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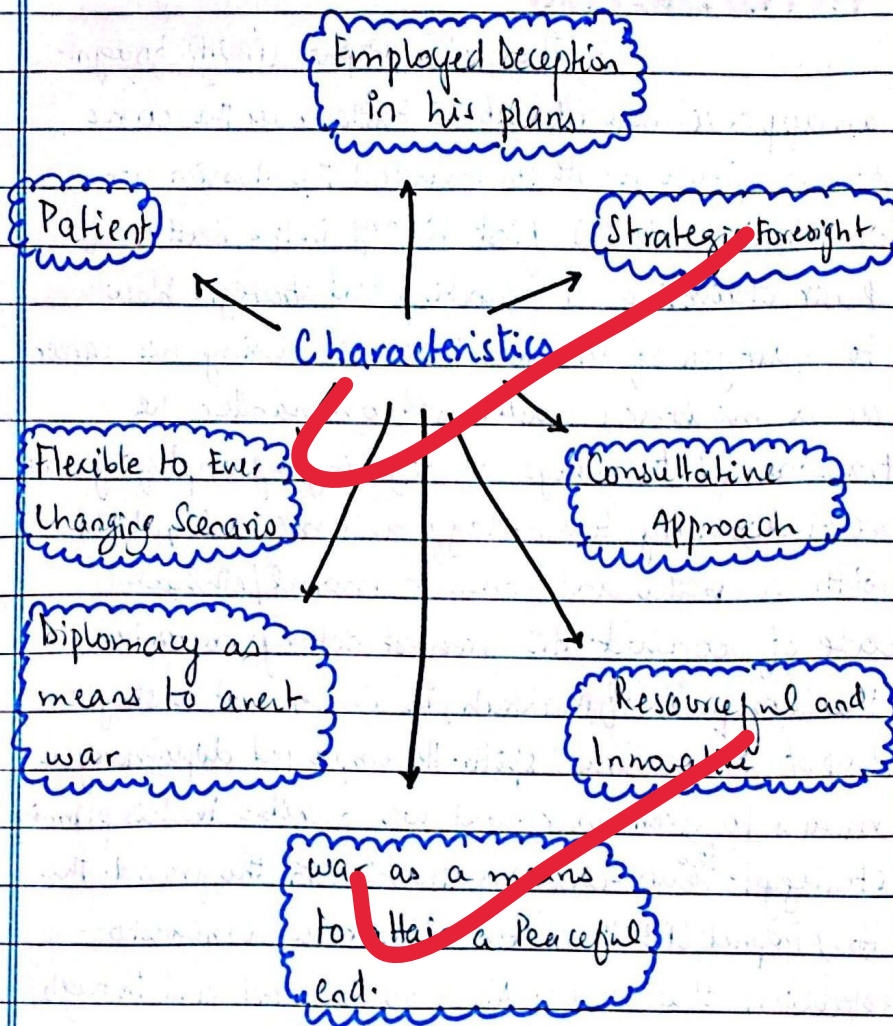
Describe the characteristics of Military strategists in the light of Seerah of Prophet (PBUH) with arguments.

INTRODUCTION

The Holy prophet (PBUH) fought an approximate of 26-27 battles over the course of his lifetime. He commanded the Muslim army of Medina to its first victory in the Battle of Badr delivering a shocking and strategic blow to Quraysh of Makkah. Moreover, during his career as a military leader and commander he transformed the ways of fighting by employing new revolutionary technology and methods, along with a better and coherent moral/ethical code of conduct. His greatest victory may be the Conquest of Makkah, in which not a single drop of blood was spilled. He employed diplomacy as means to avert war; and was flexible in his planning strategy to ^{the} never-changing situation on the ground. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) regarded war as a means to establish the rule of Allah on the land and through divine relations presented the concept of Jihad to the contemporary Muslim. His strategic foresight is one that is commended by both Muslim and Non-Muslim Military Historians.

