

PROPHET MUHAMMAD AS A

MILITARY STRATEGIST

(i) INTRODUCTION

Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H. delivered the divine message of Allah among all Human being. His teachings is a guidance for every aspect of life. Prophet was an ~~expe~~ exceptional leader who showed his wisdom, courage and compassion. Being a Military leader, he fought with strategies ^{having} ~~with~~ minimum casualties. In the short span of time, he conquered Arabian Peninsula and made stable government. Prophet Muhammad was a genius military commander of his time, mastering all the situation through divine assistance. He became a role model as a military leader by altering the doctrine of warfare, ~~pre-combat~~ pre-combat directive through diplomatic tactics and forgiveness over vengeance.

(ii) SHIFTING DOCTRINE OF

WAR

The Prophet Muhammad altered the war tactics. Before Islam, War in Arabs

Fought for the purpose of tribal conflicts, plunderings, robbing, killing and tyranny. Their aim was winning over each other. After Prophet, war in Islam is Jihad, which purposes to save fight against sinful deeds for the purification of the land of Allah. These war of self-defense but limited in nature. The objectives of sacred war which are deduced from the Holy Quran:

- To fight against aggression and save Islamic lands.

- (i) To eradicate mischief and Fitnah
- (ii) To eliminate the oppression and tyranny.
- (iv) To remove hindrance in the way of Islam.

III PRE-COMBAT DIRECTIVES

The Prophet was the Pastor of all human being. He though taught to live in peace and bring peace. Before any invasion he used to instruct strictly:

اغزو باسم الله، في سبيل الله، قاتلوا من كفر بالله

"let your invasion be in the name of Allah, for the sake of Allah. Fight against those who disbelieve in Allah."

In the battlefield by night, he never invaded enemy till morning. He also prohibited to hurt children, women,

Signature

MC

No.

Date _____

non-combat and envoys, as he said;

"لَا تَجْزِي عَلَى جَيْعٍ، جَرِيحٍ، وَلَا تَتَّبِعَنَّ مَدِينًا
وَلَا تَقْتُلَنَّ أَسِيرًا"

"Do not kill a wounded person, nor run
after fleeing person nor kill
a captive."

(iv) STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY

To prevent war, Prophet set a political alliance that played an important role. After migration to Madinah, Prophet made a written agreement between Muslim and Jewish tribe - Banu Qaynuqa, Banu Nadir and Banu Qurayza. It connected all in the single constitution where they ended their tribal conflicts and created social harmony and gave authority to Prophet over Madinah. Resultantly, it became the foundation of Islamic state.

(v) INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

Espionage is very important for war strategy that helps to obtain enemy movement secretly. For the importance of espionage, the Prophet sent his two followers, Basbas ibn Amr and Adiy ibn Abi Zaghba, before the battle of Badar. They secretly observed the Quraish Camp near the well of Badar as it allowed to help Prophet made ^{realistic} strategy against enemy. While Prophet commanded his companions to ~~the~~ patrol the surrounding of Madinah for protection.

(vi) WINNING TACTICS AT

BATTLE FIELDS

The Prophet always adopted on the battlefield ground. In the ^{Ghazwa} Badar, he used many effective measures. Although, he had short army, he along with army did not allow to access of water because he choose the position near the water well at Badar. He settled his army in an organized row strategically and prayed for success in the divine war. His calm leadership and skilled tactical led clear victory over large number of ~~the~~ army of Quraish.

(VII) CONSULTATION IN MILITARY

DECISION-MAKING

Prophet Muhammad always used to Consultation among his Companions. In 6 hijri, when 10 thousand army of Quraish was coming to march Madinah. He consulted his companions about defend Madinah. Hazrat Salman Farsi advised digging a trench, Persian tactic which was unfamiliar to Arab. Prophet accepted his proposal, and started to dig trench along with his followers. This strategic consultation helped Muslim to save Madinah.

