

Date: _____

The main purpose of Ghazwat-e-Nabvi was to establish peace.

Explain

Answer

1) Introduction:-

The life of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has been epitome of peace, tolerance and forgiveness. ~~Even~~ His work to spread the message of Islam has been peaceful so much so that even his strongest critics like Sir William Muir accept that.

A look at the wars that he directly took part in (Ghazwat) reveal that the sole purpose of all of them was to establish peace but limiting bloodshed, atrocities and injustices.

2) Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Never Employed War as the First Priority.

War was never used as a means to subdue the adversary. It was only used under extreme pressure. Take Battle of Uhud for instance. This ghazwa was initiated by Quraish of Makkah to restore their dignity and avenge the loss of Ghazwa-e-Badr. Similarly, it was the belligerent tribes of Banu-Qaynuqa, Banu-Nadir and Banu-Qurayza that started Ghazwa-e-Khandaq (Trench).

3) Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had Clearly Elaborated Objectives of Ghazwat:-

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had clearly established the objectives of war stating that:-

"Let your war be in the name of Allah and for

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His sake. Fight those who disbelieve in Allah. Invade but do not plunder nor conceal booty. Never deform the corpse of a person or kill an infant."

i) War Should Be To Help the Oppressed

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) made it clear that the aim of Muslim wars should be to help the oppressed people, just as the Quran mentions:-

"And what is the matter with you don't fight in the cause of Allah and for the oppressed among men, women and children." (4:75)

ii) War Should Be Waged to Counter Mischief

Another aim of Islamic war is to counter mischief and this aim was clearly visible in the Uhazwa-e-Khandag and Ghazwa-e-Uhad. It is as the Quran says:-

وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ (Al-Anfaal)
"Fight them until there is no fitnah."

iii) War Can Be Against People Who Start A War

Fighting against people who instigate war or expell Muslim from their lands is also permissible. One of the aims of Ghazwa-e-Badr was to avenge the losses of Muhajirin.

"And expel them from wherever they expel you and fitnah is worse than Killing" (Al-Baqarah)

iv) War Can Be Waged to Ensure Supremacy of Islam

The ultimate aim of Islamic wars is to ensure supremacy of Islam. Waging war for personal gains or revenge is not allowed.

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يقاتلون في سبيل الله (4:76)

O you who believe! fight in the cause of Allah

4) Non-negotiable Principles To Be Followed During War:-

To give peace a chance, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ensured rights of non-combatants.

i) Rights of Captives

He (PBUH) had forbidden torture of captives saying :- "Punishment by fire doesnot beleave anyone except the Master of Fire."

ii) Rights of Women, Children and Old people

In one Hadith, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) says - "Do not Kill any old person, any child or any woman."

iii) Rights of Wounded Persons

He (PBUH) had advised his companions to protect wound person saying :- "Donot attack a wounded person."

iv) Rights of Deceased Combatants

During the Battle of Trench, a Mushrik commander died and fell in the

touches. When his tribe offered money in return of his corpse, Prophet (PBUH) said: "I do not do business on corpses" and returned the corpse.

5) Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) Commitment to Acquire Peace via Negotiation:-

During Ghazwa-e-Khaibar, several tribe acquired peace and protection via negotiations, and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) preferred it over combat. Tribes of Wathil and Sulaim got peace in return of their half yearly produce. The Tribe of Fadak negotiated peace in return of their property. They were granted peace on these terms and direct combat with them was avoided.

6) Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) Love for Forgiveness:

The ghazwat of Holy Prophet (PBUH) also show that he preferred forgiveness over punishment.

The treatment of prisoners of Ghazwa-e-Badr is a testament. Instead

of getting harsh punishment, they were let off for teaching Muslim children.

7) Views of Orientalists Prove that Prophet's Ghazwat Aimed for Peace.

Orientalists like Montgomery Watt accept that the intensity of wars was lowest in Muhammadan era. According to him, in about 82 wars (including Ghazwat), the total human loss was 1058.

8) Conclusion:-

A neutral look at the Ghazwat of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) clearly highlights that all of them were waged to establish peace. His war ensured the spread of peace for the oppressed and an end to injustices and chaos that the Arab was previously facing.