

Question : no : 04

Describe the characteristics of Military Strategist in the light of Sirah of Muhammad (PBUH) with arguments.

Introduction

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is regarded as one of the greatest military commanders and strategists in history.

He achieved remarkable victories with minimal casualties combining wisdom, courage and mercy in warfare. As Montgomery Watt wrote in his book

'Muhammad at Medina' that "War under and by the prophet was the mildest on record; it can be gauged from the fact that on 1058 persons perished in one hundred battles fought between the hijrah of madinah and his own death"

The prophet (PBUH) fought not for conquest but to defend Islam and spread its message.

He introduced ethics, intelligence and strategic

planning in warfare emphasizing justice and protection of non-combatants. His leadership and humane approach made him a timeless model for future generations.

The Prophet SAW Introduced 2 New Concepts For Battlefield

1. Jihad Fi Sabeel Lillah

The word 'Jihad' in literal sense means utilizing one's all strength for the sake of Islam. It can be through knowledge as well as waging war against non-Muslims.

According to Prophet's teaching, true Jihad is only that which is done sincerely for Allah's cause and not for personal gains.

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

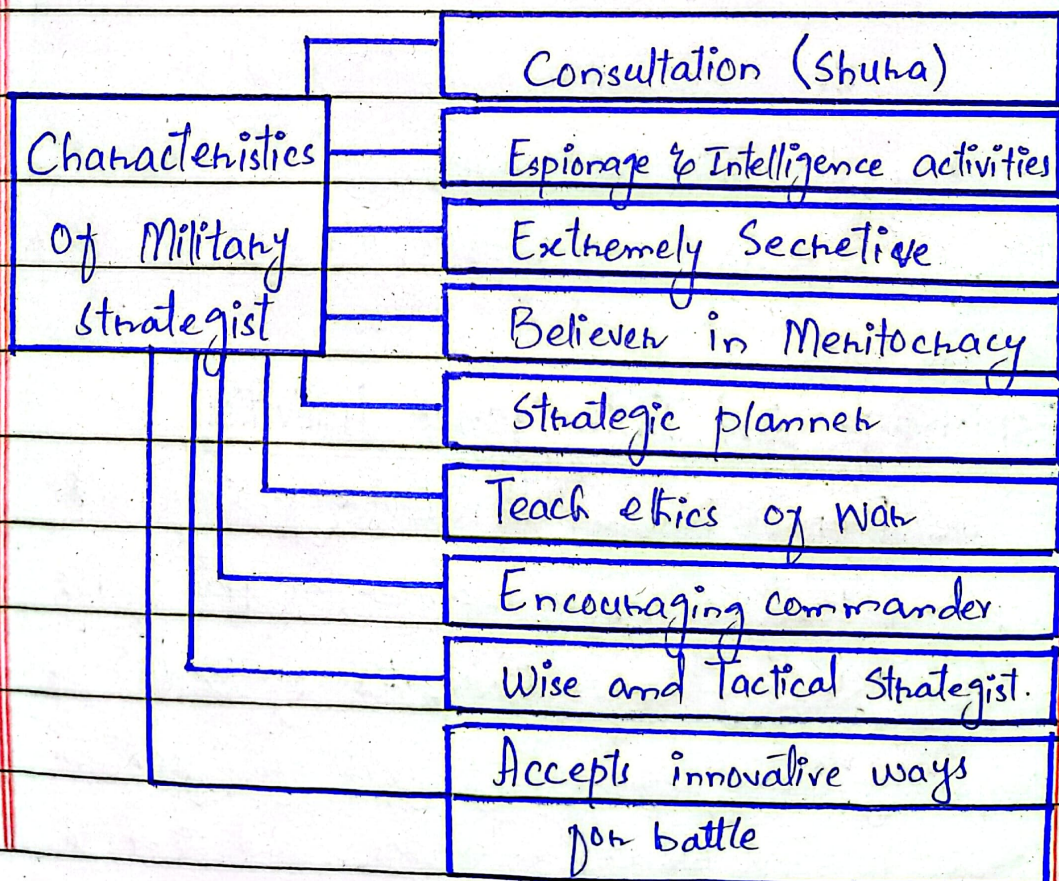
2. Victory through the Grace of Allah

The Prophet (SAW) emphasized that victory

in the battle depends not on numbers or weapons but on Allah's help and grace.

During the Battle of Badr, he remained in continuous supplication, seeking Allah's assistance. This showed his complete reliance on divine support, teaching Muslims that success comes only by the will of Almighty Allah.

