

Q2: Discuss the Holy Prophet's (P.B.U.H) Role as a Model for Military Strategy

Ans:

Outline:

- (1) Introduction of Prophet's (P.B.U.H) as a role model for military strategists.
- (2) Humanitarian Laws are inspired by Prophet's set war principles.
- (3) Unique goals for war
- (4) Innovative war strategies of Prophet.
- (5) Efficient military organization of Prophet (P.B.U.H)
- (6) The qualities of Prophet (P.H.B.H), every war strategist wants to acquire in battlefield.
- (7) Conclusion.

① Introduction

The world has witnessed many strategists those are believed that they ^{have} changed the world through their world strategies: such as Sun Tzu, Clausewitz, Napoleon, Changhar Khan, Alexander and many other. However, Prophet (P.B.U.H) stands on the top of these strategist. The Apostle

brilliantly changed the future of war and set the principles that give direction to wars towards more humane nature. Today, humanitarian laws are founded on the principles of Prophet (P.B.U.H). The prophet not only set the principles but made goals of war which are to attain peace and prosperity in the world. The war strategies of the Apostle are unique as well. The qualities of bravery, compassion with soldiers, belief in Allah in battle field of Prophet (P.B.U.H) are other source of inspiration for other strategist. The prophet (S.A.W.W) is considered as best role model for strategist due to "His" attributes in battlefields.

② * War Principles of Prophet (P.B.U.H) *

(a) Concept of Combatants and non Combatants:

The Last Messenger of Allah gave his commandments to not to kill children, women and other people who are not fighting. This principle is unique in history. Today, there are humanitarian laws those have roots

in prophet's principles.

(b) Not to demolish tillage, kill animals, cut trees unless necessary:

The Prophet of Allah strictly prohibited to kill animals, destroy crops and damage environment.

(c) The Prophet (P. B. U. H) prohibited to demolish corpses of killed soldiers:

The enemies of the prophet (P. B. U. H) were of the view of brutality. They used to demolish and disrespect the corpses of soldiers. The Prophet (P. B. U. H) set the principles to respect bodies of soldiers and not to demolish them.

(d) Not to ^{kill} fleeing soldiers:

The prophet (P. B. U. H) not allowed his soldiers to chase the fleeing soldiers and kill them. The notion was behind this principal was that they are quitting the battle field and are no more combatants. Therefore, they can not be killed.

(e) Equally distribute booty among soldiers:

The Messenger of Allah equally distributed booty among soldier. He did not discriminated between tribes (army of Prophet consisted of many tribes) soldiers and commanders.

③ Unique goals for War

- The prophet goals for war are following.
- (a) To fight against the enemy of Islam was ^{the} first goal of the Prophet
 - (b) The prophet (P.B.U.H) change the philosophy of war. The prophet waged war for ~~the~~ maintenance of "Peace"
 - (c) The prophet (S.A.W.W) goal was to eliminate suppression of innocents.
The Prophet always acted according to Quran, for fight against oppression
Quran reveals to Prophet that: "What would reason you have not to fight against in the way of Allah and his weakest people, who are oppressed and say to Allah: They cause us to set forth ^{us} to migrate from one place to another. Send us thee the protector against them and sent us thee help" (Al-Nisa).
 - (d) The goals for war were compassion, peace, tranquility in Muslim World.

④ Innovative War strategies of Prophet

This is important part for other strategies because He has fought wars (Ghazwa) with amazing strategies and tactics. All His war strategies may have

strong influenced over future strategist.

(a) Innovative war strategies was trench warfare:

The Battle of Alzab witnessed an novel war strategy that was digging of trench to create barrier between enemies and halt their invasion. This technique was used in WWI as well.

(b) Understanding of spatial (Geography) dynamics:

The prophet had outstanding understanding of spatial. In Battle of Badr the prophet selected a space and time when the sun will be behind their soldier and against the eyes of enemies. The sun rays penetrated in the eyes of enemies and caused difficulties to wage war. The Prophet set archers on the top of mountains of Uhd, in Battle of Uhd. The convey of enemy was at low alleviation and the Muslim soldiers were at high. So, archers had good position to hunt the targets.

