehouses: hunting birds, decorated weapons, rows of war horses, thoroughbred camels and mules, and elegant jewels, ornaments, and musk that the accountants counted them for up to three days and delivered them to the army." From this text, we can learn that the accountants were not ordinary accountants in the Timurid army, but important officials who controlled state property.

Muhassil — tax collectors. Muhassils were usually responsible for collecting taxes. For example, in Isfahan, the "moli aman" (a tax on property) collection was organized and

supervised by some of Amir Temur's emirs. The emirs were stationed outside the city, while muhassils went into the city to collect money.

A tamgachi was an official who collected trade taxes, especially customs duties. This position also existed in the Golden Horde, Crimea, and the Ilkhanate. When Amir Temur conquered the city of Ayaslyk in 1402, he imposed a tax on the city's inhabitants and appointed Nasrullah Tamgachi as its collector. From this information, we can see that tamgachi were responsible for matters related to financial duties and tax collections, and played an important role in forming the financial support of the army.

The treasurer was the custodian and responsible official of the treasury, who allocated funds from the treasury for various military expenses on the orders of the ruler. The Zafarnama contains the following notes about treasurers. "They entered Ankuria for the safety of their property by order of the Ummal and Divan, and they unloaded their property and entrusted it to the treasurer." The position of treasurer played a very important role in the management of state property during the Timurid era. This passage from the Zafarnama shows that the Treasurer was the central representative of the state financial system, through whose control all wealth passed, and they were systematically stored and distributed to the necessary places.

Bakovul - An official who supervised the preparation of food for the ruler and the army, and who tasted it himself before serving it to the ruler. During the Timurid period, the term "Bakovul" was used to refer to officials involved in food supply. "Sheikh Ibrahim prepared many peshkas, was busy with wedding ceremonies, and slaughtered so many sheep that the bakovuls were powerless to distribute it, and no other means of communication was more suitable for him." From this text in the "Zafarnoma" we can see that during the Timurid period, and especially during the time of Amir Temur, the supply system was a clearly organized multi-stage process. In it, bakovuls performed an important practical task of distributing and delivering food and other resources among the population or army, rather than preparing them.

The cooks were an important service in the Timurid army, responsible for preparing food and providing food to the soldiers. The cooks were a practical and vital part of the Timurid army's supply system, ensuring the soldiers' combat capability by preparing food. If the accountants kept the accounts, the cooks transformed these resources into real power.

Akhtachi was the head of the stables, that is, the overseer of the palace horses. During the reign of Amir Temur, this position was held by the emir Arginshah Akhtachi, who is said to be a Turkmen. He was one of Amir Temur's loyalists and was among the closest emirs.

Yasovul - an official who maintains order or executes the decrees of the ruler. Usually, the holder of such a position was engaged in organizing the army in battle order, preparing the army for a parade. In the appendix to Nizamuddin Shami's "Zafarnoma", Hafizu Abru describes the fact that during Amir Temur's wedding in Samarkand before his campaign against China, soldiers also participated, placing them in the designated place and distributing food. "The Tavochoi, Ayudochoi and Yasovul emirs rode on special horses and

organized the groups to attract and attract attention." This text shows that the Tavochi, Ayudochi and Yasovul emirs rode on special horses and were engaged in organizing various groups, distributing food, mobilizing them in the designated direction and ensuring their orderly movement.

A yurtchi is an official who determines the location and order of a military camp. During the military campaigns of Amir Temur and the Timurids, he was considered an official responsible for determining the location of military camps for the army, building and arranging the location of military camps. There is the following information about yurtchi in Amir Temur's campaign to Georgia. "I decreed, 'Let the yurtchilar go and enjoy the land for the village!' The yurtchilar went and found the Mahmudabad meadow suitable for the village. After arriving and making a request, he rode a horse and rode to the thick forests near the village of Fakhrabad, where he landed. And he made all the princes and beks land inevitable. Everyone went and landed in their own lands." As a result of the activities of the yurtchilar, the army was located in an orderly manner, each prince and bek was allocated a separate land, and everyone settled in their places. This indicates that there was discipline, clear planning, and an effective supply system within the army.

Korbegi — The Controller of Arms. He organized the management and storage of weapons, armor, and military equipment in the palace. The position of Korbegi was an important military and palace official during the Timurid era, especially in matters related to the security and supply of the army. Korbegi was considered the head of the Korchi (the ruler's guards and weapons owners).

Judge (yorguchi) - During the Timurid period, this was one of the important state positions, an official who was mainly involved in judicial and legal affairs. The judge did not directly supply food or weapons, but ensured the proper functioning of the army's supply through justice, control, and order. Therefore, he was considered an important link in the stable functioning of the military system.

Ghajirchi (kacharchi) - a guide in military campaigns, whose main task was to guide the army to the designated destination. Amir Temur's campaign against Tokhtamysh Khan is described in the "Zafarnoma" as follows. Miranshah came from Khorasan with his army and met the Sahibkiran. After that, it was decided that "Let them give Cherik food and clothing." After giving Cherik food, each bek appointed a ghajir. The Sahibkiran's ghajir was Kutluk Temur Oglon, the son of Temur Malik Khan, and Kuncha Oglon and Idiku Uzbek. On Thursday, the twelfth of the month of Safar, in the year seven hundred and ninety-three (19.01.1391), Tokhtamysh Khan marched with state and happiness. The nomads were not limited to guiding the way - they also made an important contribution to supply (logistics). They performed the following tasks in the logistics and supply system:

- Selecting the most convenient routes: The nomad ensured the uninterrupted flow of supplies by choosing routes that could be used by the army and the loaded wagons.
- Indicating sources of water and food: He knew where to find water, pasture, or food along the way, which was very important for soldiers and horses.

- Choosing a safe route: He avoided enemy or dangerous areas, reducing the risk of losing supply convoys.
- Saving distance and time: Knowing the shortest and most efficient routes allowed for faster supplies.
- Knowing local conditions: He helped plan troop movements and supply flows, taking into account climate, terrain, and road conditions.

In short, the nomads were not only guides in military campaigns, but also an important link in the logistics and supply system - otherwise, without them, it would have been difficult for the army to obtain food, water, and other necessary resources in a timely manner.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the army supply system in the reign of Amir Temur was an integral and strategically crucial component of military management. The results of the study show that the supply system was organized in a strictly centralized manner, and each official involved in it - bakovul, muhasib, muhassil, tamgachi, treasurer, yurtchi, ghajirchi, yasovul, etc. - had clear tasks and functions and worked in harmony with each other.

This system is manifested as a complex management mechanism that covers not only the collection and distribution of material resources, but also their accounting, control, delivery and effective use. In particular, the excellent organization of activities related to logistics (choosing a route, determining the location, ensuring safe movement) ensured the speed and stability of the army's movement.

In general, the well-organized supply system in Amir Temur's army served as one of the main factors in the successful implementation of military campaigns, maintaining the combat potential of soldiers at a high level, and ensuring stability in long-distance military operations.

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