

# Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

As

## Military Strategist

### Introduction:

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is considered the history's greatest military commander and war strategist. He <sup>(PBUH)</sup> fought wars for the propagation of divine message. He (PBUH) establish the principles of warfare while altering the objectives of war and devising new military strategies.

### Objectives of War:

The Prophet (PBUH) altered the standards of war. The Pre Islamic wars were fought for purpose of robbing, killing, tyranny and aggression. Those wars were focused on winning victory, oppressing the weaker and demolishing their houses. A war in Islam is called Jihad that turned the traditions of pre-Islamic war. Following objectives can be deduced from

Quran:

- (1) To fight against aggression and defend Islamic lands.
- (2) To assist the oppressed especially in non-Islamic lands.
- (3) To eradicate mischief and fitnah
- (4) To eliminate oppression and cruelty
- (5) To remove hindrances in the way of Islam

## Principles of warfare as established by Islam

Sulaimah bin Buraidah narrates that whenever Allah's Messenger (PBUH) appointed as leader on an army or battalion, he would instruct him:

“let your invasion be in the name of Allah and for His sake. Fight those who disbelieve in Allah. Invade but do not plunder nor conceal booty. Never deform the corpse of dead person or kill an infant child.” ”

When it happened that he arrived in a battle field by night, he would never invade the enemy till morning. He utterly forbade burning in fire, killing children and women or even beating them.

## Quality of Holy Prophet (PBUH) as Military Strategist

In the space of a single decade he fought 8 major battles, led eighteen raids, and planned another thirty eight military operations where others were in command but operating under his order and strategic direction.

He was inventor of insurgency warfare and

history first successful practitioner. He (PBUH) had no training before he led an army in the field. He (PBUH) eventually revealed that of Byzantium and Persia especially when it came to political information. He (PBUH) selects the person who has the greatest intellect of all people.

“Allah knows best where to place His Messenger”

~ Al Anam: 124

## A Critical Analysis of PBUH role for Conquest of Makkah

Muhammad (PBUH) was first and foremost a revolutionary, a fiery religious guerrilla leader. He sought to replace the existing Arabian social order with a new one based upon a radically different ideological world view. The later success and conquests were the result of success as leader of insurgency. Muhammad (PBUH) strategically leveraged his ability to secure sufficient weapons and equipments, providing him with a crucial political advantage.

Steps:

### 1) Establishment of suffah

Recognizing the need to protect the leadership from internal challenges within the insurgency, he established the suffah, a devoted group of followers residing near mosque.

(2) Establishment of Intelligence Apparatus:

Understanding the indispensable role of intelligence apparatus, Muhammad (PBUH) left a trusted agent, his uncle Abbas, in Mecca to provide ongoing reports.

(3) Clan Loyalties and Alliance Negotiations:

Demonstrating deep understanding of clan loyalties and local politics, Muhammad (PBUH) effectively negotiated alliances with bedouins, showcasing the importance of strategic diplomacy in insurgency movements.

(4) Propaganda and Message Dissemination:

Muhammad's (PBUH) recognition of the role of propaganda in insurgency is evident in his effort to make his message widely known, emphasizing the importance of shaping public perception.

(5) Transformation of Arab Armies:

Muhammad (PBUH) visionary leadership has transformed the social composition of Arab Armies, uniting disparate clans into a national force loyal to Ummah, underscoring the significance of social cohesion in military effectiveness.

(6) Intellectual Engagement and Religious Purification:

Emphasizing intellectual engagement, religious devotion, and purification from idol worship, Muhammad (PBUH) reshaped the mindset of his followers, illustrating the importance of

ideological clarity in insurgency movements.

### (7) Centralized Command and Cohesive Armies:

Muhammad (PBUH) establishment of a unified command and the high cohesion among his armies, even when outnumbered, represent a paradigm shift in Arab warfare, highlighting the importance of organizational structure and unity.

## Important Features in the Military Strategy

### (1) Advisory Council:

Generally, at every important juncture and especially before the war, prophet (PBUH) use to hold a grand meeting (Shoora) where his companions gave their views and proposed new strategies.

### (2) Economic Blockade:

It was used as a serious threat to Makkah in Badar.

### (3) Active defense:

Prophet (PBUH) actively sought the enemy and took the battle to his ground. In the Battle of Badar e.g he not only sent spies to know the exact military strength of the enemy, but when it came to fighting he (PBUH) reached the battle ground before enemy, got hold of waters, selected better position and organized army in different ranks as well.

(4) **Suprise:**

In many battles like Ahzab and Khandak the enemy was totally surprised.

(5) **Secrecy and Silence:**

It is notable that element of surprise was achieved when there were enemies inside and all around the city of Madinah. It is not possible without extreme secrecy and silence.

(6) **Mobility:**

The mobility of the army of Madinah was exceptional noting the type of transport and general poverty Muslims were in. Almost all the times they took the war to the enemy as we witness in the battle of Hunain.

(7) **Boldness:**

He (PBUH) conducted war campaigns with unmatched boldness. Muslims continued to conduct wars with that type of boldness for many centuries.

## **Conclusion:**

Muhammad (PBUH) possessed etiquettes of leadership; intellectual trait such as Reflections, contemplation and Far sightedness, effective planning and organization skills, skill and Intellectual Brilliance in Executing the duties of a commander; Sagacity and Perspicacity. Above all practical traits.