

POLITICAL RELATIONS AND STRUGGLES BETWEEN IRAN AND TRANSOXIANA DURING THE REIGN OF SHAH TAHMASP

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10051414>

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Abstract

In this article, during the reign of Shah Tahmasp, the son of Shah Ismail, the ruler of the Safavid state in Iran in the 16th century, the conflicts and struggles with the Uzbek Shaibani sultans in Transoxiana and the extent to which the Ottoman Empire influenced these processes and the consequences of these struggles are presented.

Key words

Safavid, Shaibani, Tahmasp, Ubaidullah Khan, Khurasan, War of Jam, Herat, Mashhad, Transoxiana, Lawful Sultan Suleiman.

INTRODUCTION

He was busy with the power struggle of the Turkmen tribes. Taking advantage of the internal turmoil in the Safavid state, the ruler of Bukhara, Ubaydullah Khan, attacked Khorasan. The first ten years of Shah Tahmasp's reign are called "Kyzilbash reign". Because during this period the country was ruled by the emirs of Qizilbash. He stabilized the country during his 45-year rule. During the reign of Tahmasp, there were constant struggles with the Uzbek Shaibani sultans in Transoxiana and the Ottoman Empire. Although there was an agreement with the Ottomans in the 1560s, the struggles with the Uzbek sultans continued.

MAIN PART

Ubaydullah Khan, who wanted to take advantage of the problems of the throne after the death of Shah Ismail, united with the Mongol nobles and other Uzbek khans in Turkestan and attacked the Safavids in 1524. Shah Tahmasp was in Tabriz at the time of the attack. Here he consulted with his military commanders

and decided to send the army under the command of Div Sultan to Herat [1:20]. The Uzbek army besieged Herat. Shehri Shom Mirza and Lala Durmuskhan defended Herat. Although the Uzbeks attacked Herat, the Safavid soldiers repelled the attacks due to the rifles in their hands. Unable to get results from the attacks, the Uzbeks tried diplomacy. A letter written by Kochkunchi Khan was sent to Herat and Durmus Khan was offered to surrender. In his answer to the Uzbeks, Durmuskhan said that the Uzbeks could not hold the siege for more than a month, but that 12 thousand people in Herat would resist the siege for a year with food and weapons and said that they would not surrender. The Uzbeks continued their ineffective attacks. Ubaydullah Khan was forced to retreat after the attack by the military units of Shamlu. When Durmus Khan died in 1526, a dispute arose between the Safavid amirs in Khorasan. Ubaydullah Khan, who wanted to take advantage of this conflict, crossed Jayhun (Amudarya). First, he besieged Marv and occupied this city, which did not have many soldiers. After Ubaydullah Khan captured Marv, he ordered the aqueducts in the city and the reconstruction of the city. After Marv captured Sarahs. From there he went to Mashhad and besieged the city. Burun Sultan, who defended Mashhad, could not get help and the city's defense collapsed. Ubaydullah Khan went from here to Atrobad. In 1527, Ubaidullah Khan besieged Astrobad. Kayapa Beg from the Qajar tribe, who was defending Astrobad, could not defend the city and the city fell into the hands of the Uzbeks. Shah Tahmasp wanted to stop the Uzbeks by sending the Safavid army from Khorezm to Khurasan. When the Safavid army led by Zeinal Khan arrived in Astrobad, the mayor Abdulaziz Khan (son of Ubaidullah Khan) fled to Isferai to his father. However, the Safavids were foolish and dispersed their army. Enraged by the loss of Astrobad, Ubaidullah Khan plundered Bistom. The Safavid army arrived around Bistom and fought with Ubaydullah Khan. The Safavid army was defeated in the war that took place on July 24, 1527. Uzbeks recaptured Astrobad. The regions from Marv to Mashhad were occupied by the Uzbeks and new governors were appointed there. After defeating the Safavid army, Ubaidullah Khan spent the winter in Bistom. He decided to besiege Herat because of the weather. By the spring of 1528, in the fourth month of the siege, Ubaidullah Khan blocked the entrances and exits to the city. Famine and disease began in the city. In the seventh month of the siege, when the group of Shamlu, which defended the city, was weakened, the news spread that Shah Tahmasb would come to Khurasan. Hearing this, Ubaydullah Khan lifted the siege of Herat. All of them gathered troops from all Turkestan sultans in Transoxiana (Movarounnahr). On September 23, 1528, he encountered the largest army that had crossed the Jayhun since

