

Q Analyze the charter of Medina as a social contract?

Introduction

Charter of Medina is known as Mithaq-e-Medina or Constitution of Medina. Media accord was an agreement on personal moral and political obligations among all the chiefs of tribes in which boundaries were demarcated to live in peaceful co-existence. The manifestation of media parts can be analyzed in the spread of Islam, organization of society, crafting and co-operation and international obligations.

Background

During the last year of Muhammad Rasool Allah (SAW) in Makkah. The delegation from Medina came, and offered him to be the Chief Arbitrator of 12 Arabs and 10 Jews clans. At that time Abdullah bin-Ubahi was chief there, but due to his lack of leadership qualities, tribes of Medina chose Rasool Allah (SAW) as the chief of these all tribes. The reason behind to making Rasool Allah a Chief Arbitrator

was to settle dispute and stop war among them. Because they had been fighting in Medina involving mainly its pagan and Jewish inhabitants for around 100 years before 620, especially after the Bloodiest Battle of Bu'ath in 617, they realized that there should be one neutral chief arbitrator which sort out these disputes and bring peace in these regions, so for this they chose رسول الله (SAW).

Critically Analyze Medina accord as Social Contract

Charter of Medina consists of 47 clauses. It was sort of social contract which have preeminent impact on overall people of Medina, so here is critical analysis of Charter of Medina as social contract

- ① Social equality. Charter of Medina brings social equality among the people of Medina. It gives equal right to every person of the tribes. It was mentioned in the clause that branches of the tribes will have equal

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right as the mother tribes. This charter equally distribute the right and duty among the people.

(2) Freedom of Religion. This charter allow every ^{person} ^{to} ^{practice} ^{his} religion without assimilating with other religion. In Medina there were Arab Muslims (Ansaar & Immigrants) and Jew, and Pagan. Every one was allow to performed these religion ritual without any impediment.

(3) Concept of Ummah. Although, people in Medina there were from different religion and tribes. It was not easy task to make them united in one single identity without changing their religion and Tribes. Therefore for making them united, the concept of "Ummah" had been introduced by Prophet Muhammad in Charter of Medina. The word Ummah means different from others. It constitute a unified citizenry, having equal right and responsibilities, as distinct from other peoples.

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The city of Medina had population of ten thousand people. Although, for ^{reducing} the communication gap ^{to sort out differences} between them, there were a new system introduced.

In this system there were twenty districts each with a chief (nagib) and deputy chiefs (arif) and its meeting place (sagifah). Any difference among them were sort out by decision of Rasool Allah. Every one was bound to accept the decision of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). So these method makes them connected to each other and sort out difference among them.

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(5) Collective Protection.

In charter of Medina there were social was social contract for collective defence. According to charter of Medina if one tribe would be attacked by other enemy, all other tribes would help them. Additional to that all tribes would equally beared the expense

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⑥ Helping hard-pressed with debts

In charter of Medina there was one clause which bound all signatory of this charter to help those who has been hard-pressed with debts. Those people who help these debtors should not expect any favour in its return. This clause was also sort of social contract "which people help each other at there hard times."

⑦ Blood money. Any one kill a person, then that person would also be punished unless until the heir of the victim agreed to take blood money. In this clause of charter, State of Medina gives relief to the victim to taking their revenge or take it blood money for them.

⑧ Declaration of War. All people of Medina were prohibited to declare war without the permission of Rasool Allah (SAW). Additional to that, it was mentioned that if any one declare war without permission of Rasool Allah (SAW) he and his

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his family would responsible for all bloodshed injuries and damages.

Conclusion

According to Dr Hammidullah Charter of Medina was first Constitution of the World. This Charter the bloodshed of 100 year War. This Charter brought peace and prosperity in city of Medina. The Charter equally distribute the rights and duties of the citizen of Medina. This Charter was very comprehensive social contract which is ^{can} still applicable in modern era.