

Distinguish Features of Foreign Policy of the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) with Special Reference to South and Central Asian States

Syed Shahabuddin*

Faisal Javed**

Syeda Maryam Bibi***

ABSTRACT

Islam is a comprehensive and universal religion for all races and classes of people not inclined to serve a specific category or group but specially aim to address the needs of all humanity with its moral, spiritual, social, legal, political and economic systems. The research basically involves a distinguish features of the foreign relations of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). The analysis has been done from the time of migration and it also includes the states relations with different continents along with letters of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). I have tried my lever best to simply describe the events and highlight the wisdom and intelligence of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) in the foreign relations of the Muslim state of Madina.

Keywords: Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), Madina, Makkah, Muslims, Arabia, Letters, Embassy

Introduction

The aim of Islam is to establish the ideal human society and brotherhood spreading general benevolence and the divine guidance among men for their betterment and salvation. The prophet hood mission of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) provides guidance for perfect balancing of individual and spiritual life with social and material life. Migration to Madina was the first ever migration not only in the Islamic history but also in world history. The migration to Madina was a glimpse of hope for not only for Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) but for the whole Muslim community of Makkah for the survival of Islam. When 15 tribes refused Prophet Muhammad's (P.B.U.H) proposal of Islam, he was able to convince some of the Madinan's who not only embraced Islam but also promised him to spread it in their land. The policy of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) to show Islam to the Madinans played a key role in the post-migration issues and also in the arrival of Muslims to Madina as the Madinans welcomed them with open hearts, shared their businesses and properties with them, and helped them to spread the sphere of Islam.

One of the humongous post-migration issues was the settlement of the Muslims of Makkah in Madina. In order to resolve this problem, the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) created equilibrium among the Makkah immigrants and the well-to-do Madinans, so that they could work and earn for their families as well as help the Madinans. This settlement policy of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) not only resolved the problem, but also showed Prophet Muhammad's leadership and conflict resolving skills.

Establishing the Muslim state of Madina

The Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) cordially invited the Muslims and non-Muslims of the region including Arabs, Jews, Christians, and all other residing faiths and put forward his proposal of the establishment of a city-state in Madina. After the approval of all the communities and races, Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was given the authority to establish the city-state. Then the first ever constitution of the state in the world history was written by Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) that declared rights and duties of citizens as well as of the ruler.² The private justice system was abolished and the sole power of legislation was handed to Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), as he was also the de-facto ruler of the city-state. The authority of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was declared limitless by citizens.

So, intension of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) to establish a city-state was fruitful to all the people. Inviting all communities for the permission and their concerns cleared the path for the establishment of city-state. This decision proved Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) wisdom for all the people because he was sent by Allah Almighty for all the people regardless of their religion.

The friendly environment of brotherhood was established between the people of Makkah and Medina for better accommodation of the migrants. The Ansars and Muhajirs who were made brothers worked in company and helped each other to make both ends meet. Establishment of Civil state in Medina Moreover, it was deliberated that if they strengthen religion and politics to make it one soul in two bodies. So that development and growth of person could be better achieved. Muslims and non-Muslims residents of the region were invited for this purpose. The Arabs, Jews and Christians agreed to establish civil state in Medina. After their agreement, the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) formulated a written constitution for

* Dr. Assiatant Professor, Department of International Relations,
Federal Urdu University, Karachi. Email: shahabhashmi2012@gmail.com

**Dr. Assiatant Professor, Department of International Relations,
Federal Urdu University, Karachi

** Area Study of Europe, University of Karachi.

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the city. This was a first of its unique kind of state in the world, in which rights and obligations of citizens and head of the state were clarified. Traditional private judiciary was banned after the Prophet's proposed constitution was admired and acknowledged.³ The true justice system was established afterwards.

Foreign Relations

The Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) established political contact with the Ansar and the foundation was laid for an Islamic State. With extremely dis-heartedness and just for self-defense, the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) relied on the possible help of weapons and when resistance of lethal enemies was assuaged, then aim of all the activities of the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was propagation of Islamic ideology in Arab and all around the world. After returning from Hudaibiya, the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) restarted sending groups of preachers for propagation of Islam.

