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Q: Prophet's character in the battle fields as a commander.

I. INTRODUCTION

The holy Prophet P.B.U.H participated in numerous battles throughout his life. An expected 27 ghazwat took place in which he himself participated while some were missed. His leadership on the battle field was exemplary and a way for the future generations on how to conduct oneself during battle. A lesson involving all aspects of battle and ensuring no limits are crossed during it.

II. POLICIES AND ACTS UNDER DIFFERENT PHASES OF WAR

(i) PRE-WAR PHASE

This phase relates to all the aspects and actions of the Prophet before war began. Some of the main aspects are as follows:

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(a) Process of Shura - Consultation

"And consult them in the process"

(Quran)

The Prophet would consult his companions regarding the strategies for war. It would be decided whether to meet the enemy outside or let them come to them. H. Salman Farisi gave the idea to build a trench in battle under the Shura process.

(b) Intelligence gathering and spying

The Prophet employed spies to monitor the enemy and make tactics accordingly. During the battle of Badr, the Prophet kept a check on the movement of monkeys and moved quickly to gain more suitable ground, near the water supply. Intelligence crucial for any battle.

(c) Planning and galvanizing the army

The Prophet focused on in-depth

strategic planning. During Battle of Uhud, the archers were placed strategically on the mountain, giving initial success to muslims. Prophet also focused on quick movement of the force.

(d) Favoured meeting the enemy in battle

The Prophet always showed fearlessness and preferred to meet the enemy on the battle field instead of letting him come to them. Majority of the battles fought were in the same manner showcasing the bravery of Prophet.

(i) DURING WAR

(a) Rules of war established

The Prophet was the first to make the rules of war. It included all aspects of war, from when to wage war, all the way to treatment of prisoners of war. It consisted of basic human rights to be followed and ensured. In modern time, its effects visible under documents like Geneva Convention.

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(b) Not harming non-combatants

"Do not kill the women, children, monks, and do not cut down trees"

(Al-Hadith)

The Prophet maintained strict instructions for not harming the non-combatants in battle. He would even care for the environment and advised his men not to cut trees or poison the wells, as was the practice during that time.

(c) Enjoining Enjoining peace if the enemy surrenders

"If they incline to peace, then incline to it also"

(Al-Quran)

The Prophet always sought peace and would never like to stretch the war. He always preferred short wars and would always push for peace and resolution instead of long term battles.

(d) Avoiding unnecessary aggression against enemy

"Fight against those who fight you but do not transgress your limits"

(Al-Quran)

The Prophet always made sure there was just reason for waging war. Unnecessary aggression and conflict is not practiced in Islam and avoided.

(iii) Post-war

(a) Treatment of prisoners of war with kindness

The Prophet would uphold human rights even for the prisoners of war. They were treated as human beings and allowed their freedom at a price. Unlike the usual practices of Arabia, this came at a stark contrast. The Prophet upheld such rights.

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(b) Protection and rights under covenant

The people in the conquered regions came under the covenant of Islam. They were given the freedom to practice their religion and go about their lives without any problem. Islam emphasized equal rights for all and no discrimination.

III. NOTABLE CONQUESTS OF PROPHET

(a) Battle of Badr - First victory in battlefield

The impact of Badr was monumental. The Prophet led a mere 313 muslims against an army of 1000 soldiers. It provided the muslims with immense confidence in battle and strengthened their faith. It also showed Prophet's leadership in battle.

(b) Battle of Trench - Trench tactic in war

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The battle of trench used the trench tactic for the first time. It was a totally new form of confrontation that the Makkans were not aware of. It exemplified Prophet's ability of listening to advice, and making wise decisions as a commander in battle.

(C) Conquest of Makkah - Use of Psychological warfare

The conquest of Makkah was yet another marvel of military strategy. The Prophet used psychological warfare to defeat the enemy. He dispersed the camps and ordered each tent to light multiple fires, giving the impression of a large army. This broke the confidence of Makkans, who retreated without battle.

IV. MODERN LESSONS FROM CHARACTER

The Prophet's leadership exemplified ~~own~~ the characteristics of a strong

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military leader. It gives a lesson of fearlessness and bravery in battle. Secondly, it shows the importance of strategy and being prepared for any circumstance. Thirdly, it tells a believer to only fight for Allah and against aggression. It also encourages just behaviour with others even with slaves. Finally, it gives a lesson to all on how to win battles not just with the sword but with your mind as well.

CONCLUSION

The Prophet's examples from his character in battle field provide a layout for all military leaders to act in battle field. It provide the perfect case study on how to successfully launch campaigns and win wars.