

## Perwakilan

Journal of Good Governance, Diplomacy, Customary Institutionalization and Social Networks  
Vol. 2 (2024), pp. 1-10

# Leader and the Leadership of the Prophet Muhammad: Strategy and Innovation in the Battle of Trench

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Publication date: 30 April 2024

### Abstract:

*This article examines Prophet Muhammad's strategic and innovative leadership during the Battle of the Trench, a pivotal event in early Islamic history. Faced with a large confederate army, Muhammad adopted the unprecedented strategy of digging a trench around Medina, demonstrating his adaptability and inclusiveness by accepting a Persian companion's suggestion, Salman al-Farsi. This tactic effectively neutralized the enemy's advantage, highlighting Muhammad's foresight and strategic acumen which can only be seen if we read the references in detail and feel the tense occurred on that day. The analysis of this article focuses on Muhammad's leadership qualities, including visionary strategy, resilience, ethical conduct, and inspirational influence. These attributes were crucial in uniting and motivating the Muslim community under extreme adversity. The successful defence of Medina not only solidified the Muslim community but also set new precedents in military tactics and ethical warfare, influencing Islamic governance and leadership principles. The Battle of the Trench serves as a significant historical case study of strategic and ethical leadership shown by Muhammad in facing a direct enemy from outside and a potential internal enemy that turns up in that despairing situation. The insights drawn from Muhammad's leadership approach are relevant to modern leadership and contemporary challenges, transcending religious and cultural contexts. This article contributes to the discourse on leadership, strategy, and crisis management, underscoring the enduring relevance of Muhammad's leadership principles which have proven effective in saving the situation.*

**Keywords:** trench, confederate army, khandaq, war strategy, diplomacy

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<https://doi.org/10.58764/j.prwkl.2024.2.62>

## 1. Introduction

The chronicles of history are replete with battles that changed the course of civilizations, but few are as pivotal as the Battle of the Trench, also known as the Battle of Khandaq and the Battle of Confederates (Al-Mubarakpuri, 2002, p. 143; Hatta, 2011). The battle is also known as the Battle of Confederates (ghazwa Al-Ahzab) because Quraisy gathered many tribes to confront and declare war on the Muslims in Madinah. It is also known as the Battle of Khandaq, which means trench, as Muslims dug lines of the trench as the defensive line. It said Quraisy gathered around 10,000 people, while there were just 3,000 in Madina. It is also an exhausting battle because it goes on for around two weeks (Al-Ghazali, 1999, pp. 323–324).

In the early 7th century, the Arabian Peninsula was a mosaic of tribal alliances and enmities, with Mecca and Medina emerging as pivotal centres (Afifi & Abbas, 2022). Mecca was not only a thriving commercial hub but also a religious epicentre, housing the Kaaba, a site sacred to various Arabian tribes. The rise of Islam under Prophet Muhammad in Mecca disrupted the existing socio-political order, leading to friction between the new Muslim community and the established Meccan elites.

This confrontation stands out not only for its strategic ingenuity but also for the exemplary leadership of Prophet Muhammad, a figure central to the Islamic faith. While he is predominantly recognized for his religious teachings, Prophet Muhammad's role as a leader and strategist in this critical battle offers profound insights into the essence of effective leadership (Afifi & Abbas, 2023b; Al-Attas, 1996; Darraz, 2017; Mir, 2010).

The traditional Arab warfare tactics of the time did not offer a viable solution against the overwhelming numbers of the confederate army. It was a situation that demanded not just courage but also creative and strategic thinking. The decision to dig a trench around Medina was revolutionary and reflected Muhammad's openness to innovative solutions, even when they came from outside the conventional Arab military thinking.

This strategic move, suggested by a companion from Persia, Salman al-Farsi, was a departure from the norm. It exemplified Muhammad's leadership style – one that was inclusive, valued diverse perspectives, and was not afraid to break from tradition when the situation warranted. The trench, a seemingly simple defensive measure, turned the tide in what could have been a devastating defeat for the Muslims.

Prophet Muhammad's role in the Battle of the Trench is a compelling study of leadership under duress. It presents a multifaceted leader: a strategist who carefully assessed his options, a visionary who saw beyond the immediate, and a unifier who inspired trust and loyalty among his followers (Abbas, 2015). This article aims to delve into the strategic and innovative aspects of Muhammad's leadership during this critical juncture, drawing lessons that transcend time and religious boundaries (Adair, 2010; Afifi, 2023).

## 2. Background to the conflict

In the 5th year of the Hijrah, the nascent Muslim community in Medina faced an existential threat. A confederation of tribes, stirred by the Meccans, amassed a large army to annihilate the Muslims (Gilani, 2012). The odds were heavily stacked against the smaller, less equipped Muslim community. It was in this backdrop of impending crisis that Prophet Muhammad's leadership was to be tested, a test that would not only involve military strategy but also the ability to unify and inspire a diverse group under extreme stress. The Battle of the Trench is one of the fiercest battles that was participated by the Prophet Muhammad (saw).

