

PROFE DISCUSS THE HOLY PROFET (PBUH) AS A MODEL FOR MILITARY STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a messenger of Allah Almighty and considered role model, not only in matters of faith and spirituality but also in various aspects of life, including military strategy. Prophet Muhammad considered as the greatest war strategist. He fought wars for the sake of spread of God's message. Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) achieved great successes by incurring minimum human losses. He was an alert military commander of his times. He was not only man of superior military genius, but also proved himself the master of all situations owing to the divine assistance, and devotion of his followers. Besides, all the battles he fought constituted a model of their application to the requirements of strictness

bravery and appropriate arrangements that suited the terms and conditions of war. The examples of prophet Muhammad as a good military strategist proved in the battles of Uhud and Hunayn in which Muslims were defeated, but he stood fast facing the enemy and managed and altered to a success.

Holy prophet alters the objectives of war in Islam.

Pre-Islamic objectives:

In pre-Islamic warfare was prevalent among the various tribes and communities of the region. The object of war during that time was 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 a 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 to from the Holy Quran, the teachings of prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and Islamic jurisprudence. While warfare is generally seen as defense measure in Islam, there are specific objectives that are recognized. Here are some key objectives of war in Islam.

1. Self-Defense:

The primary objective of war in Islam is self defense. Muslims are permitted to engage in armed conflict when their lives, religion or basic rights are under direct threat.

"Permission to fight is given to those against whom war is made because they have been wronged". (22: 39)

2. Maintenance of peace and justice:

Islam emphasizes the maintenance of peace and the establishment of justice. If peaceful means fail to resolve a

Conflict and oppressive forces threaten peace and justice, then resorting to war may be considered as a means to restore balance and protect the oppressed. According to Holy Quran "But if the enemy inclines towards peace, then you incline towards peace." (8:61)

According to Hadith:

"Do not wish to meet the enemy, but when you meet them fight." (Sahih Muslim 1731)

3. Protection of Religious Freedom:
Islam recognizes the importance of protecting religious freedom. Muslims are permitted to fight in defense of their religions and to protect places of worship from destruction. However, it is important to note that the protection of religious freedom does not apply to forced conversion. According to the Holy Quran,

"And fight them until there is no fitnah (oppression) and (until) the religion all of it, is for Allah." (2:191)

4. Upholding Human Dignity and Rights
Islamic teachings stress the importance of upholding human dignity and protecting the rights of individuals, both Muslim and non-Muslim during the times of war. The mistreatment, killing, or harming of non-combatants, prisoners of war, or innocent civilians is strictly prohibited. According to Quran.

"And do not fight them at al-masjid, al-Haram unless they fight you there. But if they fight you, then fight them. Such as a recompense of disbelievers" (2:191)

5. Removal of oppression and Tyranny
Islam encourages believers to fight against oppression and tyranny. If a tyrannical ruler or regime is engaged in gross human rights violations or poses a threat to the well being of people, Muslims may engage in warfare to remove such oppression and establish justice. According to holy Quran:

"And what is with you that you fight not in the cause of Allah and the oppressed among

men, women, and children who say; our Lord, take us out of this city of oppressive people and appoint for us from yourself a protector and appoint for us from yourself a helper".
(4:75)

PRINCIPLES OF WAR

1. Restricting Targets and Non-Combatant Immunity:

In the light of Holy Quran: "Do not kill a wounded person nor run after a fleeing one nor kill a captive" Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) explicitly prohibited the destruction of public property, such as crops, trees, and water sources during warfare.

The holy prophet emphasized the protection of non-combatants during warfare. He prohibited the killing of women, children, the elderly, and non-combatant civilians. According to Sunan Abu Dawood (2614). "Do not killed the aged, the children, or the woman, but rather focus upon the combatants"

Avoid To Destroy the Infrastructure and Environment:

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) explicitly prohibited the destruction of public properties and environment. He said: ~~do not~~ "Do not destroy cultivated fields, nor burn down the fruitful trees, and do not kill sheep, cows, or camels ~~and~~ except for food". (Sahih-al-Bukhari 3015)

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.

