

Discuss The Holy Prophet (PBUH) As a Model For Military Strategy

INTRODUCTION:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a messenger of Allah Almighty and considered a role model, not only in matters of faith and spirituality, but also in various aspects of life, including military strategy. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) considered greatest war strategist. He fought a war for the sake of spread of God's message. Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) achieved great success by incurring minimum human losses. He was a great military commander of his times. He was not only man of superior military genius, but also placed himself the master of all situations relying to the divine assistance, and elevations of his followers. Besides, all the battles he fought constituted a model of their applications to the requirements of strictness, bravery and appropriate arrangements that suited the terms and conditions of war.

Holy Prophet Alters The objective of war in Islam

Pre-Islamic objectives:

In Pre-Islamic warfare was prevalent among the various

tribes and communities of the religion. The objects of war during that time were often driven by factors such as tribal disputes, acquisition of wealth and resources, seeking vengeance, and asserting dominance. The pre-Islamic Arabs engaged in warfare for variety of reasons, and their objects varied depending upon the specific context and circumstances. Some common objectives are mentioned below.

- ① Tribal Honor and Prestige
- ② Control of resources
- ③ Retaliation and Revenge
- ④ Expansion and Territory
- ⑤ Economic gain

Post-Islamic Objectives:

In Islam, the objectives of war are guided from Holy Quran, the teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and Islamic jurisprudence. While warfare is generally seen as defense measures in Islam, there are specific objects that are recognized. Here are some key objectives of war in Islam.

- ① Self-Defense
- ② maintenance of peace and Justice
- ③ Removal of oppression and Tyranny

Principles of war in Islam:

Restricting targets and Non-Combatant Immunity:

In the light of Quran:

"Do not kill a wounded person
nor run after a fleeing one
nor kill a captive"

The Holy Prophet emphasized the protection of non-combatants during warfare. He prohibited the killing of women, children, the aged, and non-combatants civilians. According to the hadith:

"Do not killed the aged the children, or the women, but rather focus upon the combatants"

Prohibition to destroy the Infrastructure and Environment:

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) explicitly prohibited the destruction of public properties and environment. According to the hadith:

"Do not destroy the cultivated fields, nor burn down the fruitful trees, and do not kill the sheep, cows, or camels except for food"

Treatment of prisoners of war:

The Holy

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) laid down guidelines for the treatment of prisoners of war, emphasizing kindness, compassion, and fair treatment. During the battle of Badr, the Holy Prophet instructed his companions to treat the captured enemy soldiers with mercy and dignity.

4. Prohibition of torture and mutilation:
According to Hadith:
"Allah has prohibited the believers from torturing others, so it is not permissible for the believers to torture"

Quality/character of Holy Prophet Muhammad as a military commander.

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was perfect in all respects. He was always active to convey the message of Allah to the humanity. So it is therefore he fought a wars for the propagation of divine message. He was possessed of great military acumen and war strategy in and outside the battle field. Here some are given below.

- ① Strong Belief in Allah
- ② Strong Belief in outstanding achievements.
- ③ Bravery

1. presentation to the followers during

Military Strategies of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The military strategies employed by prophet Muhammad (PBUH) during his life time were marked by tactical acumen, flexibility, and deep understanding of the geopolitical landscape. Here are some key military strategies of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

1. Unity and cohesion:

Prophet Muhammad emphasized the importance of unity and cohesion with the Muslims ranks. He promoted the sense of brotherhood among the followers, fostering loyalty and camaraderie, which plays a crucial role in their military success.

Hold fast together to the cable of Allah and be not divided. Remember the blessing that bestowed upon you"
(Quran)

2. Psychological warfare and propaganda.

The prophet employed psychological warfare to weaken the moral of enemy ranks. Before the battle of Khyber, he displayed his military might, instilling sense of dread among the opposing forces, which contributed to their eventual surrender.

3. Tactical use of Terrain:

The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) demonstrated an understanding of the importance of terrain in military engagements. He would strategically position his forces and make use of geographical features to gain an edge in battles. During the battle of Uhud, the positioning of archers on the mountain played a critical role in the outcome of the conflict.

4. Surprise Attacks on Enemies
In certain situations, the prophet utilized surprise attacks on enemies to gain a tactical advantage over the enemy. The battle of Badr is a prime example, where the Muslims launched a surprise attack on the enemy, catching them off guard and achieving significant victory.

5. Strategic Retreat and Defensive Posture:
The prophet adopted the defensive posture when faced with superior forces, especially during the early years in Mecca. He avoided direct confrontations and instead focused on protecting the Muslim community from harm. The principle of strategic retreat is evident in the migration from Mecca to Medina, where

Muslim established a stronger and more secure base.

Permission has been given to those who are being fought, because they were wronged. And indeed, Allah is competent to give them victory. Those who have been driven from their homes unjustly only because they said, "our Lord is Allah"

G. Diplomacy and Alliances:

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) skillfully used diplomacy to build alliances with neighboring tribes and communities, even with non-Muslims, in order to strengthen the Muslim position and safeguard their interests. One notable example is the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, secured a ten-year truce with the Quraysh, allowing the Muslims peacefully coexist and expand their influence.

Military Formation and Division under Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

During the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), military formation and divisions were crucial for the successful execution of military campaigns and battles. The military organization of the early Muslim community was relatively simple but effective, allowing them to achieve

Significant victories against their adversaries. Here are some key points about military formation and division during that time:

1. Leadership:

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) served as the overall commander of the Muslim forces. He was an exceptional military strategist and would appoint experienced and capable leaders to lead specific units and divisions.

2. Cavalry and Infantry:

The Muslim army comprised both cavalry and infantry units. The cavalry was particularly effective, as many Arabian tribes were skilled horsemen.

3. Archers:

Archers played a crucial role in the Muslim army. They were often positioned in strategic locations to provide covering fire and disrupt enemy formations.

4. Division into Groups:

The Muslim army was divided into groups or battalions (called "Firqah" or "Firqah"). Each battalion would have its own leader, and they would coordinate with each other under

the Central Command.

5. Tactics:

The early Muslim military relied on a combination of strategic planning and divine inspiration. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) would receive revelations guiding military decisions.

6. Flexibility:

The Muslim army was adaptable and could quickly change formation based on the circumstances of the battle. They were known to be highly mobile and able to respond swiftly to various situations.

Conclusion:

In nutshell, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) alters the theme of war, like he changed the objects of war, and adopted the new principles like, Restoring targets and non-combatant immunity, Avoid to destroy the infrastructure and environment etc. He was a great military commander. By virtue of great leadership skill Muslim conquered Mecca; he achieved great success with minimum human loss. His strategies of war were defensive in nature, as he primarily sought to

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Protect the muslim community from persecution and ensure their survival,
According to Quran:

"And fight them until there is no fitnah (oppression) and (until) the religions all of it is for Allah" (Quran)