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Q) Write an assignment on Charter of Medina, Important clauses and Impacts?

Introduction:-

The Charter of Medina also known as Constitution of Medina. It was a document that draft by the Last Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in 622 after arrival in city of Medina. The document established a new political and social order in Medina.

The purpose of Charter of Medina is uniting the muslim community with Jews tribes of Medina.

The charter of Medina is considered to be first written which established the rights and responsibilities of different religion groups in Medina.

The charter of Medina has a significant document in the Islamic history.

Historical Background:-

The early 7th century, city of Medina was commercial centre or trade zone. It was a home of Arab muslims, Jews and Pagans. The city is popular for trade and travel. In 622 century, Prophet

Muhammad (SAW) migrated to Medina. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) wants to unite the different tribes of Medina from different religion group. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) drafted the Charter of Medina for creating framework the multi-religion communities live together with peace and security.

Important Clauses

1) Medina as a Single Community:-

The Article I of Charter of Medina recognizes the believers (Muslims) and the people of book (Jews and Christians) in Medina are the Single Community. The Article also establishes the Importance of Cooperation and mutual support among members of this community. In hadith, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said

"This document is a guarantee of Security and protection for the Muslim of Quraysh and Yathrib, and for those who follow them and work hard with them. They form one community - Ummah." (Sahih Muslim)

The prophet's words show that he was very proud of Article I of the Charter of Medina. He consider it was great achievement for the Muslims

2) Security and Protection for Jewish:-

The Article 2 of charter of Medina establishes the principle of religious tolerance. It states that the Jews of Banu Auf are the one community (ummah) with the Muslims. The article guarantees the security and protection of the Jewish tribes of Medina, who has granted same rights and privileges as muslim tribes. The Jews were allowed to practice their own religion and live under their own laws.

According to Hadith, The prophet Muhammad (SAW) said,

"The Jews of Banu Auf are one Community (ummah) with the believers. The Jews have their religion and the Muslims and their associates have their, except those who behave unjustly and sinfully, for they hurt but themselves and their families"

(Narrated by Abu Hurairah)
Sahih Muslim

This article is significant because it shows the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) commitment to religious pluralism. He recognized that the Jews were a different religion but they could live together with peace and harmony.

3) Principle of financial Responsibility:

The Article 3 of the charter of Medina deals with financial responsibility of the emigrants from the Quraish tribe. The emigrants were those who had left Mecca and join Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in Medina. They were often poor and destitute, and they need a financial assistance from other members of muslim community.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, "The emigrant from the Quraish shall be (responsible) for own their ward; and shall pay their blood money in mutual collaboration and shall secure the release of their own prisoner by paying their ransom from themselves so that the mutual dealings between the believers be in accordance with the principles of goodness and justice"

(Sahih Muslim)

4) Principle of Justice and Equality:

The ~~Art~~ Article 4 of the charter of Medina establish the Principle of equality and Justice for all member of the community regardless from any religion.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) emphasis the equality and religious tolerance at that time

when society was based on radical ideas. But Prophet Muhammad (SAW) teaches us every person regardless from any religion should be treated with respect and fairness.

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said,
"The Jews who are with us one community with the believers (Muslim). To the Jews who follow us belong help and equality, excepting such as wrongs and acts of unjustice, for then the law is the same for the Muslim as for the Jews"
(Sahih Muslim)

The prophet Muhammad (SAW) was prime example of human kind. Prophet Muhammad establish the system for all citizen. It was a perfect example in the world.

5) Principle of Collective Security:

The Article 6 of the charter of Madina has established the mechanism of collective security.

The Article said that if any party or stakeholder breaks the peace then they will be considered to be war with other people.

The charter of Medina based on mutual commitment of peace and harmony. The charter recognize all communities are the single community of Medina.

According to Hadith

"The Quraysh and their client shall have peace so long as they are at peace with the people of this document, then he shall get no protection from me against anyone"

(Sahih Muslim)

The Article 5 reminded that the Last Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was a man of peace.

6) Principle of Protection of weak Member:-

According to Hadith

"The Clients of the people of this document shall have the same protection as the people of this document"

The Article 6 of the charter was designed by a weaker person.

