

ECONOMIC LIFE IN THE REIGN OF AMIR TEMUR AND THE TEMURIDS

Sindarova Y.T

*History teacher at the Samarkand Technical
School of Advanced Professional Excellence*

Abstract: This article provides information through sources and literature on how economic life was established and systematized in the state of Amir Temur and the Timurids, and what products were grown in agriculture and animal husbandry.

Keywords: Amir Temur, Timurids, economic life, agriculture.

Introduction

With the establishment of a strong, centralized state by Amir Temur, efforts to develop agriculture intensified. Amir Temur and his successors took a number of measures to prevent the trampling of peasants' lands and the destruction of crops during cavalry campaigns. According to Amir Temur's decree, it was forbidden to set up yurts near crops. The state of Amir Timur occupied an important place on the trade route. This state was located along a trade route connecting Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Afghanistan, and India. International trade was primarily carried out with gold, silver, satin, adras, silk, cotton, jewelry, oil, fruits, grain, and other products. The country's economy and trade were also linked to China, India, Syria, Egypt, Anatolia, and Europe via the Silk Road. Agriculture was widespread in the state of Amir Temur. The rural population was primarily engaged in farming and animal husbandry. In agriculture, the main products were wheat, barley, cotton, and fruits. Livestock production included meat, milk, oil, dairy products, and silver. Industry was also developed in the state of Amir Temur. Textiles, metallurgy, ganch carving, ironworking, jewelry making, paper production, and other crafts were developed. Products manufactured in this industry were sold and increased revenues to the state budget.

Literature Review

V.V. Barthold describes Amir Temur's activities as follows: "Temur was at the same time a ruthless destroyer and a zealous builder; he built magnificent buildings with magnificent gardens, restored cities and villages, built and repaired irrigation facilities; until the expression of official history, there was no land that could be cultivated".² His son Shahrukh and grandson Ulugbek attempted to continue this policy.

In the field of agriculture, by order of Timur, work related to land irrigation was carried out, and the Angor district was formed. Under his direction, important work was carried out in the Murghab Valley. The excavation of the Old Angora canal in the mountains played a significant role. The implementation of other irrigation works is linked to Timur's activities.

During Timur's reign, flax cultivation first appeared. Clavijo reports that during Timur's campaign, flax began to be planted in Turkestan. "This crop has never been planted here before", writes Rui González de Clavijo.

Results And Discussion

Melons played a major role in agriculture, which were considered “the best and most abundant in the whole world. Nowhere in Transoxiana is there so much and excellent melon grown as in Bukhara”, Babur later wrote. The cultivation of a melon variety called “Miri Temur”, which is considered sweeter than Bukharan melons, is likely associated with Timur’s name. “In Fergana, there is a melon variety called “Miri Temur”, which is tastier and more delicate than Bukhara’s”, Babur writes. Khorezm melons, especially the “kök tarnay” variety, were very wonderful. The mulberry tree is primarily planted to feed silkworms. In the textile neighborhoods and guzares of the city, as well as in the areas adjacent to them, silk workers, spinners, as well as blue-colored workers who dye fabrics and yarn, printing seals on calico, and calico makers also lived. Gold-embroidered garments were sewn from silk fabrics and blue velvet. Silk fabrics and gold embroidery were valued at the level of jewelry, and they were primarily worn and used by court officials and members of the wealthy class. Through ambassadors, kings and sultans, among other things, presented each other with silk and fine cotton fabrics.

In the fertile lands of Transoxiana, wheat was sown in large quantities among the grain crops. Various varieties of wheat were particularly popular, such as gandum obi (irrigated wheat), gandum safidcha (white wheat), gandum surkhoki (red wheat), gandum surkhoki bahoriy (spring red wheat), and camel’s tooth. The Zarafshan, Kashkadarya, and Tashkent oases, as well as the Fergana Valley, were rich centers of agriculture. At the same time, Termez was one of the main places where grain crops were grown. The wheat grown in Termez was also sent to Khorezm via the Amu Darya. In Khorezm, grain crops were grown on the southern side of the place called Vazir. During this period, alfalfa, barley, and millet were also planted on part of the land for fodder purposes. Mash and chickpeas are grown in all regions. Undoubtedly, rice, which occupied a central place in the cuisine of the peoples of Central Asia, was cultivated in many places. Historical sources describe rice in the vicinity of Samarkand as “abundant”. Cotton was also grown in the Zarafshan oasis, in the vicinity of Balkh, near Shahrissabz, and elsewhere. In large cities, special buildings were built for the storage and sale of cotton brought from the surrounding areas. From the time of Amir Temur, the cultivation of flax began in Mawarannahr for the first time. Mulberries were usually grown along irrigation ditches and canals, and their dried fruits were quite popular, and they were often eaten in winter. Most mulberries were planted for the purpose of raising silkworms. Raw silk was primarily imported into the city, from which various fabrics were woven. There were also shops selling cocoons in Samarkand and Bukhara. Rowan has also been planted locally for the purpose of dyeing. It was primarily used to produce red and yellow colors. Henna was used not only in cosmetics but also in the manufacture of industrial ink, paper dyeing, and medicine. In Bukhara, the dye called “qirmizi” was obtained through tree caterpillars in tea and was considered quite expensive. From ancient times, Mawarannahr has been a land of gardens. Orchards and vineyards occupy large areas, where apples, pears, pomegranates, peaches, and others are grown in large quantities. The gardens surrounded

Samarkand, Tashkent, Shakhrisabz, Termez, and other cities like a fortress wall. Zayniddin Vosfi spoke with enthusiasm about the exquisite fruit trees and flowers growing in the gardens of Tashkent. The pools and the shade around them served as a place for the residents to rest. The nobility and the upper class built a garden according to a plan, where not only fruit trees but also ornamental ones were planted in abundance. Amir Temur also began cultivating citrus crops. In the garden he created, lemon, date palm, and shamshad trees were also grown. The Spanish ambassador Rui González de Clavijo, approaching Samarkand, was amazed by the gardens and vineyards surrounding the capital and wrote: "There are so many of these gardens and vineyards that as you approach the city, you will see a forest with tall trees and a city in the middle of it".

Conclusion

The production of waste paper held a special place in Samarkand's craftsmanship. Near the city, on the banks of the Obirahmat irrigation ditch, there was a specialized paper mill and enterprises. Here, raw pulp and paper were prepared from worn-out calico, rags, and suitable cotton, and sheets were placed. Then they were polished.

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