

No. 4. Describe the characteristics of Military strategist in the light of Sirah of Muhammad (PBUH) with arguments.

No. 5. Define the meaning of *al-ghazw* and its different categories. Also describe the initial

Part = II

Q NO. 4

Prophet as a military strategist

1. Introduction:

"You have indeed in the messenger of Allah a beautiful conduct of life"
(Al-Quran)

Undoubtedly, Prophet Muhammad is a role model for every individual. Prophet Muhammad is an ideal for every profession. Dr. Hammaidullah ascribed in his journal "Prophet as a military strategist in his lifetime" several characteristics of Prophet Allah as a military strategist. He taught different strategies to his followers. The strategies included economic blockage, tricks, surprise attack, secretive plans so on and so forth. Thus, Prophet of Allah was a role model for military leaders.

2. Characteristics of Prophet Muhammad as a military strategist:

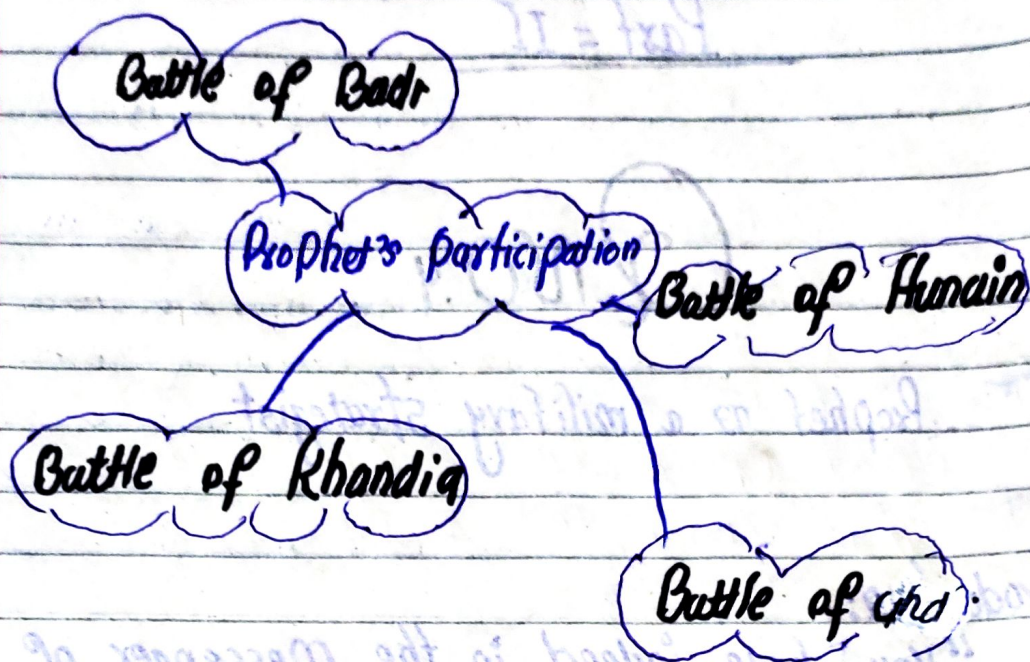


Figure: 0.1 Prophet's Participation in battles

The Prophet of Allah introduced numerous strategies in the above mentioned battles.

1. Economic blockage:

Prophet Muhammad used to block the goods entering to the enemies region. This provided tremendous success to defeat the enemies. For example, Muslims blocked the trade of polytheists of Makkah during battle of Badr.

2. Ensured meritocracy in the Islamic Army:

Prophet of Allah believed in merit. He selected the individuals on

the basis of abilities. For example, Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed (R.A) was made the commander of Islamic Army on the basis of his experience. Moreover, Usama's Expedition to Syria, Usama (R.A) was 18 years old when he was made the commander of muslim troops to Syria.

3. Extremely secretive in the planings:

Prophet Muhammad was secretive in every planing. He shared his plans only with those who were near to him. This shows the tremendous feature of his personality as military strategist.

4. Encourage tricks in war to be valid:

Prophet Muhammad accepted and valued tricks such as digging trenches in Khandaq, Economic blockage etc. The Prophet (PBUH) used to say "War is deception"
(Al-Hadith)

5. Counsellation with followers:

Followers' guidance was valued. He used to counsell his followers. For example; Prophet asked the followers whether fight Battle of Badr or not. Also, The Prophet of Allah counsellated followers whether to fight inside Madina or outside on the

time of Uhud.

6. Taught rules of war to followers:

Montgomery Watt ascribed in his book "Muhammad at Medina" that the Prophet of Allah used to tell the following minners of war to his followers

- Do not burn trees
- Do not confront women
- Do not disrespect the bodies of death
- Do not kill animals
- Do not kill old, Sarif, children and disabled persons
- Do not poison water
- Do not fight for wealth

7. Encouraged companions during war:

The prophet of Allah used to encourage his followers during wars.

"O Saad throw (arrows) my mother and father be sacrificed for you"

(Al-Hadith)

8. Valued preparation for war:

The Prophet of Allah encouraged muslims to prepare for war.

The Prophet of Allah encouraged muslims for the Jhaid. For example, He encouraged muslims to contribute to donate for Battle of Badr.

9. Respect for treaties:

Prophet had never violated any treaty signed at the time of war. For example, He signed Charter of Madina, Treaty of Hudiyya 628 AD so on and so forth.

10. Espionage in wars:

He acted himself as spy in Battle of Badr. He also sent Hazrat Hazifa as a spy in the Battle of Khandaq to collect information for him.

3. Critical analysis:

Martin Hart ascribed Prophet Muhammad in his book "Hundred Great Personalities" Prophet Muhammad was the most successful person in every walk of life. Prophet of Allah has proved to role model not only for military commanders but also for common men. Thus, He was the most successful person in the world.

4. Conclusion:

In short, Prophet of Allah

was the most successful in the world. He proved to be best friend, statesman and military commander. Truly, Montgomery Watt said

“Prophet was a role model for every rational mind”