Genghis Khan near the city of Jom. One of the most important wars of Ubaydullah Khan with the Safavids is the War of Jam. After putting an end to the internal disturbances, Shah Tahmasp began to take measures against the Uzbeks and marched towards Mashhad. It is estimated that the Uzbek army numbered 100,000 people, and the Safavid army numbered 40,000 people. However, the Safavid army had cannons and rifles. After Shah Tahmasp visited Mashhad, he took control of the war situation by digging a ditch near Jam on the road to Herat. The Uzbeks saw this as weakness and went to Mashhad. They attacked. Shah Tahmasp arrived in no hurry to meet the Uzbeks. The two armies met on September 24, 1528. The Uzbeks made the first attack. Yaqub Sultan Kachar, Ulamo Sultan Tekelu and other right-wing commanders of the Safavids were defeated. While the Uzbeks were collecting loot, one of the Safavid soldiers wounded Ubaydullah Khan. Kohunchi Khan and Joni Beg Khan heard about this situation and fled to Marv. It can be seen that the Uzbeks won at the beginning of the war, but at the end of the war, the Safavids won and the Uzbeks left Khorasan. The most important factor in the victory of the Safavids in the Jam War was the lack of firearms in the Uzbek army. In this war, the Uzbeks suffered great losses and were forced to completely leave the lands of Khorasan, which they had conquered after a long struggle. Although the Uzbek Khan is alive, this war is similar to the Battle of Marv in 1510, which caused heavy losses for the Uzbeks. After the Jam War, Shah Tahmasp went to Iraq in the spring of 1529 to suppress the rebellion of Zulfiqar, the ruler of Baghdad. Ubaydullah Khan, who wanted to take advantage of Shah Tahmasp's departure to Iraq, attacked Khurasan again. Ubaydullah Khan divided his forces into two. He besieged Herat, his commanders Sunchek Muhammad and Abdulaziz Khan besieged Mashhad. The two-month siege of Mashhad did not yield results. However, Ubaydullah Khan canceled the siege of Herat and helped them to besiege Mashhad. The Safavids, faced with a shortage of food, handed over the city to the Uzbeks. Ubaydullah Khan left some forces in Mashhad and went to Herat. Instead of a direct attack, he preferred a blockade because Herat's walls were strong and impregnable. Husain Khan, the commander of the Herat fortress, asked for help from Shomlu Shah. However, one of the most respected amirs of the king, Chuha Sultan, did not want to go to Khurasan and fight against the Uzbeks. When some of the Ustojlu amirs in Gilan persuaded the Shah to go on this campaign, the Safavid troops led by Chuha Sultan moved towards Khurasan. Husain Khan suspected that Chuha Sultan had good intentions because of his past enmity with Chuha Sultan. For this reason, in order not to endanger both his life and the people of Herat, Chuha offered peace to Ubaidullah Khan without waiting for Sultan to

