



## Offensive Weapons of the Akkoyunlu Army

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**Abstract:** The study aims to clarify the offensive weapons used by the military units of the Akkoyunlu state on the battlefield, to determine the technical characteristics of these weapons, and to reveal the areas of their use by the warriors. The research was carried out based on first-hand sources of the period, and the scientific basis of other scientific studies based on these sources was also used. As a result of the research, the assault weapons used by the Akkoyunlu army were analysed under two sub-headings: short-range assault weapons and long-range assault weapons, taking into account their range of use and techniques, and a total of nine military weapons were discussed. In addition to the more actively used weapons of the period, such as the bow and arrow, spear, sword, axe, mace, catapult, and ballista, less commonly used weapons, such as firearms, tatar bow, and javelin, were also included in the study. The technical specifications of these weapons are also included, along with their use and application areas on the battlefield.

**Keywords:** Bow and arrow, Close-range weapons, Offensive weapons, Ranged weapons, Sword, The Akkoyunlu army

### 1. Introduction

The military system of the Akkoyunlu state was influenced by both the military administration of the Seljuks and the Mongol state. In particular, the Akkoyunlu rulers, possessing a Central Asian-style army organization, were well-versed in the military traditions of Eastern Anatolia and the Near East due to their geographical location. Consequently, the weapons utilized in their army exhibited similarities with those employed by preceding and subsequent states. Swords and their variations, bows and arrows, spears, and lances were the essential components of the weaponry of the Akkoyunlu state. Additionally, occasional employment of customized firearms, crafted by both local and European artisans, by the Akkoyunlu state can also be observed in various sources.

### 2. Long-Range Weapons

From the beginning, the Akkoyunlu army had a military system based on Turko-Mongol traditions, reflecting high speed and maneuverability (Woods, 1993, p. 99). In warfare, ranged weapons are one of

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the most important parts of an army. It was calculated that firing operations with ranged weapons against forces such as heavily armored or highly maneuverable cavalry units, without engaging in one-on-one combat with the enemy at a certain distance, would cause serious casualties and gain a superior position on the opposite front during face-to-face battles. At the same time, long-range weapons were used to gain a psychological advantage over the enemy. The main long-range weapons of the Akkoyunlu army consisted of a bow and arrow, javelin, wheel or “Tatar bow” and some heavy and light artillery (Efendiyeu, 2002, p. 78).

## 2.1 Bow and Arrow

The use of the bow and arrow, which were widely used by all Turkish tribes from the earliest ages, has developed over time and managed to maintain its existence until the period in question. In the development of the bow and arrow, which were used especially skillfully on horseback, the efficiency of use for cavalry came to the fore. The Turks skillfully used several complex war tactics, such as aiming backward on horseback and causing the enemy to suffer heavy losses even as the cavalry retreated (Saka, 2021).

A significant part of the Akkoyunlu army was horse archers (Erdem, 2005, p. 60). C. Davvani, in his “Arzname”, in which he describes the army passage organized by Prince Khalil, gives information about the number of special forces moving in the passage based on the Tavachi books. In his article, V. Minorski emphasizes that the total number was 23,076 according to his calculations based on the figures in this work. 10,487 of these forces were archers (Minorsky, 1939, p. 165). The author in the “Arznama” mentions the presence of 3,752 archers within the right-wing army unit of the Fars province, 3,721 within the left-wing unit, and 3,014 within the Mangalay division (Baharlu, 2023, pp. 55–60). Iosafat Barbaro, in his travelogue, describes the census of Uzun Hasan’s army near Sultaniye. The author states that 10,000 of the 25,000 cavalry in this army were horse archers. His report also mentions a thousand-man infantry archer force (Barbaro, 2022, p. 107).

