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Batch: 74

### Question: No 1

Analyze the Charter of Madinah as a social contract.

Give numbering to headings.

### Answer

#### Introduction

The charter of Madinah (the book (sahifat al-Madinah)) was a historic document drafted by Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W) after migration to Madinah 622 CE. This was the first written document which includes justice and equal rights for minorities. The laws in the agreement was implemented on both Muslims and non-Muslims, There are people belong to different tribe such as Muslims (Mujahid), Jewish tribes, Pagan Arabs and other minorities. The document include 63 clauses, where equal rights and responsibilities are discussed. The Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W) was recognized as central authority and leader over all groups. This agreement is an early powerful example of social

contract.

## Social Contract

Social contract is a mutual agreement among the members of the society to:

- Live together in peace.
- Respect others religion or values.
- Follow shared rules.
- Accept a central Authority to maintain order.

Philosophers like John Locke and Rousseau, described social contract

a century later.

Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W.W) (A.2)

demonstrated the social contract 1000 years early, which illustrates that Islam is a perfect example to be followed to maintain justice in society.

## Why was the charter needed?

After migration, Madina was home to:

- 1- Muslims (Muhajir Muhajirin and Ansar)
- 2- Jews tribes like (Banu Qaynuqa, Banu Nadir and Banu Qayayzah)
- 3- Pagan Arabs
- 4- and other minorities.

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There was conflict and wars between the tribes, and before Islam. There was no central government and law.

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W) established Charter of Madina to:

- End Tribal violence.
- Protect the rights of all communities.
- Establish Madina as peaceful, Islamic state.

Main clauses of the charter of Madina as a social contract

Religious Freedom and Tolerance

Equality and Rule of law

Protection of life and Property

Collective Defence

Unity Against Injustice

Economic and Social Cooperation

(1)

Religious Freedom and Tolerance

The Jews have their religion  
and the Muslims have their  
religion

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According to charter of Madinah agreement everyone have the right of freedom to perform their faith values.

In Quran:

"There is no compulsion in religion"

This clause promoted interfaith coexistence and mutual respect. It proves that Islam does not restrict but allows diversity.

(2)

### Equality and Rule of law

All members are equal before law, no one will be oppressed.

The Islamic values and teachings based on Justice and equality.

In Quran:

"Stand firmly for justice, even against yourself or your family"

~ Surah al-Nisa

Justice was granted for everyone, regardless of tribe and religion.

All the citizens of Madinah (Muslims and non-Muslims) were given equal right and responsibilities.

(3)

### Protection of life and Property

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A believer shall not kill  
another believer, or help  
an enemy against him.

Every citizen's life, property and  
honour is fully protected by law.  
No matter what if he is Muslim  
or non-Muslim, ~~if the person~~  
violent acts or theft were not allowed  
(security was a basic human right).  
This protection extended to Jews and  
Pagans as well.

(4)

of Collective Defense  
if Madina is attacked, all  
parties will defend it collectively.

The charter made everyone responsible  
for the city defense. They should  
be united as one nation regardless  
of religion: for example if another  
country forces attack to their country.  
They should unite themselves, by  
living in a country, as a nation it  
is their responsibility to protect their  
country.

(5)

Unity Against injustice

No one will support  
along doing, The oppressed  
will be helped.

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All groups agreed to stand against tyranny, even if the oppressor was from their tribe. This actually broke the tradition of tribal bias and promoted moral responsibility.

(6)

### Economy and Social Cooperation

Everyone should contribute to the community needs and emergencies.

This created the early system of taxation and economic justice. All tribes had to share their ~~goal~~ resources for common goal like defense, law and welfare.

### The Role of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W)

The Prophet (S.A.W.W) was declared as:

- Head of state
- Final authority.
- Judge in disputes.

Demonstration of the charter of Madina helps to balance the justice. His leadership united the diverse groups. The rights of the minorities are protected. With the implementation of justice and equal rights and responsibilities, many

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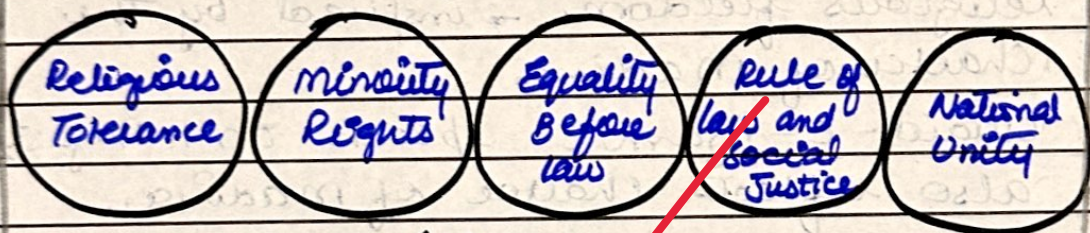
Jews converted to muslim by accepting Islamic religion.

In Quran:

"And we have not sent you (O Muhammad) except as a mercy to the worlds"

### Modern Relevance of The charter.

The charter of madina gives us timeless lessons that can be applied in the multi-religious world.



(1)

#### Religious Tolerance

Islam guarantees freedom of religion, which is essential in today's global world.

(2)

#### Minority Rights

Islamic teachings ensures full protection of religious minorities.

(3)

#### Equality Before law

No one is above the law — an Islamic core value.

(4)

#### Rule of law and social Justice

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Everyone should follow same law.  
Injustice must be stopped.

(5)

### National Unity

Like the charter of Madina, Pakistan needs unity between sects, religious and ethnic groups.

Some examples of Pakistan found which reflected the charter of Madina.

- Pakistan's constitution (Article 20) gives religious freedom & inspired by the Charter of Madina.
- Quaid-e-Azam's speech on 11 August, 1947 also reflects charter of Madina.

you are free to go your Mosques  
or any other place of worship...

you may belong to any religion  
or caste - that has nothing to  
do with the business of the state

### Conclusion:

In the world, full of division and hate, the charter of Madina is a shining example of how people of different religions and culture can live together. Pakistan needs to revive its policy and also implement it as the division of sects is causing tension or hate; but it can be solved through the best example the charter of Madina.