

Q) Discuss the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) role as a Model for Military Strategy (2023)?

Introduction:-

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a supreme military strategist who led the early Muslims to victory in numerous battles against much larger and better-equipped armies. His military strategies were characterized by their brilliance, flexibility, and adaptability to the ever-changing battlefield conditions.

1) Military Organization & tactics of Holy Prophet (PBUH):-

When the atrocities of infidels become intolerable, the Prophet (PBUH) allowed Muslims to migrate to Abyssinia during 5th and 6th year of Prophethood in 615 and 616 AD. The Prophet (PBUH) also migrated to Medina along with his great companion Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA). After reaching Medina and establishing the first Islamic city attention to military organization of Muslim as the infidels were adamant on annihilating them.

2) Prophet (PBUH) consummate skills in the Battle of Badr:-

In 624 AD a large army of infidels attacked Medina. Both the armies met at the place of "Badr" near Medina. In this first test of his military leadership skills, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) proved the mettle of his most consummate skills at carving out military strategies. He (PBUH) not only sent spies to know the exact military strength of the enemy, but when it came to fighting he (PBUH) reached the battleground well before enemy, got hold water source, selected a better position and organized an army in different rank.

a) Successful victory of Badr:-

This strategy played the decisive role in the victory of Muslims who were only 313 in number against a 1000 strong well-equipped force.

3) Prophet (PBUH) deploy his army behind the top of 'Uhud' Mountain:-

The Prophet (PBUH) again play important role in the Battle of Uhud to design his army position. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) positioned his army of nearly 700 Muslims

on the western slope of the hill with Mount Ohud behind it on the top of which was little pass. Through the rear was safe due to the hill, yet there was a possibility that the pass could be crossed or circumvented by the Quraish cavalry.

4) Prophet (PBUH) designed three side protection strategy in the battle of Khandaq:-

The Prophet (PBUH) exhibited the most perfect military leadership skills for protecting Medina. The Prophet (PBUH) has decided that ~~Muslim~~ Medina could be protected easily on three side on its northern side was shelters of steep cliffs whereas on its eastern and western sides were houses because the only unprotected side was the southern one

a) Hazrat Salman (RA) put forward a suggestion:-

Prophet's companion Hazrat Salma (RA) put forward a suggestion to dig a trench on that side.

b) Prophet (PBUH) himself took part on that:-

The Holy Prophet (PBUH)

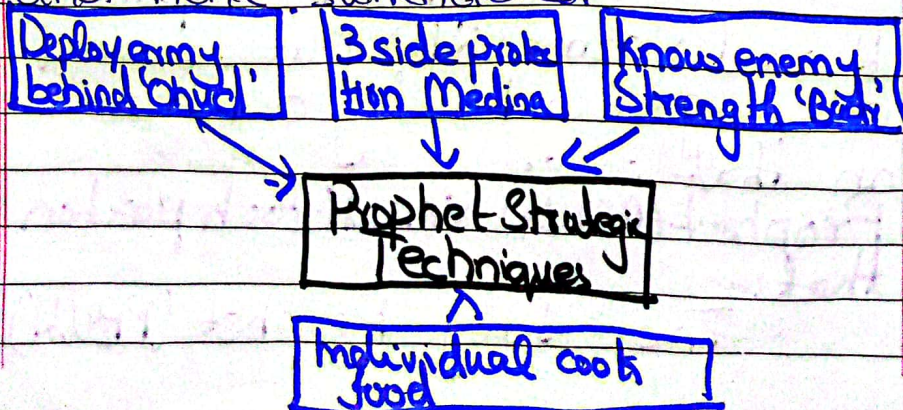
himself took part in digging of the trench that was too broad to be passed by men and horses. The ~~infidels~~ infidel unable to enter the Medina. The city of Medina was saved from destruction.

5) Prophet (PBUH) apply his unique skills in battle of Conquest of Makkah:

The Prophet (PBUH) marched his army to Mecca quickly and unexpectedly. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) used unique skills and order his soldiers to cook their food individually rather than collective kitchen.

a) Prophet (PBUH) enabled Muslims to conquer Makkah without bloodshed:

Resultantly, 10000 fires could be seen from distance. The Quraysh surveyed the scene and concluded that an army of 5000 men was poised to attack Makkah which shattered their morale and they decided not to put up resistance and hence surrendered.