Highly maneuverable cavalry archers proficiently used bows and arrows while riding on horseback. The army possessed several types of bows and arrowheads in their weapon inventory, carefully chosen based on the strategy, the enemy’s armor, the targeted unit, and the intended damage (Əliyev, 2024, p. 97). The Akkoyunlu army used coiled and folding bows with a length of 80-85 cm, similar to the traditional Turkish bow. The so-called “composite bow” of the Ottomans was characterized by its short length and a maximum tensile strength of 40-50 kg, which allowed it to be used from horseback and for shooting at long distances (Erdoğan, 2019, p. 175). Moisture resistance in the bow’s component wood was crucial,

and various solutions were utilized to increase this property during summer preparation. The upper and lower parts of these bows were connected using curved bones, providing extra flexibility to the bow. The rope and bowstring were crafted from specialized animal skins, sinews, and at times “Shamakhi silk” (Darabadi, 2006, p. 277). It took on average one to one and a half years to construct such bows, hence cavalymen always carried two bows with them, which might serve the same or different purposes. An example of a metal bow from the Akkoyunlu period can be found in the Ganja Museum of Local History, named after Nizami Ganjavi. This steel bow, measuring 72 cm in length, is decorated with various floral patterns. The weapon, designed with a crescent-like curved shape, stands out for the part intended to hold the arrow, which features a rhombus-like characteristic and is narrowed on both sides compared to the main body (Əhmədov, 2023, p. 91).

Many variables, such as the type of arrowhead, the construction of the shaft, and the placement of the feathers, are of paramount importance. The creation of arrows is a crucial process that must be carefully considered. Many variables, such as the type of arrowhead, the construction of the shaft, and the placement of the feathers, are of paramount importance. Straight, three-pronged, two-pronged, diamond-shaped, or four-pronged arrowheads were utilized based on the target. Steel or iron was the preferred material for arrowhead construction (Əhmədov, 2017, p. 172). Hasan Bey Rumlu uses the phrase “arrow piercing the lung” multiple times in his work *Ahsanut-tovarich*. In discussing the Battle of Otlugbeli, Rumlu mentions that the “lung-piercing arrow” penetrated the helmet and went through the head (Rumlu, 2017, p. 288). This indicates that the arrowheads utilized by Akkoyunlu archers were capable of piercing heavily armored soldiers’ armor and incapacitating them.

The feather component of the arrow was sometimes composed of two or three feathers and was placed either near the arrowhead or at a distance of 1-2 cm, depending on its intended precision or the damage desired on the target. Variations of feathers from different bird species or tree leaves were utilized. According to Hasan Bey Rumlu’s account of the battle of Salmas between Iskender Turkman and Sultan Shahrukh’s army in Azerbaijan in 1429, arrows with four tips were utilized (Rumlu, 2017, p. 131). An Akkoyunlu cavalryman was provided with 80-100 arrows.

The bow and arrow had dual purposes of offense and defense. Historical records indicate that, during Mirza Abu Bakr’s march to Isfahan in 1405, bows and arrows were widely used by the city’s defenders as defense weapons (Rumlu, 2017, p. 47). Another noteworthy aspect of this weapon discussed in the same source is that in the event of a castle being attacked with bows and arrows, felt was deployed on

the towers of the castle to collect and reuse arrows that had been fired by the attackers (Rumlu, 2017, p. 195).

The cavalry of the Akkoyunlu probably used the three-finger technique of holding the arrow in a similar way to other Turkic groups. Nevertheless, through an analysis of bow-and-arrow application among the archer cavalry of other Turkish civilizations such as the Ottomans and Seljuks, this approach probably facilitated greater accuracy in hitting targets by allowing for stability in aiming at horseback (Saka, 2021, p. 187). As previously stated, archery played a significant role in cavalry warfare. The strategy of using light cavalry equipped with bows and arrows to dismantle heavy cavalry formations was implemented in numerous battles (Rumlu, 2017, p. 266).