The Article deals with the protection of weaker person in the community, such as women, children, elder, sick person, orphan, and widow.

The Clients of the parties of Charter will have same protection as the parties themselves.

Another Hadith Support the Principle

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said
"All people^{are} equal, like the
teeth of comb"

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) taught us all people are equal in the sight of God. They should be treated with same justice and fairness regardless of their tribes, religion or social status.

Impacts of the Charter

1) Establishment of a Unified Community:-

The charter of Medina served as a remarkable achievement to established the Unified Community during the time of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in the 7th Century.

- Integration of Diverse Groups:-

The Charter brought together different tribes of Medina including Ansar, Muhajirun, Banu Auf Jews. The Charter promoted the common interest, belonging of the groups.

- Mutual Commitment of Protection:-

The charter of Medina has united the many tribes of and religions of the Medina to

protect from external threats. The shared responsibility for defence helped to create solidarity between different groups.

- Arbitration to resolve disputes:-

The Charter help to reduce the tensions and solve dispute through joint arbitration to prevent violence

a) Legal and Social Framework:-

Charter of Medina play significant role in establishing legal and social framework to resolve the disputes, conflicts among different groups. It established the system of arbitration and justice. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) serving the final authority in disputes.

- Dispute Resolution:-

The Charter outlined a system approach for resolving disputes and conflicts. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was a arbitrator which hear cases of disagreement and ensuring justice resolution process

Example:-

The dispute between Aws and Khazraj tribes. Both tribe have long history of conflict. Both are involved in wars in different time. Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

intervened. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) offered to resolve their dispute under the charter of Medina. Both tribes accept the offer of Prophet and eventually resolve their conflict peacefully. (Reference:- Constitution of Medina by Muhammad Hamidullah)

-Rule of law:-

The Charter promoted the concept of Rule of law by ensuring that dispute would be settled peacefully and according to principles.

-Prevention of Blood Feuds:-

The Charter aimed to prevent blood feuds and retaliatory actions. The Charter establish the system of justice that emphasis the peaceful settlement of disputes and maintaining social order.

3) Recognition of Religious Pluralism:-

The Charter acknowledge the religious freedom and rights of different religious communities, particularly Jews and Christians. The recognition of religious pluralism set a precedent for a tolerance and respect for religious diversity in Islamic states

- Recognition of Autonomy:-

The Charter recognized the autonomy of the Jewish tribes, particularly the Banu Nadir and Banu Qurayza, both are inhabitants of Medina.

The Charter states

"The Jews of Banu Nadir and Jews of Banu Qurayza are one community with the believers. They are free to conduct their affairs according to their own religion and to follow their own laws. No one shall interfere with them or harm them".

- Religious Freedom:-

The Charter affirmed the religious freedom of the Jewish tribes, allowing them to continue practicing their faith without interference. It acknowledged that they had the right to follow their own religious law and regulation.

4) Protection of Individual & Collective Rights:-

The Charter outlined the rights and responsibilities of the different groups, emphasizing the importance of cooperation, protection and mutual support.

6) Security & Defense:-

The Charter address the aspect of security and defense by establishing the framework for collective protection and mutual assistance between groups in the city of Medina.

According to provision that all members of the community were responsible for defending the community from attack.

The Article 1 states

"All the faithful shall form one community and establishes the mechanism of collective security which means that all member of community are responsible for defending the community from attack".

- Recognition of threat:-

The tribes should be aware about foreign threat.

- Unity and Cooperation:-

If community face external threat the groups come together collaborate with unity and cooperation deal with threat.

Conclusion:-

In conclusion, the Charter of Medina has a significant historical document that based the foundation of a unity, peace, justice and harmonies in the city of Medina. Charter of Medina has great significance goes beyond its times, serving as timeless example of how Islam serve rights to different tribes and religious group and Islam organize to single community. The Charter of Medina portray great image of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was a perfect example for all mankind. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as man of love, peace, strategist, organizer, leader, and legislator. The Charter of Medina emphasis the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was a Role Model for all humanity in anytime.

The Charter of Medina continue to illuminate a path toward unity and harmony, transcending time and culture boundaries.