Diplomatic Missions

After making peace with the enemies, Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) shifted his attention towards his sore aim, the peaceful spread of Islam. So, in this context, he sent mission along with his letters to the rulers of Byzantium, Egypt, Abyssinia, and Iran to invite them towards Islam.

Delegation to Rome (Byzantium)

One of the recipients of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) letters was Heraclius who was quite indifferent to Islam and has a dream of having a vast empire. He killed one of his caliphs who accepted Islam and protected the other caliph who murdered the Muslim envoy in violation of international law which led to a war between a hundred thousand soldiers of Heraclius and 3000 men army of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). Zaid-ibn-Haris (RA) and Jafar-at-Tayar were martyred by the enemies and Khalid-ibn-Walid was elected as the Muslim chief of army. In 9H, the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) himself led an army of 30,000 Muslims and succeeded in clearing the whole Northern Arabia and Southern Palestine. The Christians of the region were happy in the tolerant Muslim rule.⁴ After Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), Abu-Bakr (RA) continues his mission captured further areas.

Delegation to Egypt

Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) also wrote a letter to the chief of Egyptians inviting him to Islam. Although Muqawqis did not accept Islam but had a friendly behaviour towards the Muslim envoy and departed him with several

gifts, among these gifts were two to four girls slave too.⁵ One of them was Maria who happily accepted Islam and became Prophet Muhammad's wife.

Delegation to Abyssinia

Abyssinia had close economic relations with Makkah long before Islam. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) also wrote a letter to the Negus of Abyssinia, inviting him to Islam which he accepted and became Muslim. The early Muslims of Makkah had taken asylum in Abyssinia and Makkah sent delegations twice for their extraction but failed. When Negus died, Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) prayed in funeral in absentia in Madina. Other individuals of Abyssinia had also embraced Islam including the son of Negus.⁶

Delegation to Yemen

Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) sent first Khalid-bin-Waleed(RA) and Ali(RA) to Yemen as his envoys. Both the missions were successful and many pagan tribes embraced Islam quite easily. The Persian governor, Badhan also accepted Islam happily. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) maintained him as the governor followed by his son Sahr. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) used to send head to departments from Madina, some of them were Yemenities as well within no time the whole Yemen embraced Islam except Jews and Christian tribe of Najran.⁷

The Christian tribe of Najran was highly organized religiously and socially. They sent a delegation of bishops and priests to Madina, trying to covert Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) to their faith. They had negotiations and during the negotiations, it was the time for their prayers, they wanted to go outside of the mosque. When the negotiations ended, the delegation was so inspired by the wisdom and intelligence of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H), that they acceded their land to Muslim state happily and obtained a charter which confirmed their religious and administrative autonomy and didn't even require any permission for the appointment of their lands.

Delegation to Uman

Prophet Muhammad's (P.B.U.H) invitation was also sent to the two sons of al-Julanda, Jaifar and Abd, who ruled Uman jointly. They happily embraced Islam, expanding the Muslim state to the South East of Arabia. The tribe of Abd al-Qais was independent and thus was sent a separate delegation. The tribe of Abd al-Qais also embraced Islam delightfully and BUKHARI says that the first mosque after Madina in which Friday prayers were held was at Jwatha, in the territory of Abd

al-Qais.⁸ The accession of this region was of great importance, not only religiously but also economically.

Bahrain & Samawa

The Arab governor of Bahrain, which was called Uwal in those days, named al-Mundhir ibn Sawa accepted Islam and was a very competent man. More of the half a dozen of letters were written by Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) to correspond with him. The tribe of Tamim and several branches of the tribe Lakhm, which governed the state of Hira accepted Islam quite easily as the Iranian hold was not that strong in this region as compared to others.⁹

Foreign Relations with South and Central Asian States

Delegation to India

The Relations with India aren't too clear in history but some Arab historians have given an account of an embassy to India. Arab traders often visited the ports of Sindh and Malabar long before Islam. When a delegation from Balharith tribe of Yemen came to Madina, Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) asked that these people who look like Indians are.