## 2.2 Tatar Bow

This type of weapon, called the Tatar bow or crossbow, with a wooden or metal scabbard, was used to stabilize the bowstring by pulling it and to make it easier to shoot the arrow by placing an arrow in the groove (Əhmədov, 2017, p. 186). In the travelogue of a Venetian merchant dating back to the reign of Shah Ismail, a description of the arbalet is given, and it is described that the beam was pulled with a special tool and the arrow was sharp and long (Angiolello & Alessandri, 2006, p. 138). In particular, such weapons were used by infantrymen, who, due to the high tensile strength of the beam, could inflict severe injuries on a heavily armored enemy. A very small part of the Akkoyunlu regular army (around 5-7 thousand) consisted of infantry, and very few of them used the crossbow.

## 2.3 Javelin

This type of weapon, consisting of a 50-60 cm long wooden body and an iron cap, was mainly used by cavalry (Darabadi, 2006, p. 275). Longer versions of the javelin can be found in the Ottoman Empire, where it was used by infantry in various battles and sometimes thrown together with sacks containing flammable materials to besiege castles and burn ships (Saka, 2021, p. 179). Given its various melee disadvantages, we do not think that the javelin was used as a single weapon.

Particularly, lightly armored and maneuverable units utilized the javelin to neutralize enemy targets at a closer range compared to the bow and arrow. The weapon's head, like the arrowheads, featured various types, and its range of application varied depending on the enemy's armor.

The javelin was employed not solely in warfare, but also in military competitions (Saka, 2021, p. 179). These games were organized to evaluate soldiers' military skills in peacetime, as well as for amusement.

The basic aspects of the games were the ability to throw the javelin accurately over a certain distance and hit the target.

“Diyarbakiriyye”, during the siege of Mardin Castle by the Akkoyunlu soldiers under the command of Uzun Hasan, the Akkoyunlu soldiers were throwing spears toward the castle (Tihrani, 2014, p. 153). However, it is unusual for a warrior to advance towards the enemy unarmed and throw his primary weapon at the opposing party. Overall, the use of the term spear, along with descriptions of various similar weapons throughout the work, casts doubt on whether the weapon used here is a javelin. Long javelins resembling spears may have been used in the Akkoyunlu army. However, given its range, the effectiveness of spear-throwing is questionable, especially during a siege. However, calling these weapons spears ensures that these assumptions are not proven.

## 2.4 Firearms

As mentioned before, a significant part of the Akkoyunlu army consisted of cavalry, and their maneuver speed and mastery of hit-and-run tactics were their greatest strengths (Yıldız, 2020, p. 101). The use of recently developed rifles, which require serious reloading time, in armies that require speed will eliminate the army’s advantages. The strategic exclusion of rifles from the army was due to this situation. In addition, the elite Akkoyunlu, who saw fighting as an act of bravery and consisted mainly of professional knights, feared that their superiority would be endangered due to the increased use of firearms (Petrusevski, 1951, p. 69). Despite these obstacles, it is known that Uzun Hasan tried to equip the Akkoyunlu army with Western-style firearms (Nəcəfli, 2012, p. 312).

In the Akkoyunlu-Ottoman wars, the Akkoyunlu army did not use firearms. However, it is mentioned in many sources that cannons and muskets were used in the army in the last period of Uzun Hasan’s reign. According to some authors, these weapons were made by local craftsmen. Another fact is that the Venetian ambassador Iozaphat Barbaro, during his visit to the Akkoyunlu Palace (1474-1478), presented “arquebus” type rifles and cannons as a gift, as mentioned in his travelogue (Ozdogan, 2022, p. 107). However, Kazım Paydash, quoting V. Minorski in his doctoral thesis, states that these weapons did not reach the Akkoyunlu palace (Paydaş, 2003, p. 351). J. Woods, referring to “Tarihi-Alam-arayi-amini”, emphasizes that cannons were used by the Akkoyunlu army in the period after Uzun Hasan and claims that these cannons were built on the siege square (Faḍlallāh Ibn Rūzbihān, 1992, p. 98). In the same source, it is also mentioned that cannons were used during Sultan Yaqub’s campaign in Georgia (Faḍlallāh Ibn Rūzbihān, 1992, p. 44). Kazım Paydaş highlights that the term “tup-i-ateş-i-bar” used by the author during this event refers to firearms (Paydaş, 2023, p. 56).