(VIII) ROLE OF SECRECY IN

MILITARY PLANNING

Prophet made a highly confidential mission to conquer Makkah. Later, it was informed to trusted Companions. When Hatib ibn Abi Baltaah informed Quraish about this secret through letter. Prophet, through divine revelation, ordered Hazrat Ali to interpret it and instructed the Army to march quietly. This secret mission led to bloodless conquest of Makkah.

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ix. PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

TACTICS

Prophet Muhammad always used psychological tactics to weak the hegemony of enemy. ~~Before~~ During the Conquest of Makkah, he surrounded the city with 10000 soldiers. When he ordered to fire across the Hill. When Qurish saw and assumed a large army has attacked, they become confused. Simultaneously, Prophet announced amnesty for every one and avoid resistance. This psychological pressure led a bloodless victory of Islam.

x. MANAGING RESOURCES FOR MILITARY SUCCESS.

During the Tabuk expedition in 9 hijri, Prophet led a long military campaign. He ordered his followers to donate. Although, every companion donated generously, providing camel, weapon and food, during the water scarcity, an heat and long distance, Prophet shared equally among the soldiers. His fair distribution motivated army to complete the mission.

Signature _____

RC

No. _____

x. HUMANITY TOWARD WAR OF PRISONERS AND CIVILIAN

The Holy Prophet treated the prisoners very well and advised followers to treat them gently. During the Battle of Badr, he showed remarkable kindness towards prisoners of war. Seventy prisoners were captured and hand over to the followers of Prophet. As they fed them, treated them mildly. He prohibited to kill them or disrespecting them. They can be free by paying ransom, accepting Islam, or teaching the children of poor muslim. Such kind of human being promoted Islamic values of peace and harmony in war.

xi. DIPLOMATIC CONFLICT RESOLUTION:-

Prophet fought wars only for the sake of Allah, and saving the Islamic lands and people from the Qagan. He used to prioritize defensive treaties rather than direct conflict. After six (6) Hijri, Prophet signed a ten-year peace agreement called Treaty of Hudaibiyah with the Quraysh. Despite some terms and conditions of this treaty was favourable to infidels, treaty forbade both side from direct conflicts.

and provided a chance to preach Islam peacefully. Such diplomatic approach of prophet underscored to avoid direct conflict. This approach led to Muslim influence and contributed to peaceful conquest of Makkah.

xiii. VALOR ON THE BATTLEFIELD

Prophet took personally part in the battle, leading from the front. Although, he became injured, broke his tooth, in the battle of Uhud, he fought courageously along with his companion. His presence at the battlefield increased the moral of his followers. The Prophet's bravery inspired followers to remain steadfast in the difficult situations.

xiv. DELEGATION OF COMMAND

AND

DISTRIBUTED LEADERSHIP

Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H often delegate the military command to his trustworthy fellowship, believing in shared leadership. In the battle of Mubah, Prophet appointed Zaid bin Hasis, along with Jafir bin Abi Talib and Abdullah bin Rawahh, as

a military commander. When all three commander martyred. Prophet gave responsibility of Command to Khalid bin Walid who led the army. This distribution of delegation of Command ensured continuity discipline and strategic flexibility in the battlefield.

xv. FORGIVENESS OVER VENGEANCE

Prophet always stressed on forgiveness rather than revenge. After the conquest of Makkah, Prophet announced public amnesty, forgive all his enemies, and allowed everyone to return their home safely. Although he absolved Hind bint Utba who desecrated the martyred ^{corpse} of Uncle of Prophet, Hazrat Hamza by seeking her father's death revenge. This kind of forgiveness rather than punishment would heal the society, and fostering unity.

xi. CONCLUSION :-

The military leadership of Prophet was a timeless example of strategic brilliance, compassion and ethical conduct. Through his campaigns, he underscored that true strength lies not in victory, but in wisdom, mercy and justice. His approach to warfare was marked by meticulous planning, adaptability and a deep commitment to welfare.

Signature

RC

No.

Date _____

of both civilian and soldiers. By stressing forgiveness, reconciliation and unity, he laid foundation of stable society. The lessons derived from his leadership still inspires leaders and individuals alike, guiding them about leadership qualities, diplomacy, and resolve conflict peacefully.

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