

The Life and Empire of Tamerlane

Born in 1336 outside of the city of Kesh in the Chagatai Khanate, Shuja-ud-din Timur would gain control of the western half of the empire by 1370 and expand his influence over Persia, Anatolia, the Levant, the Russian Steppes, and India by the time of his death in 1405. Nicknamed Timur the Lame (Persian: Timur-i Lang) or Tamerlane due to injuries obtained early in life during a raid, Timur claimed descent from Genghis Khan and attempted to forge his own Mongol Empire. Calling his family in Persian the Gurkaniyan or "In-Laws", the Timur would marry into the family of Genghis Khan and claim the place as the most prominent Muslim leader of the time, calling himself the "Sword of Islam". Known for his brutality and effectiveness in battle, Timur would die from disease before he launched his invasion of the Ming Dynasty of China. His descendants would lose much of their holdings in the Middle East, but Babur Timurid would go on to start the Mughal Dynasty that conquered the majority of India.

Early Life of Timur

The actual year of Timur's birth is uncertain, but he was born into a minor noble family outside of Kesh. He was taken prisoner as a child and brought to Samarkand by the Chagatai Mongols before being forced to move to Balkh years later. In Balkh, he gained a following and eventually rebelled, capturing Samarkand and later, Balkh, declaring himself the protector of the western Chagatai Khanate.

Conquest of Persia

After the collapse of the Mongol Ilkhanate in Persia, Timur began his invasion of Persia with the capture of Herat in 1380. His conquests resulted in a combination of annexation and vassalage of local rulers and saw multiple revolts including in Isfizar and Isfahan. When Isfahan revolted in 1387, Timur captured the city and massacred 100,000 - 200,000 citizens as punishment, making pyramids out of their skulls.

War with the Kipchaks

Tokhtamysh, a Khan of the Golden Horde/Kipchak Khanate, who was installed by Timur years before, started raiding Timurid lands in 1389. Timur would win the Battle of the Kondurcha River and, in 1395, he beat Tokhtamysh, raiding the cities of the Kipchak and establishing control over their territories.



KEY

- Early Life of Timur
- Tokhtamysh-Timur War
- Tughlaq Campaign
- Conquest of Levant
- Invasion of China
- Submitted 1382* Year and Event Type
- * Indicates Campaign not Depicted

Timurid Empire	Byzantine Empire
Ottoman Empire	Kipchak Khanate
Mamluk Sultanate	Chagatai Khanate
Sultanate of Delhi	Timurid Influence

NOTES

All borders and movement routes in this map are rough estimates based on cross-referencing other sources. There is no definitive border for the Timurid Empire and borders would fluctuate. Timurid Influence indicates lands that are either controlled by Timurid vassals or subject to raiding.

Cartographer: Ryan Foley
1:17,000,000
Albers South Asia Equal Area Conic
Central Meridian: 59° East
Parallels: 26°, 47° N Latitude of Origin: 37° N
<https://www.naturalearthdata.com>
<http://www.iranicaonline.org/>