There was an old legend in Malabar that one of their Kings saw the splitting of moon with his naked eyes and upon investigating, he came to know that this was done by a Prophet of Arabia. So Chakravati Farmas handed his throne to his son and went Arabia where he embraced Islam at the hand of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). He died at the port of Zafar, Yemen while he was returning back to India on the instructions of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H).¹⁰

The ruler of Kodunalur, Cheraman Perumal experienced an odd dream. He saw that new moon broke into two pieces, one falling on the ground while the other remaining in the heavens. The two halves joined again to set the moon. Perumal heard the story of the splitting moon by a group of Muslim pilgrims a few months later of his own dream. So, he decided to join them to Makkah where he met Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) and accepted Islam. He renamed himself as Tajuddin.

Dr. Tara Chand also wrote in her book, Influence of Islamic Culture on Indian Culture, those centuries before the birth of Islam, India had commercial ties with Arabia. The swords of India also had Pre-Islamic poetry.¹¹

Delegation to Iran

In 7th Hijri, Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) sent a letter to the ruler of Iran although the name of the ruler is not confirmed but his behaviour is because the

Muslim envoy was not only disrespected but the letter was also torn into pieces. Then, the female ruler who came into power sent a delegation to Madina with presents in order to repair the damaged relations.¹² The Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) then gave attention towards the Persian Colonies in Arabia.

Turkestan

There is quite a little about the Turkish people, the first ever Muslim martyr woman. Sumaiya who was assassinated by Abu Jahl was of Turkish origin which showed the small connection of Turkish people to Islam in the early times.¹³

Delegation to China

WahabibnAbiKabasha carried Prophet Muhammad's (P.B.U.H) letter to the emperor of China. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was quite impressed by the Chinese as they were much more advanced than the rest of the world.¹⁵ The Arabs learned paper making, silk making, porcelain making and the use of magnetic needles from the Chinese.

Conclusion

The migration to Madina was the only glimpse of hope for the survival of Muslims and Islam. The migration was carried out when Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) conveyed Allah's command and proved to be a revolution in Islam. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) consulted Muslims as well as all the infidel communities in Madina before establishing the Muslim city state. He also wrote the first ever constitution of world history consisting of 52 clauses which proved his capabilities in the interior matter of the state. He was nominated as the de-facto of the state with sole authority. After the establishment of the Muslim state, Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) shifted his attention towards the foreign relations of the state and he intended to write letters of invitation towards the heads of tribes and states, then he came to know that many of them would not accept the letter without as seal. The behaviour of Rome and Iran wasn't friendly at all and they showed hatred and enmity towards Islam. The latter female ruler of Iran tried to improve Iran's relations with the Muslim state and the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) welcomed the gesture. Although Muqawqis, the Christian ruler of Egypt didn't accept Islam but there were friendly between the two states and Muqawqis also used to send gifts to Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H).

When the Christian delegation of Najran came to Madina, the Prophet not only welcomed them but agreed to negotiate on their faiths and they found that it is better for them to stay with the Muslim state, they acceded. This shows the diversity of Muslim state and the wisdom of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) in

foreign relations. Uman in South East Arabia was an area of great economical importance. The Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) invited them to Islam and accedes to Muslim state. This shows that his thinking protected the geographical and economical interests of Islam and the Muslim state. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) knew that the ports of Sindh and Malabar could be greatly beneficial to protect the interests and spread of Islam and in this regard, he sent a delegation to India Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was way too impressed by the Chinese because of their knowledge and advancement and Muslims learned many arts by the Chinese for the betterment of Muslim state. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was the greatest diplomat as he used his tremendous diplomatic skills not only to establish foreign relations but also to protect the interests and enlargement of the Muslim state.

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