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## ANALYSIS OF THE CHARACTER OF AMIR TEMUR IN "THE RISE AND RULE OF TAMERLANE" BY B.F. MANZ

**Submission Date:** October 20, 2024, **Accepted Date:** October 25, 2024,

**Published Date:** October 30, 2024

**Crossref doi:** <https://doi.org/10.37547/ijll/Volume04Issue10-14>

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### ABSTRACT

In the upcoming article, there will be an in-depth exploration of the portrayal of Tamerlane in Beatrice Forbes Manz's book "The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane." The article will analyze how the author depicted the historical figure Amir Temur, who was a complex and mysterious character. Through detailed descriptions and subtle characterizations, the author breathes life into Tamerlane within the pages of her book, presenting a multi-dimensional image of Tamerlane.

### KEYWORDS

Timurid era, socio-political landscape, military strategies, cultural patronage, contribution to world history, nomads and the Timurid dynasty.

### INTRODUCTION

Tamerlane was a significant historical figure whose military campaigns and conquests had a lasting impact on the regions he conquered. Writers often drew on his life to explore themes of power, tyranny, and the complexities of leadership. Tamerlane was often depicted as a historical hero, embodying the qualities of strength, ambition, and charisma. His rise from humble beginnings to a powerful ruler resonated with themes of personal transformation and destiny. During

the Renaissance and later periods, there was a fascination with the East. Tamerlane's empire, which spanned much of Central Asia, offered a rich tapestry of culture, warfare, and intrigue that appealed to European writers seeking to explore new narratives.

Works like Beatrice Forbes Manz's book "The Rise and rule of Tamerlane" helped cement Tamerlane's status in world history. Manz's portrayal emphasized

both the grandeur and the brutality of Tamerlane, creating a complex character that could be interpreted in various ways. Tamerlane's relentless pursuit of power made him a symbol of ambition and conquest, themes that resonated with many writers who sought to explore the different sides of human nature and the consequences of unchecked ambition. Tamerlane's multifaceted character and the dramatic elements of his life provided rich material for exploration in literature, making him a compelling figure for English writers over the centuries.

In this thorough analysis, our aim is to shed light on the importance of Amir Timur as a literary figure in English literature, delving into the intricacies and depth of his portrayal. By exploring how writers have influenced and transformed his character throughout the ages, we gain valuable insights into the dynamic relationship between history, culture, and imagination. Ultimately, the goal of this examination is to enhance our understanding of the timeless fascination with Amir Timur and his enduring position among literary figures.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Studying the literary works of writers and the records of Western historians enables us to paint a multifaceted and sometimes conflicting portrayal of Sahibqiron. These writings particularly emphasize his military campaigns and military strategy. Western writers and historians have significantly contributed to portraying Amir Timur as a patron of science, culture, literature, and the arts, as well as a promoter of friendly relations between the East and the West. In short, they hold his impact on world history in high regard.

Scholars from various nations have long been engrossed in studying the character of Amir Timur.

The examination of his achievements and the Timurid period, in general, has greatly benefited from the input of scholars, historians, and writers from other countries. Notable English writers include Beatrice Forbes Manz, Roy Stier, Justin Marozzi, Harold Lamb, Hilda Hookham, and others.

## METHODS

This following article was written through qualitative data collection. The article analyzes the depiction and characterization of Amir Timur, a historical figure, in the work of the Western writer and historian Beatrice Forbes Man's "The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane.". Furthermore, the scientific works of several writers and other scientists are analyzed, compared, and summarized through the analysis of excerpts from their works.

## DISCUSSION

Beatrice Forbes Manz, an American historian of the Middle East and Central Asia, focuses on nomads and the Timurid dynasty in her area of expertise. She holds the position of a history professor at Tufts University. Her book "The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane", published in 1989, is widely regarded as one of the most authoritative portrayals of the conqueror Timur's career.

Tamerlane, or Timur, is one of history's most enigmatic figures, known for his military prowess and the vast empire he established in the late 14th century. In her compelling work, "The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane," Beatrice Forbes Manz delves into the life and legacy of this Central Asian conqueror, providing readers with a nuanced understanding of his impact on the world.

In this book, Beatrice Forbes Manz describes the characteristics of Amir Timur based on Nizamiddin Shami's "Zafarnama" as follows "What is most impressive, because least expected, is the scope of Timur's intellectual interest and ability. Although he could neither read or write he had the use of those who could, and he was thus effectively literate in both Turkic and Persian. The histories of his reign extol his knowledge of medicine, astronomy and particularly of the history of the Arabs, Persians and Turks. His delight in debating with scholars was inexhaustible and his opinion at least he often had the better of them." <sup>1</sup>

Beatrice Forbes Manz presents Tamerlane not merely as a ruthless conqueror but as a complex character shaped by the socio-political landscape of his time. Born into a modest family in what is now Uzbekistan, Tamerlane rose through the ranks of the fractured Mongol and Turkic tribes. His early life was marked by the instability of the region, which fueled his ambition and desire for power. Manz emphasizes that Tamerlane's rise was not simply due to brute force; it was also a product of strategic alliances and astute political maneuvering.

One of the standout features of Tamerlane's rule was his extraordinary military acumen. Manz meticulously details various campaigns, showcasing Tamerlane's innovative tactics and ability to adapt to different battlefield conditions. His campaigns extended from Persia to India, leaving a trail of destruction but also fostering cultural exchanges that enriched the regions he conquered. Manz argues that Tamerlane's military strategies were instrumental in shaping the political landscape of Central Asia and beyond.

While often remembered for his brutality, Tamerlane was also a patron of the arts and culture. Manz

highlights his contributions to architecture, literature, and science, particularly in cities like Samarkand and Herat. Under Tamerlane's rule, these cities became cultural hubs that attracted scholars, artists, and architects from across the Islamic world. Manz illustrates how Tamerlane sought to legitimize his rule not only through conquest but also through cultural patronage, blending Persian and Turkic influences to create a unique artistic legacy.

According to Manz's description of Amir Temur in this book, Tamerlane's rule was characterized by extreme violence and terror, which earned him a reputation as a ruthless leader. Manz does not shy away from discussing the atrocities committed during his campaigns, including mass executions and forced migrations. However, she also explores how these acts were perceived in their historical context. For some, Tamerlane was a hero who restored order in a chaotic world; for others, he was a tyrant whose legacy was one of fear. In this book, B. Manz discussed Tamerlane's achievements, stating that conquering western Asia or ruling the territories Tamerlane controlled was no easy feat. She wrote about Tamerlane's career as follows: "What has stuck me in my study of Temur's career is not failure but success, not confusion but system". Manz emphasized Tamerlane's success and systematic approach, noting that the tribal confederation Ulus Chaghatay held together for a full generation without strong central rulership or excessive violence. Once in power, Tamerlane maintained his position and initiated a series of conquests, facilitated by his ability to exert full control over a diverse army through a highly personalized yet systematic government.

## CONCLUSION

In summary, in "The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane," Beatrice Forbes Manz provides a comprehensive portrait of a figure who straddles the line between myth and history. It is filled with contradictions, complexities, and narratives that continue to shape our understanding of power, culture, and identity in a global context. Her meticulous research and engaging narrative style make this work an essential read for anyone interested in understanding the complexities of Tamerlane's character and the multifaceted nature of his rule. Through her analysis, Manz invites readers to reconsider the legacy of Tamerlane—not just as a conqueror but as a pivotal figure whose influence can still be felt in modern Central Asia.

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