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ESSENTIALS OF A MILITARY STRATEGIST



ARGUMENTS THAT PROVE THAT THE HOLY PROPHET WAS AN EFFECTIVE MILITARY STRATEGIST

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Holy Prophet (PBUH) was patient during long military conquests

It is a well-known fact that the Holy Prophet was patient on and off the battlefield. During the war of Trench or Khandaq, the Holy Prophet ordered the digging of trenches in order to provide for defense of Medina. The goal was to employ the strategy of 'attrition'. To tire the enemy into submission while avoiding casualties on one's own side. It is a long-term strategy that was employed later on by every major army. The Prophet waited for the opportune moment, and by the will of Allah, got the victory.

'War is Deception' - Holy Prophet (PBUH)

The Prophet and Allah (SWT) have strictly forbidden treachery and betrayal. However, in times of war to attain victory, deception is permissible except in the case of breaking a treaty or truce. During the Battle of Badr, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) sent out scouts to extract the intelligence regarding the Quraysh Army. Moreover, he concealed his army's true strength and readiness by using those scouts to disseminate information that concealed the true numbers of

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the Muslim army and lulled the Quraysh Army into disillusionment.

Add and highlight references/examples against these arguments

Holy Prophet (PBUH)'s Strategic Foresight was remarkable.

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) had impeccable strategic foresight and planning abilities. During the war of the Trench, the Holy Prophet was faced with a daunting option to either face the 20,000 strong army of Pagans. The war with the Pagans lasted for 27 days during which the enemy kept continuously bombarded the Muslims with volleys of arrows and stones. However, the numerically weak Muslims could not risk a head-on, direct confrontation with the opposing army. The Muslims outlasted the siege and on the 28th day, through Allah's a strong wind blew which shattered the enemy's morale and forced them to come to the negotiating table.

Planning was done through a Consultative Approach

The Holy Prophet before the commencement of the battle would assemble his war cabinet and share his plan. His war cabinet consisted of important

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compatriots who solicited their advice to the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The Battle of Uhud was one particular instance, where the Prophet's opinion of the war was to fight in the city; However, the war cabinet differed and advised to fight outside the city. The bloodshed that would have in the city was avoided by the Muslims by fighting outside the city.

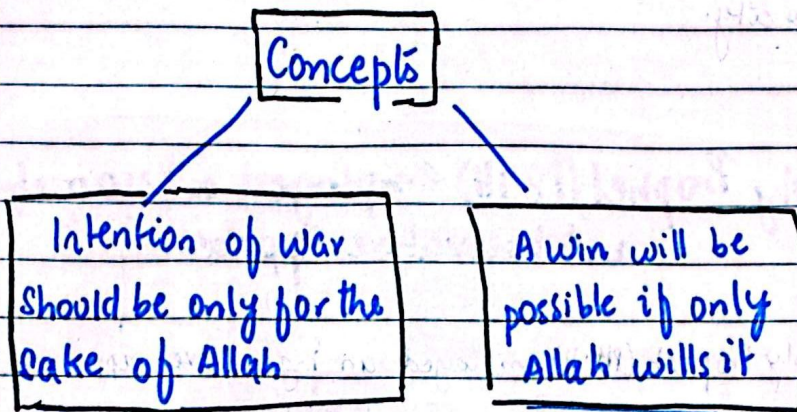
Holy Prophet (PBUH) employed a Resourceful and Innovative Approach

Holy Prophet (PBUH) employed an ingenuitive approach for war fighting. He employed the latest technologies and methodologies during battles. The most prominent example is of the application of the catapult or 'Manjineeq' during the war and later on siege of Taif. The siege of Taif^{was} a long and arduous one. The Holy Prophet, upon the advice of Hazrat Salman Farsi, ordered the construction and later on^{on} usage of the catapults in battle. This weapon proved highly effective as the city was very well fortified and would've required sufficient manpower and time to break through.

War as a means to attain a Peaceful End

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The Holy Prophet during his tenure as a military commander gave two important concepts relating to the purpose and concept of war-fighting in Islam.



The Holy Prophet never saw and never imagined that war should be waged for the sake of bloodshed. However, he only lifted the sword when there was no other option left. The Prophet (PBUH) forbade the killing of innocent and therefore used war as a means to attain peace. Moreover, he linked the victories to the will of Allah, as we can see in the Battle of Uhud; the Muslim archers descended from their posts and were punished by a brutal counterattack as they celebrated too early.