come to the city and asked them to spare their lives on the condition of surrendering the city. Ubaydullah Khan accepted the offer. A number of places were gained from Herat and allowed the Syrians to leave. In the fortress, Prince Som Mirza and his daughter Husayn Khan the chief left the city with a group of soldiers and went to Kirman via Mekran and from there to Shirvan. Thus, Herat returned to Uzbeks. Ubaidullah Khan executed about 300 red-headed warriors who remained here and handed the city over to one of the Uzbek emirs. He organized massacres and tortures against the Shia people in the city and the people of Herat, and their property was looted. When Shah Tahmasp returned from the Iraqi campaign, he heard that Herat had been lost. He came to Qazvin and went to Khurasan. Hearing this, Ubaydullah Khan went to Marv on August 16, 1530. He asked for help from other Uzbek sultans who were in Marv. The head of the Uzbek khanate, Abu Said Khan, told Ubaydullah Khan that if he wanted to fight, he would fight with his army because they had not been able to win over the Safavids, and other Uzbek sultans did not want to fight. Hearing this, Ubaidullah Khan left Marv and retreated to Bukhara. Ubaydullah Khan wrote a letter to the Shah and tried to dissuade him from marching. The king captured Herat and Mashhad. On November 7, 1530, Tahmasp arrived in Isfahan. When the Shah went to Isfahan, he sent the army led by Ubaidullah Khan, Kamesh O'Glan, Tanish Bey and Abu Said Afro-Siyab to Mashhad through Sarakhs in 1531. The ruler of Mashhad, Monteshe Sultan, made an alliance with the ruler of Nishapur, Agzivar Sultan, and defeated the Uzbeks, and the Uzbeks retreated to Movarounnahr. When Ubaidullah Khan, Kamesh o'g'lan attacks Mashhad, he gathers an army in Bukhara and tries to find allies for himself. This time he decided to send emirs to each province of Khurasan and sent them all to Khurasan at the same time. Accordingly, his son Abdulaziz sent to Mashhad, Kameshoglan to Astrobod, and Khangeldi to Bahadir Sabzevar. The siege of Bistom and Herat was carried out by Ubaidullah himself. Realizing that they could not resist the Uzbeks, the red-headed people in Khorasan went back to the king. The governor of Damgan, Zulfiqar Khan, left the city. Instead, he called the Giraili tribe of Astrobod for help. After that, the head of the tribe, Mirza Ali Khalifa, joined Zulfiqar Khan with many of his soldiers and tried to remove the siege of Uzbeks in Bistom. The Safavids resisted the Uzbeks and killed many Uzbek soldiers. On May 5, 1532, Ubaidullah Khan besieged Herat again. He camped near them. The siege lasted until October 14, 1532. Bakhrom Mirza and his teacher Ghazi Khan took the people out of the fortress. As the siege wore on, supplies ran out and an epidemic broke out. When the people in the fortress had no strength to resist, they asked Ubaydullah Khan for peace. However, Ubaidullah

Khan did not accept it. Hearing that the Shah had marched to Khurasan, he lifted the siege on October 14, 1532 and retreated to Transoxiana. Shah Tahmasp arrived in Herat on December 20, 1532. Then he took Mashhad and announced that he would march to Transoxiana in the spring. On June 23, 1534, the king set up his camp in a place called Eleng-i Nishin to go on a campaign. At the same time, by order of the Shah, Sufiyan Khalifa with 200 horsemen attacked Khangeldi Uzbek who was in Sabzevar. He marched on Sabzevar, then Nishapur, and headed for Mashhad, where Abdulaziz Khan was staying. Abdulaziz Khan, who was afraid of the power of the Qizilbash army, first wanted to retreat to Herat, but when he learned that his father had left there, he returned to Movarounnahr. Tahmasp sent Prince Elqos Mirza to Marv along with some of his orders. However, the Ottoman army entered Azerbaijan. When he heard this news, he gave up the siege of Transoxiana and moved towards the west. After the death of Uzbek Sultan Abu Said Khan, Ubaydullah Khan took his place. Ubaydullah Khan did not give up Khurasan campaigns and one of his commanders Sheikh Abu Afrosiyob, Karacha Bahadir and Syed Mirza were sent to Khurasan with 4000cavalry. But the Uzbeks were again defeated by the Safavids. In the meantime, Herat governor Som Mirza attacked Kandahar under the Baburid's without the king's permission, but was defeated. In 1535, Bayram Ođlan, the ruler of Garchistan Uzbeks, attacked Herat. The Safavid soldiers in Herat left the city on May 22, 1535 and fought with the Uzbeks outside the city. However, the Safavids were defeated. Bayram Ođlon retreated to Garchistan. During this period, the land between Herat, Gur, Marv and Ghazni was called Garchistan. Upon hearing that the Ottoman Empire had launched a military campaign against Iraq in January 1536, Ubaydullah Khan besieged Mashhad. The Qizilbash soldier in the city took a strong position and defended the city. That is why the siege lasted so long. As the siege continued, Sufyan announced that the Caliph would come to his aid. Ubaydullah Khan hesitated whether to fight or not. But on January 15, 1536, he took a war stance. He defeated the Safavid army of Ubaidullah Khan. The surviving Safavid army takes refuge in Abdalabad fortress. The Uzbeks captured this fortress and killed the Caliph Sufyan and other Safavid soldiers. The viceroy left by the caliph Sufyan in Herat was very strict towards the people. Disturbed by this, a group of people called on Uzbek troops to occupy the city. The Uzbeks besieged the city again. Due to the conflict between the Safavid amirs in the city, it was not possible to mount a strong defense. In March 1536, Ubaydullah Khan, who came to Herat, made a secret agreement with the amir Khizir Chalabi, who had an enmity between them, Mir Abu Tahir. As a result of this agreement, the Uzbek military entered the

