

Question

Describe the characteristics of military strategist in the light of sirah of Muhammad (p.b.u.h) with arguments?

Answer

INTRODUCTION

Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was not only a spiritual and religious leader but a military strategist who won various fight because of his leadership skills, decisions, tactics, forgiveness, Political wisdom and intelligence. Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) fought to protect Muslim community and safe Islam, not to maintain wealth, power and rule. There were number of wars that proved Prophet (p.b.u.h) military strategist including Battle of Badr (624 CE), Battle of Trench (627 CE), Battle of Hunain, Conquest of Makkah.

“Prophet’s sword was guided by Justice, not by the thirst for blood”

There are thousands of quotations and sayings about Prophet (p.b.u.h) that demonstrates his leadership skills and best role model to follow in all ages.

Characteristics of Prophet as Military Strategist

• Leadership skills

Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) was not a prophet for whole ummah but a character that is admired by whole world. He was popular due to his leadership skills. He used tactics and intelligence during decision making and leading the soldiers during war.

Battle of Hunain proved his leadership skills. When a sudden attack occurred by the enemy archers, it made many advanced forces of Muslim flee from battle and Muhammad (p.b.u.h) remained alone with his close companions. During that time he fought with courage and determination against enemy.

He said :

“I am the messenger of Allah.
I am not an imposter. I am
the descendant of Abdul Muttalib.”

His uncle Abbas also called out with him

“O the People of ansar! followers
of Prophet, Labaik! Labaik! ”

one reference is enough for a single argument.

“Here we are! Here we are!”
came the reply from all sides.

• Kind hearted

Holy Prophet was very kind hearted, he speaks politely and gently with muslim and even with his enemies. He did not only win battle but also the hearts of people. He showed affection to children and respect to elders. His kindness can be seen from the conquest of Makkah, when he forgave his enemies even after their bad behaviour. After gaining power, became a ruler, he did not use his power and punish the people of Makkah.

• Information and intelligence

Prophet (p.b.u.h) utilized his knowledge and intelligence while taking decisions and leading people. He send scouts in enemies areas to know their strength, location and strategies in war. He was also one step ahead from his enemies.

• Forgiveness and mercy

Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) shown mercy and forgiveness towards his enemies, he had never take revenge from after gaining power and authority.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.

• Strict follower of laws of war

Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) guided Muslims to follow law and order and he also followed the rules and laws, especially keep in mind during war. He ordered Muslims ~~to~~ not to kill women, children, sick and old, and do not cut down the trees and destruction of crops.

“Do not kill women, children,

sick and old and do not

cut down the trees and

destruction of crops”

(Al-Hadith)

• Advisory Council

Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) called out the men before the war to discuss the tactics and step taken during war. He asked people to sit together and discuss and before entering in war. Sit like a (shadra) and took advise from companions and told his moves during war.

add more arguments in this part.

Number of wars: Proves Prophet Skills and techniques

• Battle of Badr (624 CE)

The first Muslim battle fought with Qureish. Despite being out numbered Muslim won the battle.

Muslim → 313

Qureish → 1000

Due to ~~Prophet~~ leadership skills, companions cooperation, faith in Allah they got victory. Muslims were not even well trained and not well equipped even then through positioning, strategies Muslim won.

• Battle of Uhud (625 CE)

The 2nd Islamic Battle in which Muslim loss the victory due to 50 archers did not follow the instruction and orders of Prophet. Every battle taught Muslim a lesson. In Battle of Uhud they learnt that if they did not follow the orders of Prophet they would loss the battle and also in real life. As Prophet (p.b.u.h) emphasized to strictly followed the

laws and orders of war.

In the Battle of Uhud, the Qureish started the Battle to take the previous revenge of Badr. Muslims were 700 and Qureish were 3000. Muslims were near the victory but due to the mistake of 50 archers, who left their position on the mount of Uhud and violated the instruction of Prophet then they faced the consequences and the won battle turned into loss.

• Battle of Khandaq (Trench) (627 CE)

The 3rd Battle of Islam. Despite being out numbered Muslim won the battle through tactics and Persian trick.

Muslims → 3000
Qureish & allies → 10,000

A trench was dug around the city to protect the people and not allowed the Qureish to enter in the city. This was the old Persian techniques (Digging trench) and idea was given by Salman Al-Farsi. This trick resulted in the victory as it did not allow Qureish to enter and those who tried were killed by Muslim archers.

• Treaty of Hudabiyah

The treaty of Hudabiyah was a prove that Prophet political wisdom and military strategies. At present it look like that muslims were in loss but Prophet was thinking about long-term influence. At end it resulted in the conquest of Makkah, Quresh accepted Muslim as separate political entity and many believed in Islam due to Prophet behaviour and character.

Western scholars accepted

Prophet as a military strategist

The leadership of Muhammad

Book by Joel Hayward

A British scholar who wrote a book on Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) strategic, communication, military leadership skills, vision, diplomatic, leading skills.

He highlighted about Prophet role during war, his decisions, communication with companions and enemies, long-term vision which later on work for betterment

This book shows that not even muslims and follower of Islam but western scholars, non-muslim accept Muhammad (p.b.u.h) as a wise, honest, diplomatic, strategic leader.

Conclusion

Prophet Muhammad was not the messenger of Allah but a leader and military strategist that turn the loss battle into victory despite being outnumbered Muslims. He shown the world that he was not only a Prophet but a leader, commander, soldier, warrior, ruler, peacemaker and messenger of Allah.

09