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Islamic Studies

Short Note (20 marks)

Q: Write a short note on the following

Treaty of Hudaibiyyah as a Pact of Peace:

The Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, signed in 628 CE (6 AH), was an important peace agreement between the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), representing a Muslim community of Medina and the Quraysh tribe of Makkah. This treaty marked a significant turning point in the history of early Islam and its relations with the broader Arabian society.

"We have not come to fight anyone; we have come only to perform Umrah" (Prophet Muhammad (SAW))

Background of Treaty of Hudaibiyyah:

1. Pilgrimage Attempt:

In 628 CE, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and his followers, intending to perform the lesser pilgrimage (Umrah) to Makkah, were stopped by the Quraysh near Hudaibiyyah.

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2. Negotiation :

Instead of escalating into conflict, both parties engaged in negotiations, leading to the treaty.

Key Aspects of Treaty of Hudaibiyyah :

These are following main key points of Treaty of Hudaibiyyah are as;

i. Peace of Ten Years :

A primary clause was the establishment of ten-years peace, allowing both Muslims and the Quraysh to coexist without hostilities.

ii. Return of Refugees :

Muslims agreed to return any Quraysh individuals who fled to Medina without guardian consent, while the Quraysh were not obligated to return Muslims who sought refuge in Makkah.

iii. Non-Alliance with Enemies :

Both parties agreed not to ally with each other's enemies, promoting stability and reducing the threat of indirect conflicts.

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iv. Delayed Pilgrimage:

The Muslims were to return to Medina that year but were granted permission to perform the pilgrimage the following year 628 CE, signaling a future acceptance of Muslim religious practice in Makkah.

"Allah aided the believers and gave them huge success"

(Surah Al-Fath)

Significance of Treaty of Hudaibiyyah:

A. Strategic Peace:

The treaty allowed Muslims to focus on peaceful propagation of Islam, consolidating their position and gaining more followers.

B. Legitimacy and Reconciliation:

By negotiating and signing the treaty, the Quraysh implicitly acknowledged the political and religious legitimacy of the Muslim community.

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C. Economic and Social Benefits :

The termination of hostilities facilitated trade and interaction, benefiting the economies and societies of both Makkah and Medina.

D. Psychological Impact :

The Treaty of Hudaibiyyah demonstrated the strength and diplomatic acumen of the Muslim leadership, boosting the morale of the Muslim community.

Breach and Aftermath of the Treaty :

i. Violation by Quraysh :

The Quraysh breached the treaty by supporting an attack on a Muslim community. The breach provided the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) with a justified cause to take military action.

ii. Conquest of Makkah :

In 630 CE, following the breach, the Muslims marched on Makkah and took control with minimal bloodshed, leading to the city's peaceful surrender and the eventual conversion of its inhabitants to Islam.

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Conclusion:

The Treaty of Hudaibiyyah is historically significant as a strategic toward peace and stability, highlighting the importance of diplomacy, patience and strategic foresight in achieving long-term goals. It underscores the Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) commitment to peaceful resolutions and the broader Islamic principles of justice and mercy.

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