

THE HISTORICAL ROLE AND SCHOLARLY HERITAGE OF ZAKHIRIDDIN MUKHAMMAD BABUR

University of Business and Science

Senior Lecturer at the Department of Social Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in History

Mirhakimova Feruza Xoldorjon qizi

University of Business and Science

Student in the Uzbek Language Program

Valijonova Manzura Vohidjon kizi

Annotation: Zakhiriddin Mukhammad Babur was one of the greatest figures of his time and left an invaluable scholarly and literary legacy. This article analyzes Babur's role as a historical personality, his contributions to state governance, literature, and the development of science, as well as the significance of his scholarly and spiritual heritage. Babur was one of the outstanding representatives of the Eastern Renaissance of the 15th-16th centuries. He was not only the founder of a powerful empire and a skilled military commander, but also a prominent poet, historian, and geographer. In particular, Babur's work *Baburnama* is regarded as a highly valuable historical and geographical source. Moreover, his poetic legacy, contributions to the theory of aruz prosody, and his role in establishing a literary school are of exceptional importance.

Keywords: Zakhiriddin Mukhammad Babur, Baburid Empire, role in the Eastern Renaissance, military art of the Baburid period, studies on Babur's life, literary heritage, *Baburnama*, Babur studies, opportunities for studying Babur after independence.

Introduction. One of the greatest figures of his era was Zakhiriddin Mukhammad Babur. As a major statesman of the Eastern Renaissance, a military commander, poet, historian, and natural scientist, Babur left an indelible mark on world cultural history. Being at the center of political processes in the 15th-16th centuries, Babur not only founded a great empire the Baburid Empire but also made an invaluable contribution to the development of culture, literature, history, geography, and natural sciences. Babur's *Baburnama* is a unique encyclopedic source of its time, containing historical, geographical, ethnographic, and natural observations that remain highly significant for modern scholarship. His scholarly and literary heritage, role in national statehood, political views, and aesthetic principles have been extensively studied. In particular, his contribution to the development of Turkic poetry, mastery of the aruz system, establishment of a distinctive literary school, and observations in natural science and military art demonstrate great scholarly value.

Therefore, studying Babur's multifaceted personality is relevant not only for historiography and literary studies, but also for cultural studies, geopolitical research, and source studies. This research aims to scientifically illuminate Babur's place in history, analyze the essence of his scholarly, literary, and spiritual heritage, and assess the importance of his written legacy in contemporary academic development. Babur's heritage represents a centuries-old spiritual treasure of the Uzbek people and plays a crucial role in strengthening national identity and historical memory.

Discussion (Analysis of Results). Zakhiriddin Mukhammad Babur was a prominent representative of Uzbek classical literature, the author of *Baburnama*, a poet, historian, geographer, statesman, and the founder of the Baburid dynasty. He was a descendant of Amir Temur. Babur's father, Umar Shaykh Mirza, was the governor of the Ferghana region, while his mother, Kutlug Nigor Khanim, was the daughter of Yunus Khan, the ruler of Moghulistan and Tashkent.[1; 15]

Babur received a comprehensive education under prominent scholars, studying military sciences, Islamic jurisprudence, Arabic and Persian languages, and classical literature. Due to his courage and bravery, he earned the nickname "Babur" ("Lion") at an early age. His initial political goal was to capture Samarkand the strategic capital of Amir Temur's empire and to restore a centralized state in Movarounnakhr.

Babur fought several battles against Shaybani Khan but was defeated. As a result of public discontent, he was forced to leave Movarounnakhr in 1504. He later moved to Afghanistan, captured Ghazni and Kabul, and established a stable state. Babur carried out extensive construction, agricultural development, and urban planning, founding several famous gardens and architectural complexes.

In 1526, Babur decisively defeated the Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Lodi at the Battle of Panipat with a significantly smaller army, marking the foundation of the Baburid Empire in India. He implemented reforms, strengthened centralized governance, and contributed greatly to economic and cultural development. [2; 20] **Babur's Literary and Scholarly Contribution.** Despite his political and military activities, Babur devoted considerable time to literary creativity and patronage of scholars and artists. He began writing poetry in his youth, producing ghazals, rubaiyat, and other poetic forms. His poetry reflects themes of exile, longing for homeland, love, loyalty, justice, and humanism. His literary works elevated personal emotions to universal values.

Babur's *Baburnama* is a monumental historical, literary, and encyclopedic work written between 1494 and 1529. It provides objective and analytical accounts of political events, military campaigns, geography, ethnography, and natural phenomena. [3; 40] Written mainly in Chagatai Turkic with some Persian passages, the work remains a fundamental source for multiple academic disciplines.

Babur studies is a comprehensive scholarly field that examines Babur's life, works, political activity, and cultural legacy. It developed from the 16th century

onward, with major contributions by Eastern historians and later European orientalists. In the 19th century, *Baburnama* was translated into English and French, introducing Babur to global scholarship.

In the 20th century, Uzbek scholars such as Fitrat, A. Khayitmetov, P. Shamsiev, and others significantly advanced Babur studies. Today, this field continues to grow through new manuscript discoveries and interdisciplinary research.

Linguistic and Source Studies. Linguistic and source-based studies show that the language of *Baburnama* is written in Chagatai (Old Uzbek) and enriched with Persian lexical and stylistic elements. The work has been analyzed from phonetic, lexical, grammatical, and comparative textual perspectives. Scholars such as P. Shamsiyev and H. Boltaboev have conducted significant research in this field. [4; 32]

Babur's poetry continues the literary traditions established by Alisher Navoi and is distinguished by its personal lyricism, deep love of nature, and vivid artistic depiction of real-life events. His poetic works emphasize universal values such as humanism, justice, friendship, and loyalty. [5; 55] Based on the results of the research, it has been determined that the personality of Zakhiriddin Mukhammad Babur occupies a special place in the development of Eastern culture, historiography, literary studies, source studies, and natural sciences. His creative and practical activities are characterized by the following key outcomes:

The broad scope of Babur's scholarly heritage – *Baburnama* is a universal encyclopedic source that integrates multidisciplinary scientific information.

State-building ability as a historical figure – the establishment of the Baburid Empire was the result of Babur's political strategy, military expertise, and administrative experience.

Scientific significance of ethnographic and natural observations – Babur provided fundamental information about the lives of different peoples, natural resources, flora, and fauna. [6; 14]

Conclusion. Zakhiriddin Mukhammad Babur is an outstanding figure who holds an incomparable place in the history of Uzbek national statehood, literature, and science. His scholarly and literary legacy has not lost its significance even today. The study of Babur's life and activities demonstrates that he entered history not only as a skilled military commander and statesman, but also as a thinker of high intellectual capacity. Therefore, a comprehensive study of Babur's personality, the active introduction of his scholarly and cultural heritage into academic circulation, and its use in the education of the younger generation remain among the most important contemporary tasks. Babur's legacy serves as a solid foundation for the historical memory, spiritual wealth, and national self-awareness of the Uzbek people.

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