city. Ubaydullah Khan's army severely destroyed and plundered the Shah. Some soldiers were punished for this reason. On September 23, 1536, Shah Tahmasp, who heard about the defeat of the Herat Safavid army, marched to Khurasan. Meanwhile, Ubaidullah Khan was trying to besiege Mashhad. However, when Shah heard that Tahmasp was coming, he consulted his generals. He left Herat on January 29, 1537 and retreated to Bukhara because no one wanted to fight with the Safavids except himself. This decision was influenced by public support. This was Ubaydullah Khan's last campaign and Ubaydullah Khan died in 1540. After Ubaydullah Khan, Abdullah Khan sat on the throne. Abdulla Khan I's reign was short-lived and he was succeeded by Abdullatif Khan. Ottoman-Turkistan relations were strengthened during Sultan Suleiman's campaign in Nakhchivan. Tahmasp the king of Iran, had begun a plundering campaign as far as Erzurum. On top of that, Sultan Suleiman sent a letter to Abdullatif Khan in February 1550 to attack Iran from two fronts. He sent an ambassador and announced that he would go to Iran and asked Abdulatif to march to Khurasan. This letter immediately had a favorable effect on the Khan of Uzbek, and he replied, but asked for help with arms, and his request was granted. In 1554, Suleiman Kanuni sent three hundred janissaries and an artillery team to Turkestan. In the meantime, these weapons and soldiers were used in the struggle between the Uzbek sultans for the throne after the death of Ubaydullah Khan. In 1550, the governor of Tashkent, Baraq Khan, made an alliance with Abdullatif Sultan, the ruler of Movarounnahr, and Shah Muhammad Sultan, the ruler of Hisar-I Shadmon, and set out to march to Khurasan. The Uzbeks arrived in Herat on May 22, 1550. The army besieged the city. The ruler of Herat, Sharafiddinoglu Muhammad Khan, set up fences outside the city and went on defense with cannons and riflemen. Although the Uzbeks fought very well in spite of the obstacles placed in the city, with the assassination of Shah Muhammad Sultan, he became desperate and with the permission of Baraq Khan, on June 13, 1550, they retreated to Transoxiana. In the same war, Muhammad Khan Sharafidnougli was killed by the Safavids, and his son Kazakh Khan, Prince Muhammad Khodabanda, who was captured by the Uzbeks, left Khorasan governorship and returned to the capital. The Safavids, who signed the Amasia peace treaty with the Ottomans, invaded the Uzbek lands. Uzbek khans wanted an Ottoman-Uzbek alliance. But the Ottomans could not provide the necessary assistance. After the Treaty of Amasia, Ottoman-Iranian relations continued amicably until the death of Shah Tahmasp. During the reign of sultan of Suleiman, it was very harmonious and successful to the Treaty of Amasia. While ongoing Ottoman-Uzbek relations put Iran under pressure, it did not eliminate the

