

(Past Paper 2016)

Describe the characteristics of Military Strategist in the light of Sirah of Muhammad (PBUH).

Introduction:

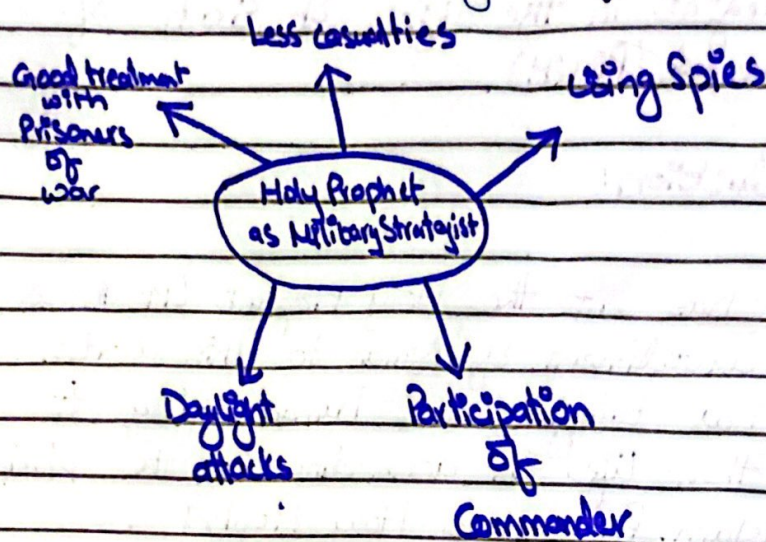
Allah has sent the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as an embodiment of Quran to this world. He has taught the human beings to live their life in accordance to the principles of Islam. Furthermore, Holy Prophet has set an example for the entire world in the battlefield as well as people can defeat their enemies with the best possible strategy. Allah has rightly stated in Holy Quran:

"Verily, in Muhammad (PBUH) you have an excellent example".

CHARACTERISTICS OF MILITARY STRATEGISTS

IN THE LIGHT OF SIRAH:

Holy Prophet has set a great example in the battlefield by participating in them ~~for~~ himself. Following are the aspects through which one can win battles in the light of Sirah:



1) Less Casualties should be there while fighting a battle:

Holy Prophet has always fought in a way to reduce the number of casualties and to only attack those in the battlefield. The rule of war which Prophet (PBUH) set 1400 years ago, it is being acknowledged today by UN Charter Article 4 which states that disproportionate killing of people and is a war crime and non-combatants deaths should be reduced as much as possible.

2) The role of Commander in battles:

Today, commanders of any army have the role of "commanding" only. However, Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself used to take part in wars and equally worked with his companions.

It has been narrated by one of the companions of Prophet:

"He used to dig soil and put it in another place until the Prophet's ~~himself~~ belly was completely covered with soil".

3) Soldiers should be motivated before starting a war:

Prophet himself used to motivate the soldiers. He used to speak words filled with more motivation which used to boost the morale of people.

It has been narrated on the occasion of Badr, Prophet said:

"If you fight against the enemy, you shall enter Paradise".

4) Good treatment with Prisoners of War was followed:

The Holy Prophet has always supported good treatment of prisoners of war and those who could not support themselves, and couldn't afford their freedom, Holy Prophet (PBUH) set them free. Moreover, one of the prisoners of war has said about the Muslims:

"The Muslims used to feed me with bread while they used to eat dates only."

5) Use of Spies:

The Holy Prophet used to keep an eye on his enemies as well. To make strategies, he used to appoint his companions to look for the tactics being used by the enemies. It has been narrated that Prophet (PBUH) ordered his companions to tell what the enemy was planning to Khubair Bin Mazahir.

6) Using All ammunitions against enemy to win a war:

The Prophet has urged his companions to use all ammunitions against the enemy, but did not approve wasting of ammunitions. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

"O believers! Be ready with all your strength against the enemy".

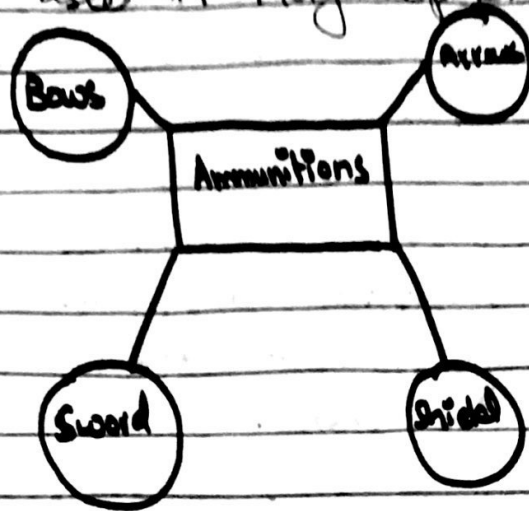
7) Conduction of Attacks in daylight instead of night:

It has been observed ~~the~~ by the companions that they never conducted any fight against the enemy at night. It has also been narrated by one of the companions of the Prophet:

"Holy Prophet (PBUH) always used to conduct attacks against the enemy in daylight and always proscribed attacking at night when the enemy was asleep".

8) Not Wasting any Ammunitions:

Following were the ammunitions which were used in Holy Prophet's era:



Prophet has always used ammunitions with resourcefulness. It has been narrated by his companions that Holy Prophet used to advise them to make a resourceful use of weapons and one should not waste them. He also said:

"Use an arrow against the enemy when he gets closer".

9) Organization of Battalions:

Allah says in Holy Quran:

بِالنَّبِيِّ تَرَضُّ الْقِتَالِ

"O Prophet! Urge the believers to fight."

It has been narrated by Prophet's companions that he himself used to organize his battalion in a very strategic way. Moreover, the enemy did not know from where the Muslims would attack and what will be their organization.

Conclusion:

Therefore, the Prophet has set an example for the followers and ~~hum~~ other people. He has taught everyone the tactics of battlefield to extract out maximum benefit and have less to lose. Indeed, the Prophet is an embodiment of Quran and a true military strategist. Holy Prophet is indeed a teacher to this world. He has said:

"Verily, I have been sent as a teacher to the mankind."