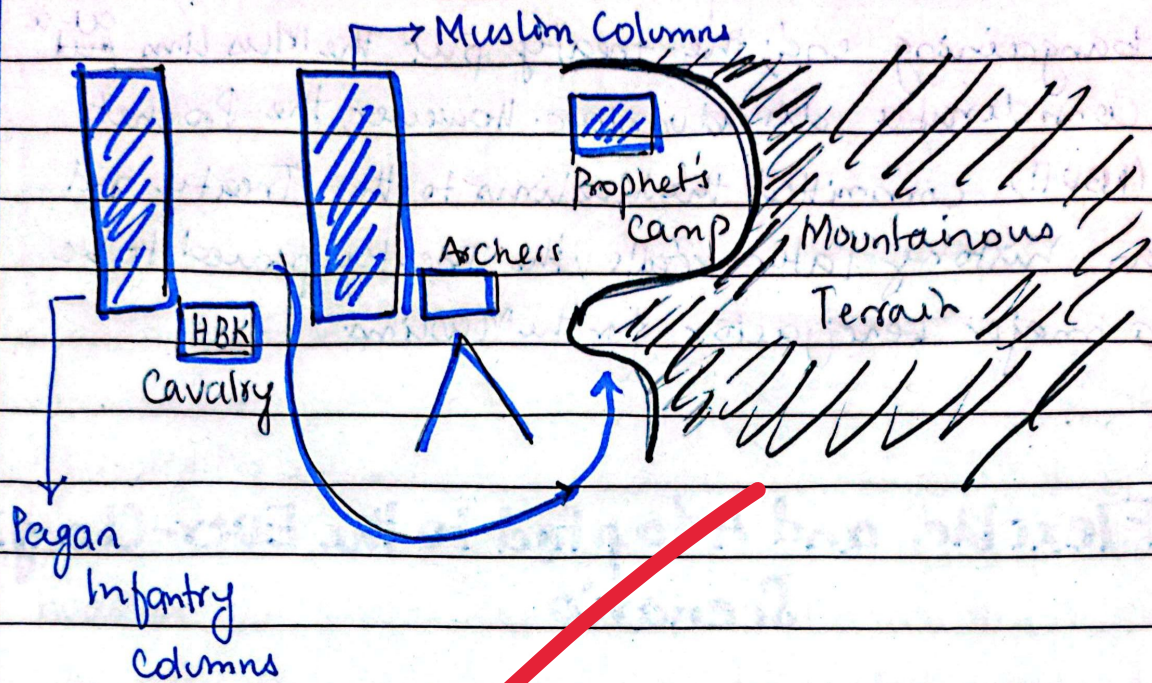
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Diplomacy as a means to avert war

The Siege of the Medians by Pagans during the Battle of the Trench, resulted in a position where the negotiating table was used to end the conflict. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) used diplomacy as a means to avert war and rationally solve disputes. He entered into the Treaty of Hudaibiya knowing that the Muslim position was weaker on the bargaining end; the treaty put the Muslims at a considerable disadvantage. However, the Prophet (PBUH) committed the Muslims to the Treaty and as history later recalls, the Treaty proved to be a major benefactor for the Muslims.

Flexible and Adapted to the Ever-Changing Scenario

Battles are constantly evolving and the situation on front lines is ever-changing. During this time, it is important for any commander to make do of the situation and use the resources available to continue the attack. During the Battle of Uhud, the Muslims suffered when Hazrat Khalid Bin walid's fast paced cavalry outflanked the Muslims. The Muslims suffered considerable losses



After suffering the initial setbacks, the Prophet ordered a regrouping and retreat by making use of the terrain. After this was done, a counter attack was launched by which the Muslim army repulsed the Pagan army and finally emerged victorious.

Add more arguments in this part

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CONCLUSION

The Holy Prophet transformed warfighting in the Arab world. He created a purpose and reason for fighting wars and laid down the ethical and moral conduct of warriors during battles. He emphasized the use of the latest technological innovations in warfighting and actively consulted during the planning of the war. All of these qualities were necessary for being an essential and important military planner of his time and times to come.

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