The first use of firearms against the Akkoyunlu army is emphasized in Hasan Bey Rumlu's "Ahsanut-tavarikh" during the war between Kara Osman and Chekum, and the history of the use of rifles is briefly described (Rumlu, 2017, p. 52).

### 3. Close-Range Assault Weapons

As attractive as the use of long-range weapons and the ability to inflict damage without engaging the enemy in direct combat, the optimal attack on the enemy's cavalry and infantry units is a close-quarters combat strategy. Rapid offensive operations, especially with heavily armored cavalry, are calculated to disorganize opposing forces and disrupt battle plans. In addition, the accuracy and damage of long-range weapons decrease in proportion to the deterioration of weather conditions. The most important principle of winning a battle is to send both close and long-range forces at the most appropriate time with the right military plan.

#### 3.1 Spear

A significant proportion of the melee weapons were spears and various similar weapons. The "pushandars", the most powerful and heavily armored force of the Akkoyunlu army, were armed with heavy spears about two meters long and only 60 cm in the head. The head part of these weapons was made in a wide structure and did not interrupt contact with the enemy during the rapid movement of the rider (Əhmədov, 2017, p. 193). Depending on the skill and ability of the fighter, as well as the battle plan, the head can be distinguished as piercing or striking.

The spear was one of the most important weapons of the Akkoyunlu army. According to the information provided by Iosafat Barbaro, Uzun Hasan's army consisted of one thousand heavily armed lancers and between one and two thousand lancers (Barbaro, 2022, p. 107). Both the heavy cavalry and the light cavalry, who mostly used bows and arrows, used spears. In "Kitabi-Diyarbakiriyya" it is described that Uzun Hasan used spears in various battles (Tihrani, 2014, p. 143).

It is known that representatives of different tribes used flags on their spears to be more clearly distinguished on the battlefield (Rumlu, 2017, p. 181).

In the sections on the use of spears in battle in "Ahsanut-tavarikh", it is described that the spear is used both for piercing blows and for knocking enemy warriors off their horses (Rumlu, 2017, p. 52). At the same time, in the aforementioned battle between Shahrukh and Mirza Iskender, the author's use of

the expression “jawshen piercing spear” allows us to learn the extent of the impact power of the spear in war (Rumlu, 2017, p. 131).

The troop “jarid” units of the Akkoyunlu army, consisting mainly of lightly armed archer units, used lighter, direct-piercing spears. Hasan Bey Rumlu, in his account of the Battle of Otlugbeli, states that the Akkoyunlu army had 40,000 horsemen with spears (Rumlu, 2017, p. 275). Depending on the different battle strategies, it is known that more oval-headed spears were used, which were calculated to directly hit the enemy cavalry and dismount them. Hasan Bey Rumlu states that at the battle of Otlugbeli, the warriors attacked by extending their spears between the ears of the horses (Rumlu, 2017, p. 287).

During the attack, heavy cavalry units pressed the handle of the spear under the armpit and held the tip between the horse’s ears or on the left or right side of the horse’s head. Hasan Rumlu, in his work, describes battle scenes where the spear was thrown from a distance (Rumlu, 2017, p. 154). This use of the spear is also found in “Kitabi-Diyarbakiriyye”. As mentioned above, during Uzun Hasan’s siege of Mardin castle, it is described that the two sides threw spears at each other (Tihrani, 2014, p. 153).

