

## Discuss the Holy Prophet Role as a Military Strategist.

### Introduction :

The Holy Prophet is the greatest military commander and was strategist the world has ever produced. His leadership skills and victories ~~over~~ in wars are clear witness of his military potentials. No doubt, the Holy Prophet revolutionized the mode and philosophy of war. He adopted various strategic plans that left the enemy in illusion. For example, his idea of training the army before the war, strict surveillance of the enemy, and division of the armed forces into different battalions speak volumes of his war skills.

The author Montgomery Watt in his book "Muhammad at Medina" write,

"Wars under and by the prophet was the mildest on record; it can be

Ghazi Paper

guaged from the fact that only 1018 persons perished in one hundred battles fought between the hijrat of madina and his own death "

## Characteristic of Holy Prophet as a Military Commander and Soldier :

### 2) Unique Leadership Skills:

The Holy prophet showed exemplary leadership skills in all the wars he participated. According to his companions, he was always in the front during battles and tried to ensure minimum damage to his own army.

During Ghazwa-e-Hunain, he said,

"I am the messenger of Allah. I am not an impostor. I am descendent of great Abdul Motalib"

## ii) Showed Kindness and Mercy:

Unlike the other military commander, he was kind and merciful even to his enemies. During the wars, he instructed his fellowmen to respect the principles of war.

Once the prophet told his men, "Do not harm the children and women"

Similarly, it is narrated that the Holy Prophet wept after the death of 70 souls in the battle of Uhud and prayed for them.

## (iii) Consultation with Advisory Council:

This was one of the greatest skills of the prophet. He always consulted and sought the opinions of his friends before any war.

For example, during battle of Azzahab, a trench was dug after the advice of the companions.

## Military Strategies of the Prophet in War:

The strategies adopted by the prophet were unique in characteristics. He adopted three different strategies during wars:

### a) Before the War:

#### i) Firm belief in Allah Almighty:

Before going to war, the prophet prayed to Allah for mercy and victory. He had firm belief in Allah Almighty.

Hazrat Ali narrates,

"I have seen the prophet fighting the enemy with sword in his one hand and the Quran in other hand."

#### (ii) Economic blockade of the enemy:

This was one of the best strategy used by the prophet. This technique is relevant and widely practiced even during modern wars.

Ghazi Paper

The Holy prophet used to disrupt the trade system of the enemy in order to weaken the enemy financially.

### iii) Surveillance of the enemy:

The prophet sought to gain information of the enemy before going to war. ~~He~~ This strategy helped the prophet to know well the strength and weaknesses of the enemy.

For instance, before Ghazw-e-Badr, he sent two persons to gather information about the ~~prop~~ opponent.

## B) Strategies Adopted During the Battle:

### i) Training and division of the army:

The Holy Prophet assigned different task to different people.

He set strategies ~~for~~ and formed different wings for defense and attacking positions.

Additionally, he divided the army into five different battalions, each assigned with a different role;

Ghazi Paper

- Infantry
- Cavalry Regiment
- Archers
- Luggage Carriers
- Security Personnel.

## ii) Ensured minimum human loss:

The wars fought by the prophet were not for personal glory but to maintain the rule of Allah on Earth. Therefore, he tried to ensure minimum human loss.

This can be proved from the fact that out of 26 wars, only 259 Muslims were shahid and 759 infidels were killed.

## (iii) Avoided wastage of Resources:

Although the infidels were superior in number and material strength, the effective strategies used by the prophet proved successful. He directed his soldiers to use weapons in careful ways so that they don't go waste.

According to one participant

of Badr,

"The prophet asked us to run the arrow only when the enemy comes closed and to avoid wastage of the <sup>arrows</sup> ~~at all~~."

### vi) Prohibition of Night Assault:

The Prophet never allowed attack on a sleeping enemy.

This fact can be verified during battle of Khyber when the Prophet waited till dawn to begin the battle.

Hozbat Anas says,

"Whenever He invaded some nation, he would never attack them until morning"

### v) Protection for the Rights of Non-combatants:

Unlike other warriors who cannot differentiate between the enemy and the innocent, the Prophet explicitly ordered to protect the non-combatant.

"Never kill women and workers in war"

## (C) Strategies After the War:

### i) Good treatment with Prisoners:

The Holy prophet said,  
"Do not kill any prisoners  
of war."

Moreover, the prisoners of war  
were given full respect and  
were well facilitated.

A prisoner of Gzwa narrated,  
"By God, the Muslims themselves  
walked on foot and made us  
ride"

### ii) Protection of Envoys:

After the war, the emissaries  
were protected to make post-war  
settlement.

For example, when the murdered  
of the <sup>uncle of</sup> prophet ~~as~~ an emissary  
of Mussaylimah Kazaab, the prophet  
said,

"Had it not been unlawful  
to kill the emissaries,  
I would have beheaded you"

### (ii) Announcement of General Amnesty:

This strategy of the prophet melted the hearts of the infidels and forced them to embrace Islam.

The Holy Prophet, after the conquest of Makkah announced the amnesty to the Quraysh and forgave those who took refuge in the Kaaba.

### Conclusion:

It goes without saying that the beloved Prophet is the great model of a military commander. His thinking, vision, pre and post-war strategies manifest the fact that he was an exemplary commander. Prior to the prophet, the objects and philosophy of wars were based on personal benefits and milestones; however, the Holy prophet revolutionized the idea of wars and made an example of himself for the world to follow.

Timing: 1:10 mins

Ghazi Paper