Role Model For a Military Strategist



1. Consultation (Shura)

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) used to consult his companions before every battle, showing his wisdom and humility as a leader.

At Badr, he sought the advice of his companions whether to engage with enemy or retreat, ensuring unity and collective decision making. Before Uhud, he consulted whether to defend Madinah from within or fight outside.

Almighty revealed this after Battle of Uhud confirming Prophet used shura (consultation).

“
and Consult them in affairs. Then when you have taken a decision, put your trust in Allah...”

(Al-Quran)

2. Espionage And Intelligence Activities

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) effectively used espionage and intelligence activities as part of his military strategy. Before the Battle of Badr, he personally acted as a spy, gathering information about the Quraish army's position and strength.

to make informed decisions. During the Battle of Khandaq, he sent Hudhayfah ibn al-Yaman (R.A) as a spy to infiltrate the enemy camp at night and report on their morale and plans. These actions reflect his foresight and reliance on accurate intelligence for successful planning.

3. Extremely Secretive

Prophet (SAW) maintained great secrecy in all military operations. He often kept routes and objectives hidden, disclosing it to close companions only when necessary. Before the conquest of Makkah, he (SAW) ordered complete confidentiality about the campaign's direction and pray to Allah for their intentions from Quraysh to be concealed. This secrecy results in Muslims to reach Makkah unexpectedly and achieve peaceful victory.

4. A Staunch believer in Meritocracy

As a military strategist, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) demonstrated a

Strong belief in meritocracy. He appointed commanders based on their skills, experience and strategic ability. For instance Khalid bin Waleed R.A was chosen for his exceptional military talent and Amr bin Al As for his intelligence even though they were the recent convert to Islam. Similarly Usama bin Zaid R.A was appointed as commander for important battle even though senior companions were present in army and he was just 18 years old.

5. Strategic Planner: Acknowledge the fact that use of trickery is valid in war
Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was a master strategist who understood the realities of warfare. as he said

“War is deception”

(Abu Dawood - 2636)

highlighting that strategic trickery is valid part of battle when used for just cause. During Khandaq, intelligent planning and psychological tactics played a key role in victory against the

divine intervention.

6 Taught ethics of War to his companions

Prophet (SAW) not only planned for battles with great intelligence but also taught strict standards to be followed during warfare.

Manners

- * Stand firm
- * Remember Allah
- * Obedience to Allah and His Messenger (SAW)
- * Do not dispute
- * Patience
- * Do not boast.

Other manners such as;

- * Do not confront women, children and elderly
- * Do not confront those who surrender to you
- * Do not cut down trees and ready crops
- * Do not mutilate the enemies' bodies
- * Do not attack at night.

7. Praised and encouraged his companions.

Prophet (SAW) used to praise and encourage his companions who fought bravely in battles. He recognized their courage, dedication, and sacrifice, motivating them to remain steadfast even in most difficult situations. This encouragement helped create a disciplined and committed fighting force that achieved remarkable success.

"O Sa'd Ithnaw (athnaw) let my father and mother be sacrificed for you"

(Bukhari-4059)

8. Wise and Tactical Strategist: Command material preparation of war.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was a wise and tactical strategist who emphasized thorough preparation for war. He personally oversaw the collection of necessary materials and supplies to ensure his forces were ready for any situation. As per

Allah has guided him.

"Prepare against them whatever force you can, and the trained horses whereby you frighten Allah's enemy and your enemy."

(Al-Anfal - 60)

However, Before Tabuk expedition, he also called for donations and contributions from his companions.

8.9. Accept Innovative Ways for Battles

The Messenger (SAW) of Allah accepted and encouraged innovative methods in warfare when they served a just purpose. Guided by wisdom and divine tactics, he was open to new tactics that increases the chances of success while reducing harm. For instance, he approved the ideas of Salman Al-Farsi's (R.A) of digging a trench at Khandaq and using a catapult during the Siege of Ta'if. These actions show his

his strategic intelligence and openness to practical solutions.

Conclusion

The Messenger (SAW) of Allah was not only a spiritual leader but also an exceptional military strategist. He combined intelligence and divine guidance to plan and execute campaigns with precision. His emphasis on secrecy, careful preparation and tactical innovation—such as the trench at Khandaq and the use of catapults at Taif—demonstrate his problem solving skills. He maintained strict ethical standards in warfare, protecting non-combatants and promoting just causes, while praising his companions for their bravery. The prophet (PBUH) achieved remarkable successes with minimal casualties, leaving a timeless example of moral and leadership in military affairs.