

THE ROLE OF ARTILLERY IN THE CAMPAIGNS OF ZAKHIRIDDIN MUHAMMAD BABUR

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Abstract

This article seeks to help every person understand himself, learn more about his ancestors, and study their lives. In this regard, historical works are of incomparable importance. In particular, the stories and events that tell about our past in the works of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur are always valuable to us. The study notes that, like the works of many of our great ancestors, Babur's work has many aspects that are relevant to our youth. It is noted that his ideas about love for the Motherland, respect for parents, and loyalty to friends provide a high spiritual lesson to a person.

Key words: Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, Ibrahim Lodi, India, Panipat, Delhi, military strategy, command, attack, tactics, war elephants.

Introduction

The Battle of Panipat is an important turning point in Indian history. Although Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur and his successors took time to strengthen their control over the country, the defeat of the Delhi Sultanate paved the way for the establishment of the Mughal Empire, which ruled India. His military campaigns were distinguished by their strategic brilliance and effective command of troops.

This article discusses the Battle of Panipat in Indian history, the victory of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur over Ibrahim Lodi, the role and power of artillery, the clashes between the parties and the use of large cannons mounted on a series of carts to counter artillery attacks, small cannons mounted on camels and maneuvering with

them, commanding troops, it focuses on analyzing his military prowess, focusing on his organizational skills and ability to defeat a much larger enemy with a small army.

Methods

Research methodology Modern scientific articles on the military strategies of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, includes a comprehensive review of historical texts and recent publications. Primary sources include historical data and military records, while secondary sources consist of analyzes by contemporary historians and military scholars. The study synthesizes information from these sources to provide a deeper understanding of Babur's military leadership.

Results

The elephants, their eyes wide with fear, turned back and attacked their own forces with force. Their opponents brought with them a terrifying new technology - the elephants, perhaps, had never heard of before ...

Information about the First Battle of Panipat.

The conqueror of India, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, was from the great family of conquerors of Central Asia. His father was a descendant of Timur, and his mother's family was from Genghis Khan.

His father died in 1494, and the 11-year-old Babur was appointed governor of Fergana (Ferghana), a region on the border between modern-day Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. However, his uncles and cousins fought over the throne, forcing Babur to abdicate twice. Unable to capture Fergana or Samarkand, the young prince turned south in 1504 to capture Kabul instead. [1]

However, Babur was not satisfied for long to rule Kabul and the surrounding districts. In the early 16th century, he made several incursions north into his ancestral lands, but was unable to hold them for long. By 1521, he had turned south to India, which was under the rule of India (Delhi) and Sultan Ibrahim Lodi.

The Lodi dynasty was the fifth and final of the families that ruled the Delhi Sultanate during the late medieval period.

The Lodi family were ethnic Pashtuns who controlled much of northern India in 1451 and unified the region after Timur's devastating invasion in 1398.

Ibrahim Lodi was a weak and tyrannical ruler, disliked by both the nobility and the common people. In fact, the noble families of the Delhi Sultanate despised him so much that they invited Babur to invade!

The Lodi ruler, during the war, prevented his troops from defecting to Babur's side [2].

Military forces and tactics:

Babur's Mongol force numbered 13,000 to 15,000, mostly cavalry. His hidden weapons were found in 20 to 24 fields, a relatively recent discovery from the war.

Ibrahim Lodi's 30,000 to 40,000 soldiers, as well as tens of thousands of camp followers. Lodi's main weapon was sheer terror, with war elephants numbering anywhere from 100 to 1,000 trained and hardened pachyderms, according to various sources.

Ibrahim Lodi had no tactics - his troops advanced in disorganized blocks, taking into account the sheer numbers and the aforementioned elephants, to overwhelm the enemy. However, Babur used two methods that were unfamiliar to Lodi, who had planned the future of the battle.

The first was to divide the small force into forward, left, right, right, right, and center sections, and to attack. The highly mobile right and left divisions surrounded the larger enemy forces and drove them towards the center. In the center, Babur placed his cannons. The second tactical innovation was Babur's use of decorated chariots on the chariot [3].

Its artillery power was kept behind a series of carts tied to a fence to withstand enemy skirmishes and artillery attacks. This tactic was borrowed from the Ottoman Turks.

Each military unit had its own distinctive insignia, such as banners, flags, which were used for visual identification and signaling. These symbols played a crucial role in maintaining order during the battle.

In addition to tactical organization, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur emphasized strict military discipline and deep loyalty among his soldiers. He maintained a strict hierarchy and expected complete obedience from his subordinates. His army followed a strict code of conduct, and any infractions were met with severe punishment, which curbed disorder and maintained stability in the ranks. Loyalty was not only expected of soldiers, but was fostered through a combination of rewards, recognition, and shared victories.

Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur was known for his strategic foresight and adaptability. He also demonstrated a willingness to adopt new technologies in his army, using firearms, including cannons. He would study the habits and weaknesses of his opponents before launching an attack and adjust his tactics accordingly, sometimes changing his plans mid-fight if the situation demanded it.

Discussion

Babur's military success was directly attributable to his excellent organizational structure, which allowed for the movement of troops and coordinated fighting. For example, this system allowed for rapid adaptation during battle, and effective logistical support over long distances. Here, agile tactics and strategic deception led to the capture of the Delhi Sultanate. Babur's willingness to adopt gunpowder technology, including various forms of cannon and firearms, and especially to destroy enemy gunpowder stores during battle, also reflects his openness to military innovation, long before it became widespread in the region.

Battle of Panipat. After conquering the Punjab region of Pakistan (present-day northern India and Pakistan), Babur marched towards Delhi. On the morning of 21 April 1526, his army met the Delhi Sultan at Panipat, in the state of Haryana, 90 kilometres (56 mi) north of Delhi [4].

Babur, using his gypsy style, surrounded Lodi's army with a pincer movement. He then used his cannons to great effect; Delhi's war elephants had never heard such a tumultuous roar, and the ferocious beasts turned back from their surroundings and

ran towards Lodi's soldiers. Despite these advantages, given the overwhelming numerical superiority of the Delhi Sultanate, the battle was close.

As the bloody resistance in Iraq approached the midday hour, Lodi's troops, increasingly numerous, fled to Babur's side. Finally, the tyrant Sultan of Delhi was abandoned by his surviving officers and died on the battlefield from his wounds. The Mughals, who had begun in Kabul, were victorious.

The end of the war. According to the "Baburnama", a biography of Emperor Babur, the number of Mongol soldiers in Delhi was between 15,000 and 16,000. Other local accounts put the total casualties at around 40,000 or 50,000. Of Babur's own army, 4,000 were killed in the battle. There is no information about the fate of the elephants.

The First Battle of Panipat is a major turning point in Indian history. Although Babur and his successors took the time to consolidate their control over the country, the defeat of the Delhi Sultanate led to the establishment of the Mughal Empire that ruled India.

There was no way out of the Mughal Empire. Indeed, Babur's son Humayun lost the entire empire during his reign, but he managed to recover some of it before his death. The empire was consolidated by Babur's grandson, the great Akbar; later successors included the ruthless Aurangzeb and Shah Jahan, the creators of the Tajik essence.[5]

Conclusion

Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur's success was not the result of his military skill in leading armies, but rather of his comprehensive approach to war. He relied not only on courage or numbers, but also on careful planning, well-organized structures, and a long-term perspective. Each of these components worked together like parts of a machine, supporting each other and increasing the overall effectiveness and power of his campaigns. His legacy as a military leader continues to be studied for its complexity and impact.

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