### 3.2 Swords and Their Types

Considered one of the most important weapons of the Eastern military units, this type of cutting-piercing weapon, popularly known as the sword, was also one of the main melee weapons of the Akkoyunlu military units. Iosafat Barbaro states that Uzun Hasan’s army had 15 thousand soldiers with swords (Barbaro, 2022, p. 106). In many sources of the period, the sword is mentioned with names such as “tığ-u-şemşir”, “tığ”, “aynak”. Abubekr Tehrani’s “Kitabi-Diyarbakriya” describes the use of swords in the battle between Ibrahim Bey and Gara Yusif in the late 14th century (Tihrani, 2014, p. 49). The Akkoyunlu army used the sword in almost every battle. The sword was mostly used as a secondary weapon by cavalry units. In 1467, in the battle fought on the Mush Plain between Uzun Hasan of Akkoyunlu and Cihanshah, the ruler of Karakoyunlu, 6,000 cavalry of Uzun Hasan entered the battle, and arrows and swords were used as the main weapons (Rumlu, 2017, p. 252).

The place of the sword in society was very strong, not only as a weapon but also as a carrier of culture. It is noteworthy that in many written sources, “wearing a sword” is one of the symbols of valor and is repeatedly emphasized (Əhmədov, 2017, p. 154). At the same time, swords and sword belts sent as gifts by the highest person at different times show the socio-psychological value of the weapon in question. It is also known that gold and silver swords and sword belts were given to emirs and servants after important battles (Tihrani, 2014, p. 54).



Among the types of swords used by the Akkoyunlu army, we find the so-called “tig”, a straight-edged, relatively heavy, two-handed weapon used mainly by infantrymen (Aliev & Akhmedov, 2020, p. 309). This weapon, which was in the inventory of warriors, especially in northern Azerbaijan, was used to deliver piercing blows to the enemy and was much heavier than other types of swords. The repeated use of expressions such as “to strike with a sword”, “to cut off the head”, “to separate the head from the body”, and “to cut in two” in “Ahsanut-tavarikh” shows the range of the sword’s use in warfare. The swords in the inventory of the Akkoyunlu army were more cutting and therefore the sword used by the Akkoyunlu had a curved blade. The expression “the bright steel of the sword”, which appears in different places in the same work, clearly indicates that the main product of the sword was made of steel (Rumlu, 2017, p. 310).

The engraving of various religious symbols, Quranic verses, and prayers on the hilt of swords was one of the traditions of that period. Of course, when the social status of the warrior was taken into account, the beauty of these artifacts and the value they added to the sword increased significantly.

The curved, simple-hilted swords used by the Akkoyunlu cavalry allowed them to attack both opposing cavalry units and infantry forces on horseback. Designed primarily for cutting, the lightness of these swords made them easier to use. At the same time, in terms of design, it was faster to unsheath the sword (Aliev & Akhmedov, 2020, p. 310). While in the early times, only one side of the blade was suitable for cutting, in later periods, the other side of the blade was thinned by half, allowing the warrior to make piercing blows as well as cutting blows. In an example given in “Ahsanut-tavarikh”, the use of a “double-edged sword” indicates the cutting edge of both sides of the sword (Rumlu, 2017, p. 305). It is possible to come across the same expression in “Kitabi-Diyarbakiriyya” (Tihirani, 2014, p. 53). It is known that the blade length of various types of curved swords is 80-90 centimeters, and their total length varies between 85-100 centimeters (Khorasani & Arjmandi, 2020, p. 98).

As an example of curved swords, one can point to an exhibit from the 15th century housed in the National Museum of History of Azerbaijan, with a length of 77 cm (Əhmədov, 2023, p. 98). The blade of the sword is adorned with various floral patterns, and its hilt is also made of metal. Another example from the same museum measures 94.5 cm in length (Əhmədov, 2023, p. 100). The blade of this sword is comparatively straighter than the previous exhibit. Additionally, the tip of the sword is distinguished by its rare feature of having both edges sharpened, which is uncommon in curved swords.



### 3.3 A Mace or A Club

Used primarily as a short-range weapon, the mace or club consisted of a simple wooden handle and a head; Depending on its shape and material, it was sometimes made of iron, but more often of wood and bone (Göksu, 2004, p. 90). The 50-60 cm long support part of the gun was hollow, making it easier to use. The powerful effect of this weapon, which had a head resembling a human or animal head, made it possible to use it at close range.