Prohibition of Torture and Mutilation:

According to Sahih Muslim 2614: "Allah has prohibited the believers from torturing others, so it is not possible for the believers to torture."

Qualities of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a military Commander / Strategist:

The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was perfect in all respects. He was always active to convey the message of God 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 was Strategem in and outside the battle field.

(i) Strong Belief in Allah:

The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had absolute belief in Allah. whose message he was carrying in one hand and sword in other hand.

(ii) Outstanding achievements:

By the virtue of great leadership skills, the Muslims conquered Makkah etc. After migration to Medina Muslim war fought almost 100 wars. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) achieved great success with minimum human losses. According to Muhammad at Medina by Montgomery watt "out of 100 during the 100 wars 1058 were passed away, in this number 259 Muslims were martyrs and 799 non-Muslims were killed."

(iii) Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is considered one of the bravest and most courageous individuals in history. His bravery is observed in various aspects of life. Like in earlier life, Muhammad (PBUH) endured difficult circumstances, including the loss of his parents at a young age. He endured persecution, when he received revelations and started preaching the message of Allah, he faced intensive opposition from the powerful elites of Mecca. Despite the threats, Muhammad remained steadfast in spreading the message of monotheism.

(vi) Loving and Affectionate:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is known for his immense love and affection towards all of humanity, his family, and his followers. His loving and caring nature was evident in various aspects of his life like; love for humanity; Mercy and Compassion; love for children; love for family; love for companions; loving for guidance; Emotional expressions and love for nature etc.

Military Strategies of Holy Prophet.

The Military strategies employed by prophet Muhammad (PBUH) during his lifetime were marked by tactical acumen, flexibility, and deep understanding of the geopolitical landscape.

It is important to note that his strategies were defensive in nature, as he primarily sought to protect the Muslim community from persecution and ensure their survival. Here are some key military strategies of the prophet Muhammad, along with references from historical sources:

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

- (ii) **Diplomacy and Alliances:**

Muhammad skillfully used ^{prophet} diplomacy to build alliances with neighboring tribes and communities, even with non-Muslims, in order to strengthen

the Muslims position and safeguard their interests. One notable example is the treaty of Hudaibiyyah, securing a ten-year truce with the Quraysh, allowing the Muslims peacefully coexist and expand their influence.

3. Surprise Attacks and Night Raids:
In certain situations, the prophet utilized surprise attacks and night raids to gain a tactical advantage over the enemy. The Battle of Badr is prime example, where the Muslims launched a surprise attack on the enemy, catching them off guard and achieving significant victory.

4. Tactical use of Terrain:
The prophet 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.

5. Psychological warfare and propaganda.

The prophet employed psychological warfare to ~~take~~ weaken the morale of the enemy and create fear among their ranks. Before the battle of Khaybar, he displayed his military might, instilling a sense of dread among the opposing forces, which contributed to their eventual surrender.

6. Unity and cohesion:

Prophet Muhammad emphasized the importance of unity and cohesion with the Muslim ranks. He promoted the sense of brotherhood among his followers, fostering loyalty and camaraderie, which played a crucial role in their military success. 'Hold fast together to the cable of Allah and be not divided. Remember the blessing that Allah bestowed upon you. (3:103)

7. Ethical conduct in warfare:

The prophet set strict ethical guidelines for his followers during wartime. He forbade the killing of non-combatants, the mutilation of corpses, and the destruction of civilian property. These principles

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reflected his commitment to justice and mercy even in the midst of conflict

Conclusion:

In nutshell, prophet Muhammad (PBUH) alters the them of war, like, he changed the objects of war, and adopted the new principle 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 skills muslims conquered Mecca; he achieve great success with minimum human losses. His strategies of war were defensive in nature, as he primarily sought to 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)