Safavids. After the Treaty of Amasia, the Ottoman state changed its direction to the west. After the death of Abdullatif Khan, Navroz Ahmad Khan sat on the throne of Samarkand. (Barak Khan) sat down. After the death of Barak Khan, Abdullah Khan II and his father Iskandar Sultan rose to power on the throne of Bukhara. But according to the rule, the older sultan took the throne, that is, Pir Muhammed Khan sent a letter to the Uzbek ruler Pir Muhammed Khan in September 1560. In the letter, he sent a message that Prince Bayazid, the son of Suleiman, had taken refuge in Iran, that he would march against him, and that he would also march Pir Muhammad Khan to Khurasan. However, he surrendered Shah Tahmasp's prince and his children, and the campaign was aborted. After that, Pir Muhammad Khan also stopped marching. Pir Muhammad Khan was very famous when he got the title of ruler of Balkh in 1564. He attacked Mashhad with a large number of soldiers. After the attack of the Uzbeks on this city, which is considered holy for the Shiites, the king sent Abu Talip Mirza, Mir Ghiyasuddin Mehmed and Mir Sharif Mousavi as ambassadors to Pir Muhammad and asked them to establish peace so that the city would not be harmed. Pir Muhammad managed to enter the city. But seeing that his army was tired and his fighting power was diminishing, he agreed to peace and returned to Balkh. Shah wanted to attack Balkh to take revenge for Mashhad. Pir Muhammad sent an ambassador to Shah Tahmasp to apologize for the march. Shah Husayn Qulubey expressed his forgiveness through Shomlu. In the same year, one of the Uzbek princes, Ali Sultan from the Kochkunchi family, and his brother Abulkhair Khan attacked the region to capture Khurasan. These Uzbek princes approached Mashhad and settled in Tark region. However, Safi Veli Khalifa-I Rumlu, one of the Qizilbash emirs in Mashhad, Sultan Ustojlu of Canberra, and Sultan Ibrahim Mirza killed many Uzbek soldiers and stopped the Uzbek attacks. Ali Sultan was afraid of this and immediately left the area and returned to Transoxiana. In 1563-1564, a group of Transoxiana ayans and Uzbek sultans came to Qazvin to perform the pilgrimage, stayed there for a while, and after resting, moved to the Hijaz side. The Shah's permission to travel did not leave room for serious problems to arise between him and the Uzbeks. In 1567, a conflict arose between him and Abdullah Sultan, the son of Iskandar Khan, the ruler of Mavarindon, and Muhammad Khudobanda, the son of Shah Tahmasp, the ruler of Khorasan at that time. In 1566-1567, Shah Tahmasp appointed his son Muhammad Khudobanda as governor of Herat together with Shah Qulu Ustojlu. Uzbek Khan Iskandar Khan, who learned about this, sent his son Abdullah Khan along with his other sons to Khurasan. That is, to expel the Qizilbash from Khurasan. Muhammad Khudobanda heard that Abdullah Khan was coming

towards Khurasan, immediately retreated to the Turbet fortress and strengthened the defense line of the city. The Uzbeks, who heard about this retreat, also turned to Turbet. The people of Khurasan prefer to surrender rather than resist the Uzbek army, and they sent gifts to Abdullah Khan II and begged for forgiveness. The Uzbeks finally reached Turbet fortress. The Safavids were ready to defend the city with the barriers they set up on the streets. However, they were afraid of the large number of Uzbek soldiers. Kyzilbaslar, who was able to save his life from his sword, immediately took refuge in the fortress and attacked. Abdullah Khan directed his soldiers to the fortress and ordered to demolish the walls with artillery fire. Due to some slanders, the relationship between Uzbek princes Khusrav Sultan and Abdullah Khan was broken. He stopped obeying Khusraw Sultan Abdullah Khan and returned to Shakhrisabz without asking permission. Hearing this news, governors of Mashhad and Astrobad took action to help Muhammad Mirza, who was in Turbet. On November 26, 1566, Shah Tahmasp learned about his son's plight. When Abdullah Sultan learned that Shah Tahmasp had sent the Safavid army to the region, he immediately cheered up Khusraw Sultan and invited him to the battlefield. Khusrau Sultan accepted this offer. He took his place again in the ranks of Uzbek troops. Emboldened by this situation, Abdullah Khan refused to besiege the city of Turbet and tried to meet the incoming Qizilbash army. During this campaign, the Uzbek army first attacked the Buryabad fortress. Although the people tried to defend the city with firearms, they could not prevent the victory of the Uzbeks.

CONCLUSION

In the 16th century, the Safavids came to power in Iran, and the Shaibani sultans came to power in Transoxiana as a result of the end of the rule of the Timurids in Transoxiana and Khorasan, and the Aqqyunlis in Iran. Khorasan became the area where the interests of these two countries converged. From the battle of Marv in 1510 to the end of the 17th century, the territory of Khorasan became a battle ground between the rulers of Iran and Transoxiana. It is very difficult to imagine the situation of the inhabitants of this region, which itself was dry from the struggle of the Timurid period. During the reign of Shah Tahmasp, there were many battles with the Uzbek sultans for Khurasan. The two countries have occasionally won, but neither has achieved absolute superiority. Uzbek sultans controlled Khurasan only during the reign of Abdullah Khan. As a result of these struggles, Herat, once one of the two centers of the world, was looted.

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