The more advanced versions, known as “mace” (gürz) with metal heads, were typically designed with various sharp-pointed metal spheres. In particular, mace examples with six protrusions resembling a flower design can be directly attributed to specimens used by the Akkoyunlu. Indeed, Khunji-Isfahani in his work uses the expression “The mace striking the skull had settled into the brain so firmly that despite having six petals, it could not be moved” thereby drawing attention to important information about the morphological design of the weapon (Faḍlallāh Ibn Rūzbihān, 1992, p. 197).

Khunji-Isfahani, discussing the wars during Sultan Yaqub’s reign, notes that enemies on the battlefield were acquainted with mace (gürz - گرز) blows alongside various other weapons (Faḍlallāh Ibn Rūzbihān, 1992, p. 60). The author, while praising Akkoyunlu warriors in the same work, mentions that they crushed demon heads with heavy maces. This not only clarifies that maces were actively used in battles but also indicates that warriors employed this weapon to directly neutralize the enemy.

Another example of the weapon’s combat spectrum can be learned from the same author. With the words “While the shield was bewildered from the blow of the mace,” the author highlights that this weapon was directly used against shield-bearing warriors and emphasizes its destructive capability even against shields, which were the most important defensive means of medieval warriors (Faḍlallāh Ibn Rūzbihān, 1992, p. 302).

It is also noteworthy that more elite groups use powerful striking weapons such as maces as symbols of power and authority.

### 3.4 Axe

This type of weapon, which was widely used by Egyptian Mamluk warriors, has a cutting and striking feature at close range and was also used in the Akkoyunlu army. Abubekr Tehrani shows the use of axes while describing the Battle of Mush in his work “Kitabi-Diyarbakiriyya” (Tihrani, 2014, p. 276). Axes

were also used in the war between Akkoyunlu Godek Ahmed and Rustem Mirza in 1497 (Rumlu, 2017, p. 348).

The weapon, which was about the same length as a club but had a very sharp and wide surface on the head, was characterized by its comfortable use in both hands. The sharp end of the axe had a hammer-like butt at the back, which made it easier to use the axe in both directions when necessary (Darabadi, 2006, p. 198). Axes were widely used especially to neutralize the defensive power of iron armor and helmets against heavily armored units and to neutralize the enemy. For forces whose main weapon is one of the long-range weapons, the axe is more easily carried and more effective than the sword. Taking into account the physical parameters of the warrior, customized designs were made by craftsmen for more comfortable use, so it can be said that the weapon is much easier to use in terms of weight and impact power. There is information in various sources about the existence of axe types thrown from a distance. However, we have not come across any information on the use of such axes in the Akkoyunlu army.

It is possible to find an axe example with a length of 71 cm in the National Museum of History of Azerbaijan (Əhmədov, 2023, p. 96). This weapon is particularly notable for the design of its head, which resembles Mamluk axes. The sharp, crescent-shaped metal blade is adorned with various floral patterns and religious symbols. On the back of the sharp edge, there is a blunt, hammer-like rear section. The handle of the axe is made of wood and crafted with a special protruding design.

### 3.5 Dagger (Khanjar)

Almost every Akkoyunlu warrior was equipped with various dagger designs. This weapon was distinguished by its compact design and ease of use. In addition to being a functional weapon, it also served as an accessory, with unique craftsmanship and differently colored hilts that drew attention. Along with its aesthetic appeal, the dagger's effectiveness in combat could not be overlooked. It was an indispensable weapon for close-range attacks on the enemy. The length of these metal-bladed daggers ranged between 25 to 50 cm, and their handles were made from various materials such as wood, metal, or bone.

Daggers with blade lengths exceeding 45 cm are categorized as short swords. Swords and daggers are distinguished by their unique scabbard designs and were primarily carried on belts and waistbands. Turkmen daggers are particularly notable for their curved blade forms. Depending on their shape and the region of production, both double-edged versions and single-edged models can be found (Çoruhlu, 1997, p. 548). The widespread use of daggers by both military and civilian individuals contributed to their greater prevalence compared to other weapons.

