

Military strategies of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)

Holy Prophet (SAW) has always adopted three different strategies to tackle the situation peacefully. These includes:

- ① military tactics before the war
- ② strategies during the war
- ③ After war principles

These military strategies are the model tactics for military strategists at all times. By adopting these strategies, the Holy Prophet (SAW) has made wars less destructive.

He fought almost 26 wars, and only 259 Muslims were martyred, and approximately 1018 non-Muslims were killed in these wars.

① military tactics before war

Holy Prophet (SAW) has always defined some military tactics before the war to settle

issues peacefully or to prepare His army for war.

i) Inclination Towards Reconciliation

Beloved Prophet (SAW)

gave education about adjustment and reconciliation towards the enemy if he wants to get reconciliation. A case in this point in this regard is the example of the treaty Hudaibiyah. This act according to the order of the Quran which states that:

وَإِنْ يَنْتَهِوا لِلْسَّلَامِ فَأَجْزِ لَهَا

"And if they incline to peace, then incline to it also"

(AL-QURAN)

ii) Economic Blockade of Enemy

The Tribe of Makkah - an active enemy of the mission of the Prophet (PBUH) and the state

of madina always tried to prevent muslims from migrating from makkah to madina. The Prophet (SAW) countered their moves by threatening an economic blockade. When the people of makkah learned about the threat to their economic lifeline from Syria, they sent an army to counter the forces of madinah.

iii) Training of army

The most important thing before the war for a commander is to invest in the training of his army and to establish a strong army with advanced military tactics. In this regard, Holy Prophet (SAW) sent his soldiers to neighbouring states of Syria and ~~also~~ Ethiopia to learn different military tactics and fighting skills.

② ~~Strategies~~

② Strategies during war

Holy Prophet (SAW)

set certain rules to deal enemy during war and also used some strategies to defeat the enemy.

These include:

i) Positioning of the army

Holy Prophet (SAW)

always arranged different groups of army ~~persons~~ persons at different points and advised them not to move away from it. These positions are specified following the self defence and attacking positions of the army.

ii) Division of Battalions

According to the military strategy of the Holy Prophet (SAW), Battalions were divided into five groups according to their capabilities and military skills.

These include:

- a) Infantry
- b) Cavalry Regiment
- c) Archers
- d) Luggage carriers
- e) Security personnel.

iii) Rights of Non-Combatants

Non-Combatants are the people who did not participate in the war, for example, women, children, aged people, sick men, worshippers, etc. He (SAW) was not in favour of killing them and also advised his commanders not to kill them.

iv) Rights of Combatants

Combatants are those people who participated in wars and fought actively against Muslims. These people, it is allowed to use weapons, but the Holy Prophet (SAW) also drew boundaries

towards dealing with combatants. It has also been decreed that Muslim troops do not have unlimited authority to deal with combatants as they like. There are certain bounds

v) Prohibition of Night Assault

The Holy Prophet (SAW) abolished the custom of night assault which the Arabs used to deliver and laid down the rule that the enemy was not to be attacked before dawn. In the war of Khaybar, when the Prophet of Allah approached a hostile people at night; he would not attack them till dawn.

vi) Ban on destruction

It is a common habit of invading armies to destroy the ~~sex~~ corps, massacre the population, burn the houses, etc. Islam, however, declares these practices as evil and

unlawful and prohibits them strictly.

vii) mutilation of Dead Bodies

Islam has strictly prohibited the mutilation of the dead bodies of enemies and to cut their body parts. When the Holy Prophet (PBUH) sent his army for any attack, he advised that.

"Do not break promises and never mutilate"

(Al-Hadees)

③ After war principles of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)

After war, whether He (PBUH) won or lost the war, followed some principles, which are

i) Ban on killing of Prisoners of war

Generally, a prisoner of war could be, at the discretion of military leaders,

executed, freed, ransomed, exchanged for muslim prisoners, or kept as slaves. Women and children prisoners of war cannot be killed under any circumstances, regardless of their religious convictions, but they may be freed or ransomed. Women who are neither freed nor ransomed by their people were to be kept in bondage. On conquest of Makkah, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) commanded his army as:

"Do not kill any prisoners of war"
(Al-Hadees)

ii) Ban on Killing of an Envoy.

The Prophet (SAW)

prohibited the killing of ambassadors. When Ubaidah bin Harith, the emissary of Musaylimah Kazzab, the false Prophet came and delivered his message the Prophet (PBUH) observed,

"Had it not been unlawful to kill the emissaries, I would have beheaded you."
(Al-Hadees)

ii) Prohibition of breach of treaty

Breach of treaty is the worst crime according to Holy Prophet (SAW). He condemned mutiny, breach of treaty, and assault on the partners in the treaty on several occasions.

iii) Principle of general amnesty

In most cases, when the Holy Prophet (SAW) won the war, He (SAW) mostly announced the general amnesty to the defeateds. An example of the conquest of Makkah in 8 A.H. is ~~at~~ here when the Holy Prophet (PBUH) announced the amnesty to the Quraish and forgave those who took refuge in the Kaaba and

the house of Abu Sufyan.

Conclusion

So, it is concluded that history is witnessing that Holy Prophet (PBUH) has exhibited excellent military skills in all his wars. He always led the Muslims from the front and preached that martyrdom was better than turning back on the battlefield. He was careful and cognizant of the military preparedness of Muslims and made arrangements for imparting military training to Muslims during peacetime as well. Muslims were sent to other areas for getting training in the use of weapons. He ~~was~~ (SAW) fought many wars with minimum human life loss. As in the past, the protection of the world and peace lay in the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW), even today it is

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possible only by following the
teachings of Islam and the Holy
Prophet (PBUH).