



## AMIR TIMUR AS A NATIONAL HERO IN UZBEK HISTORICAL PROSE

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### Abstract

Amir Timur (1336–1405), also known as Sahibqiron (“the possessor of fortune / justice”), is one of the central historical figures of Central Asia of the late 14th–early 15th centuries, the founder of the powerful Timurid state with its capital in Samarkand. He became famous as an outstanding military commander, statesman, and patron of science and architecture [Kadirova 2025].

**Keywords:** Uzbek prose, Muhammad Ali, Yevgeny Berezikov, Sarbadars, ruler.

### Introduction

In modern Uzbek statehood, Timur is regarded as a symbol of national unity, statehood, pride, and historical identity. His figure is actively represented in school textbooks, state discourse, and cultural practices to strengthen a sense of national self-awareness and national consciousness [Nurbayev 2023].

One of the most significant works of Uzbek fiction devoted to Timur is the epic prose / novel-epic by Muhammad Ali, published under the general title “**Amir Timur the Great**” (“*Amir Temur buyuk*”):

- This literary work is a large-scale novel-epic covering various stages of Timur’s life and activity.
- The author combines historical facts with artistic interpretation to create a multidimensional image: Timur not only as a great commander and politician, but also as a person with spiritual responsibility and inner conflicts.
- Literary studies emphasize that the author uses symbolism, psychologism, mythological elements, and dialogic techniques to enhance the artistic image of the national hero [Sattorova 2025].

• This work became one of the key texts in forming, within prose, the artistic image of Timur as a national hero and a cultural symbol of the Uzbek nation. In addition to Muhammad Ali's epic, many other writers have created notable works devoted to the life of the famous commander:

**1. The prologue novel “Sarbadars.”** In the 1990s, artistic attempts to depict Timur's youth and the events surrounding the young Timur appeared, for example in the novel “*Sarbadars*.”

**2. The drama “Sahibqiron” by Abdulla Oripov.** The Uzbek poet and dramatist Abdulla Oripov created the poetic drama “*Sahibqiron*,” reflecting the historical and heroic image of Timur. In the drama, Timur appears as a symbol of national liberation, a leader embodying the people's dream of independence and freedom [Yoqubov 2023].

**3. “The Great Timur” — a chronicle-novel by Yevgeny Berezikov.** The novel is dynamic, rich in historical facts and mysticism. It is the first to present, in chronological order, the correspondence of the ruler of the Turan Empire with the kings of France, England, and Spain.

**4. In modern prose, the image of Amir Timur is depicted in the novel in verse “The Ruler” by Oraz Abdurazakova.** It describes the life and deeds of the ruler. This work performs a dual function: as a literary text and as a cultural-political instrument.

**5. Historical-fiction novels and stories.** Literary studies also mention historical novels by Buriboy Akhmedov and others, where Timur is the central character and a national hero whose image serves as a symbol of strength and justice in Uzbek culture.

In Uzbek prose, the image of Amir Timur is built on several key artistic and ethical foundations:

❖ **As a defender and unifier.** In literature, Timur is often portrayed as the liberator of Mawarannahr from external oppression and internal fragmentation, a man who united the people and created a centralized state. This strengthens his image as a national hero and a symbol of independence.

❖ **As a wise leader and builder.** Prose and drama emphasize not only his military successes but also his contribution to culture, science, architecture, and the internal development of society, which makes him a complex symbol of national prosperity.

❖ **As a cultural and didactic ideal.** In literary interpretations, Timur often serves as a moral guide for younger generations, embodying valor, wisdom, and devotion to the Motherland—qualities that modern literature seeks to convey to the reader. The historical novel and drama became especially popular in the post-Soviet period, when Uzbekistan was rethinking its national identity and needed strong cultural symbols. Studies show that state policy and literary practice contributed to cultivating the image of Timur as a symbol of national unity and statehood. In Uzbek historical prose, Amir Timur is not merely a historical figure, but an image of a national hero embodying the ideals of independence, strength, wisdom, and cultural revival. He appears as a figure uniting the past and the present, while literature serves as a means of transmitting this symbol from generation to generation through artistic works and dramatic representations.

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