Military Strategies of Prophet (PBUH)

1) Jihad is accumulated strength Strategy of Prophet (PBUH):

The Jihad strategy is most employed by the Prophet in the later stage in Madinah after he accumulated strength. For example

a) Example Ghazwah Bani Qnuqa:-

as the enemy found out that Prophet was arching towards them, they stayed quiet in their fortresses. The Prophet surrounded and imposed upon them a siege that lasted for 15 nights. Then they unconditionally surrendered to him.

a) Prophet used swiftness and surprise strategy in his battles and campaigns:

The swiftness and surprise strategy was frequently employed by Prophet Muhammad in his battles

a) Example of Badr:-

Muslims used a difficult route via mountains to reach Badr faster than their

than their enemy and control the water resources and strategic location.

3) Quran Based strategy of steadfast (Al-Sabirun):-

This strategy has its origin in Al-Quran as named a group of people (al-sabirun) who were brave enough to challenge a bigger sized enemy army. In Islamic perspective, the steadfast strategy is employed only by those who are brave, have tawhid and tawakkul in order to achieve Al-Fatah and pleasure of Allah.

Allah Said

"How often a small group overcame a mighty army by Allah's grace? And Allah is with Al-Sabirun"
(Quran 2:249)

4) Vigorous Image strategy commanded by Allah Almighty:-

This strategy is meant to show a strong image in front of the enemy. Allah commanded Prophet (PBUH) and Muslims to prepare and show their strength.

Allah Said

"And master against them whatever force and war mounts at your

disposed so that you may strike terror into the enemies of Allah and your enemy, and other besides them whom you do not know, but Allah does"

(Surah Anfal verse 60)

a) Example of Bani Sulaim:-

Ghazwah Bani Sulaim as report of the gathering of the tribes of Bani Sulaim and Bani Ghatafan with intent to attack Makhnah, Prophet Muhammad proceeded with force of 200 men to stop them. When he reached their watering place called Al-Kudr, he found that place was empty as enemy had fled upon hearing the arrival of muslim force.

5) Hijrah Strategy used by Prophet (PBUH):-

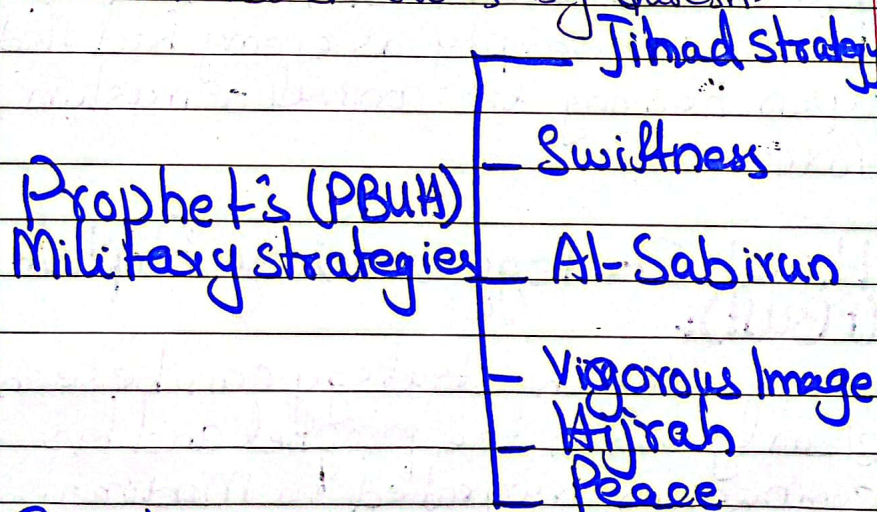
Hijrah strategy can be seen clearly when the prophet and his companions migrated to Madinah. Madinah was not easy to be attacked by the rivals, as two sides of Madinah were hilly and full of lava blocks in the south and west side, plus there were gated garden in the south area. In the east side, there was lava plain

6) Peace strategy in the context of Quran

In the Prophet's war and Quranic context, peace strategy materialized when two or more fighting parties were willing to stop fighting, whether to have peace with co-operation or just peace without co-operation.

a) Example of Ghaḥāh Ghatafan:-

The Prophet stayed in Najd and made some peace treaties with local tribes concerning the blocking of commercial routes by Quraish.



Conclusion:-

During his life, Prophet (PBUH) took part in many as 26 battles and in each of them presented a role model in complete perfection for coming military strategists to follow.