

Question :

Discuss the Holy Prophet's (SAW) Role as a Model for Military Strategy. (CSS 2023)

Answer :

Introduction :

The Holy Prophet (SAW) has been sent as a role model for mankind. The Hadith and Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW) sets guideline for Muslims to live a virtuous life. Allah has commanded the Muslims to obey His Messenger. The Quran says that,

“O you, who believe, Obey Allah and obey the Messenger” (Al-Quran)

The Prophet (SAW) through his Hadith and Sunnah has set examples for Muslims in the battlefield. Prophet (SAW) through his brilliant military strategies ensured victories for Muslims. The Prophet (SAW) during battle would indulge in consultation with companions, use of intelligence strategies, level of secrecy, following of meritocracy, and use of trickery to set precedents as a military strategist.

Two new Concepts of Prophet (SAW) for battlefield :

Jihad Fi Sabeelillah :-

The Prophet (SAW) guided the Muslim to follow the true sense of Jihad. He instructed that the actual Jihad is achieved only if Jihad is carried out in the way of Allah.

The Prophet (saw) said that

“Who fights that the word of Allah be exalted, fights in the way of Allah” (Al-Hadith)

Victory only by Grace of Allah:-

The second concept introduced by Prophet (saw) emphasized on that Oneness and Power of Allah.

Prophet (saw) instructed that victory is only guaranteed by the grace of Allah so always ask for Allah's help and mercy.

During Battle of Badr Prophet (saw) spent the night praying to Allah for help.

Prophet (saw) promoted intelligence strategies:

The Prophet (saw) before Battle of Badr, himself acted as a spy to gather information regarding the enemy.

Through his Sannah, Prophet (saw) guided muslim to learn about strenght and weakness of the opponent in order to emerge victorious.

Prophet (saw) used to consult his companions:

Prophet (saw) signified the importance of team work as he would consult his companions before every battle.

Prophet (saw) indulged in consultation during

Battle of Badr and Battle of Uhud.

Prophet (SAW) maintained Secrecy :

Prophet (SAW) used to keep the details of battles and routes secrets and would only reveal these secrets to his close companions.

This act of Prophet (SAW) guided Muslims to keep important details of battles and strategies to themselves due to risk of spies.

Prophet (SAW) followed meritocracy :

Prophet (SAW) through his Sunnah guided the Muslims to make appointments based on merits in order to achieve victory in battlefield.

Prophet (SAW) appointed Zaid bin Harith (R.A) as commander during Tabuk Expedition.

Zaid (R.A) was only eighteen year old at that time.

Prophet (SAW) validated use of trickery during Battle :

Prophet (SAW) allowed using trickery as a mean to gain advantage over the opponents during the battlefield.

Prophet (SAW) said that,

"War is a deception" - (Al-Hadith)

Prophet (SAW) accepted innovative ways :

Regardless the origin, Prophet (SAW) allowed the use of new weaponry in order to fight should to shoulder with the enemies.

Prophet (SAW) allowed the use of catapult during battle of khyber.

Prophet (SAW) promoted war manners :

Although the enemies were non-muslims who used to oppress the muslims; regardless, the Prophet (SAW) instructed muslims to follow the manners of the battlefield.

Prophet (SAW) guided muslim to not confront women, children, elderly, and the surrenderers. He instructed to not cut down trees or ready crops, to not mutilate dead bodies, and to not attack at night.

Conclusion :

The military strategies of the Prophet (SAW) formed the model of structure for muslims in battlefield. He emphasized on the struggle only in the way of Allah and the adaptive strategies in order to for muslim emerge victorious in battlefield.