

Islamiat

① Describe the characteristics of Military strategist in the light of Sirah of Muhammad (P.B.U.H) with arguments

Introduction

Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) took part in 26 battles and he exhibited the most perfect military (relationship) leadership skills for protecting muslims as well as nascent- islamic state. Even before establishing the state of Madinah, He (P.b.u.h) was well aware of the importance of military training of Makkah muslims, where they were being persecuted by the infidels.

Key characteristics exhibited by the Holy Prophet (P.b.u.h) are

① Always consulted His companions

The Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) always consulted his companions before taking

any decision. In the battle of Trench Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) consulted His Companion and it was Huzrat Salman Farsi who gave the idea of digging a trench and this clearly shows Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) gave importance to consultation.

2) Occupying strategically important locations

The Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) along with His companions always reached the battleground before the enemy as it gives the first mover advantage. In the battle of Badr, Muslims used a difficult route via mountains to reach Badr faster than their enemy and control the water resources and strategic location. Similarly, in the battle of Uhud, Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) asked his companions to occupy the hill before the enemy comes. Therefore, Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) gave strategic importance on occupying locations first.

③ Engagement jihad strategy

Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) and his companions never engaged in jihad before gaining strength, as (gaining) strength plays a vital role in winning any battle.

The best example of employment after gaining strength is conquest of Makkah when the army of prophet entered through all four corners of Makkah and faced resistance in from the lower end from where Khalid-Bin-Waleed (R.A) was coming. Hence he gave importance to gaining strength before engagement.

4) Steadfast (Al-Sabirun) Strategy

This strategy has its origins from the Quran as Allah named a group of people (Al-Sabirun) who were brave enough to challenge a large sized army. In Islam, this strategy is employed only by those who are brave and have strong Tawakkul (belief and trust in Allah). In the Quran Allah said

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"How often does a small group overcome a mighty army by Allah's grace? And Allah is with the Sabirun (the patient) (Surah Al Baqarah: 249). This strategy was employed by the Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) during the battle of Badr, as Muslims were only 313 and they were still able to defeat an army of 1000 infidels. Therefore, Allah always favors the patient.

5) Vigorous image strategy

(This strategy is meant to show a strong image in front of the enemy. Allah commanded Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) and Muslims to show their strength "And muster against them (the transgressing enemy) whatever force and war mounts at your disposal so that you may strike terror into the enemies of Allah and other besides them whom you do not know, but Allah does (Surah Al-Anfal: 65). This strategy was used by the Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) in the conquest of Makkah when he ordered his companions to cook separately, so more fires could

be seen by the Quraysh and this strategy proved to be effective. Hence, showing strength in front of the enemy, makes them lose their confidence.

6) Harm prevention strategy

In the battle of trench, Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) took the advice of his companion and dug a trench around Madinah so that the infidels can not cross it and enter into Madinah. This clearly was a harm prevention strategy used by the Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) and it proved to be effective as there were no Muslims harmed. Hence, it can be seen that it is not always significant to engage with enemy, sometimes taking harm preventive measures can help win a war.

7) Dynamic strategy

This strategy was adopted by the Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) in the battle of Uhud, when he gave consent to a companion who just converted to Islam to threaten

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the rivals who were going to attack the Muslims. Besides, in the Battle of Uhayyah, He discarded His prior strategy and goal in order to adapt with the environment, His prior goal was to perform Umrah. Therefore adopting a dynamic strategy can also help in achieving goals.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be seen that Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) took part in 26 battles in His life and adopted different characters in each one of them. Similarly, He used to consult His companions before making any decision and this proved to be fruitful for the Muslims. Irrespective of fearlessness and bravery, Muslims all over the world should learn from the strategies used by the Holy prophet (P.b.u.h) in all of His conflicts.