(c) The art of Blockade:

The enemies of Islam caused many troubles to Muslim as those were moving from Makkah to Madinah. The prophet blocked the routes of Makkah coming from Syria and many other parts.

This compelled Makkans to be lenient and flexible on Maddingians. This was the same technique which was used in WWI, when England blocked sea routes of Germany to starve them.

(d) Espionage and maintain secrecy,

The Apostle knew that it is good thing to already know the moves of enemy. This make enemy weak and muslim army strong. So He established patrolling and other practical mechanism to obtain maximum information from enemy fronts. Maintaining secrecy is important as well. He discussed "His" strategies to his only with close advisors and companions, otherwise, kept cards close to his chest.

(e) Minimum loss and maximum gain;

According to Montegomery in his book "The Prophet at Madinah" in 100 wars total 1058 soldiers were killed. Whereas only "258" muslims were martyred as compared to non-Muslim who were killed 799. Hence, Muslims gain maximum gains and lost minimum relatively.

(E) Efficient Military Organization a good example for Military Strategists

The prophet gained control of whole Arabian Peninsula in just eight years.

Not only he was a good strategist but also he was a good military strategist.

(a) Military Preparedness:

He said that "Keep the army ready to utmost level. Keep the steeds ready as to strike hard ^{on} the hearts of enemy with fear.

(b) Organized military division formation:

He divided his army into 5 divisions.

one division at the center, ~~two~~ ^{one} division at the right side and ~~two~~ ^{one} at the left. One division as vanguard and one division at the rear guard.

This division of military is considered as best division because it divides role of each labour, making it more functional and sweeping.

(c) Maintaining the war procurements:

At beginning the Muslim military was deficient of war equipments but as days passed every muslim had its own sword, arrows, bow, spear, spade and lances. The prophet war after war developed his force.

Date: _____

(d) Keeping up high morale of soldiers.

The Messenger was himself chief of command (CO). He always kept his soldiers morale high. The military of the prophet was combination of other different tribes who had their separate banner and chief of tribe as commander. This commandship was an amazing stimulator for their best efforts, as they have to prove best tribe and leader. Equal distribution of booty kept more energetic to soldiers.

(6) Exemplary War Qualities of the Prophet

(a) Bravery:

The Prophet is the bravest warrior in the history as He had complete faith in Allah. The bravery in the battlefield is main pillar as a strategic point of view. He proved to be the best strategist in 27 Ghazwa. Hazrat Ali (RA) defines His" bravery as "When the war becomes so fierce and intense. The eyes come out of sockets. He never afraid. He marched close and close to enemies."

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(b) Equal participation in War:

When a leader isolates himself in war field, the soldiers get disengage. So, keeping the soldiers entranced morally and psychologically, the Prophet took equal participation in battlefield. He dig trenches in Khandaq. Once camels were deficient in number.

Soldiers had to change riders as other can take rest. The prophet handled the reins of camel and walked on foot, as other companion can rest.

(c) Loving and affectionate:

When a convoy returned from an expedition. A soldier wanted to inform a woman that her husband and son are martyred. She hastily wanted to first know about safety and security. When she learned that Prophet is safe and secure, she felt relaxed without caring about her son and husband! This event which show Prophet was loved.

And this love is reciprocation of his love that he given to his soldiers.

(d) Pursuit of his laid Principles.

The prophet religiously followed the principle he set.

⑦ Conclusion:

From the above discussion, there remains no doubt that He was the best strategist and a role ~~to~~ model for other strategists in the world. His laid principles have changed the notion that everything in love and war is fair. He had set principles which have made war more humane. His strategies and tactics of war ^{are} still valid today. The Prophet was a messenger of Islam, which "is religion of peace," so He set goals of war to secure peace in the world. Every strategist would always like to inculcate the qualities of ^{the} prophet in his soldiers. Therefore, The apostle is best of all strategists in the past and role model for future strategists.