Sources from the Akkoyunlu period also note the extensive use of daggers as weapons. For instance, Khunji-Isfahani, describing the battle between the Akkoyunlu ruler Sultan Khalil and Murad Bey (son of Jahangir Mirza, who was Uzun Hasan's brother) near Firuzgah fortress in 1478, writes in verse: "The two armies drew daggers against each other, arranging their flanks and centers in rows" (Faḍlallāh Ibn Rūzbihān, 1992, p. 129). The same author, when describing the confrontation between Akkoyunlu forces and Sheikh Haydar near Tabasaran on the 29th of Rajab 893 AH (July 9, 1488), compares the dagger to the tooth of a hungry wolf and emphasizes how Akkoyunlu warriors attacked the enemy with daggers to destroy them (Faḍlallāh Ibn Rūzbihān, 1992, p. 299).

In the work *Kitabi-Diyarbākiriyyā*, although the author does not provide explicit descriptions of the dagger's use in battle scenes, he emphasizes its function as a weapon through both metaphorical and indirect expressions in various sections (Tihrani, 2014, pp. 99, 102).

A particularly noteworthy dagger housed in the Hermitage Museum, measuring 41 cm in length, stands out for its design (Əhmədov, 2023, p. 96). Both the handle and the blade of the dagger are adorned with intricate floral patterns, and the scabbard features a raised, decorative design. The blade is curved and sharp on both edges, making it highly functional.

## 4. Conclusion

The most important factor that enabled the Akkoyunlu State of Azerbaijan to dominate a wide geography in a short time and leave behind a great legacy was, of course, first and foremost, its military organization and army. In this respect, when the weapon technologies and usage areas are taken into consideration, it is seen that the army had a systematic military organization, which directly affected the strengthening of the Akkoyunlu state. Although the offensive weapons of the Akkoyunlu army, reflecting the ancient traditions, were similar to the weapons of other states of the period, their use with the right strategy played an indispensable role in the victory of the army.

Within the framework of this research, various weapons used by the Akkoyunlu army in their offensive organizations and classified in literature as attack or assault weapons have been categorized according to their usage areas and studied separately. Scientific analyses and source investigations have revealed that the Akkoyunlu military system demonstrates significant similarities with the general weapons inventory of other states, reflecting the Turkic-Muslim and Turkic-Mongol military traditions of the Middle Ages.

The study primarily focused on the classification of weapons, with the main objective being the sys-

tematic categorization of offensive weapons in the Akkoyunlu military inventory. One of the most significant findings is the confirmation that these weapons were used in accordance with the Turkic-Mongol traditions underlying the Akkoyunlu state administration apparatus and military organization. The study specifically examines how these weapons were functionally adapted to serve the distinctive military strategies and tactics of the Turkic-Mongol tradition, characterized by their reliance on cavalry forces, swift offensive maneuvers, and tactical mobility on the battlefield.

In addition to analyzing written sources, the research also examined material specimens from the 15th century discovered in Azerbaijan, southern Azerbaijan, and Iran that are preserved in various museums worldwide, thus implementing dual verification and identification of information found in written sources. This complex approach is one of the factors enhancing the scientific value and reliability of the research.

Furthermore, the investigations have revealed that the weapons under discussion were significant not only for military purposes but also as carriers of serious cultural values. This highlights the fact that the art of weaponry in the Akkoyunlu state had not only functional but also aesthetic and symbolic significance.

Future research involving the systematic comparative analysis of offensive weapons belonging to the Akkoyunlu military organization preserved in various museums worldwide within a unified methodological framework promises important perspectives for a more accurate assessment of the overall picture of the army.

For this reason, we tried to systematize the research of authors who wrote scientific works on the military infrastructure of the period, as well as the offensive weapons we know from various sources of the period, taking into account the conditions and strategies of the use of the weapons.

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