The Battle of the Trench, a seminal event in Islamic history, unfolded during a period of intense conflict and transformation. To fully comprehend the significance of this battle, it is essential to delve into the intricate tapestry of events and conditions that set the stage for this historic confrontation.

The early years of Muhammad's prophetic mission in Mecca were marked by a growing antagonism towards his message. This animosity culminated in the Hijrah in 622 CE, a significant event where Muhammad and his followers migrated to Medina, a city that offered them refuge and a platform to establish a nascent Muslim community. This migration was not just a physical journey but also a transformational moment in Islamic history, shifting the focus from Mecca to Medina. The conceptual Madani society that is proposed by Islamic civilization is based on the sample and principles left by the prophet Muhammad (saw) (Afifi & Abbas, 2023a; Yufriadi, Fitri, & Afifi, 2023).

In Medina, the Muslim community, or the Ummah, began to take shape. This community was not only religious but also political and social in nature (Arifin & Abbas, 2007; Fitri, Afifi, & Abbas, 2022; Yufriadi, Syahriani, & Afifi, 2023). Muhammad's leadership expanded beyond spiritual guidance to include governance and defence of the

community (Nasution, 1986; Nurdin & Abbas, 2012). However, the relocation to Medina did not ease tensions with the Meccans. Instead, it marked the beginning of a series of conflicts that would define the early years of the Islamic community.

The Meccans perceived the growing influence of Muhammad and his followers as a direct threat to their economic interests and their preeminent position in the Arabian Peninsula. This led to several battles, including the notable Battles of Badr (624 CE) and Uhud (625 CE). While Badr was a surprising victory for the Muslims, Uhud was a setback, underscoring the persistent threat posed by Meccan forces. This war was an excess of expelled Jews that had previously lost in the war of Bani Nadhir. They persuade Quraisy to attack Muslims in Madinah and will be supported by another Jewish tribe in Madina (Hatta, 2011, p. 353).

The situation reached a critical point when the Meccans, leveraging their extensive tribal alliances, mustered a large confederation of tribes against Medina. This coalition, known as the Ahzab (Confederates), included not just the Quraish of Mecca but also several other tribes who saw the Muslim community as a disruptive force in the Arabian balance of power.

In 627 CE, this confederate army, numbering in the thousands, marched towards Medina, intent on delivering a final blow to Muhammad and his followers. The Muslims, significantly outnumbered and outmatched in terms of conventional military strength, faced an unprecedented challenge. It was a moment of existential crisis that required not just military prowess but also strategic ingenuity and unshakeable resolve.

Prophet Muhammad, aware of the limitations of his forces and the formidable capabilities of the enemy, convened a council to deliberate on the defence of Medina. It was in this council that the unprecedented strategy of digging a trench around the vulnerable parts of the city was proposed and agreed upon. This decision, a radical departure from traditional Arabian warfare tactics, showcased Muhammad's willingness to embrace innovative solutions in the face of daunting odds.

The preparation for the battle was not just a military endeavour but also a test of the communal spirit of the Muslims. Men, women, and children, regardless of their social status, contributed to the construction of the trench. This collective effort reflected the unity and determination of the Muslim community under Prophet Muhammad's leadership, setting the stage for one of the most strategically significant battles in Islamic history.

In this charged atmosphere, with the threat looming on the horizon, the stage was set for the Battle of the Trench. This confrontation would not only determine the fate of the Muslim community in Medina but also exemplify the strategic acumen and innovative leadership of Prophet Muhammad.

### **3. Battlefield of trench**

In this battle, there was also betrayal by tribes allied with Muslims in Madina. Advanced tactic strategy is used in sequence in this battle to counter the full attack used by the Quraisy with 10,000 men and horses. With the hills surrounding Madinah, the trench was dug between the hills, leaving one narrow access from the southwest. This strategy forced the 10,000 armies not to attack all at once, making the superiority of the Quraish ineffective and inefficient. But still, the Battle of the Trench was not an open war. The Muslims built the trench between hills as a defensive line and forced the war to convert into a siege. By that, Muslims can minimize the loss and buy time. The trench strategy resulted from a forum decision by the prophet Muhammad (saw) (Suleman, 1984). The idea of making trench lines between hills surrounding Madina came from Salman al-Farisi. Many ideas were raised in that forum, and the idea to make a trench was the one agreed upon by companions (Al-Mubarakpuri, 2002, p. 140; Hatta, 2011, p. 353; Saani, 2019).

The Quraisy aim is to eliminate the Muslims in Madina (Sarif et al., 2016). Therefore, they gathered all the tribes and people to do that. Before the war, they disseminated the fitnah and the fear among the tribes around Makkah and Madina. The potential threat caused by Muslims if allowed to dominate control in Makkah and Madina as they did before. The Battle of the Trench was supposed to be a moment to finish off the Muslims in Madina once and for all (Al-Ghazali, 1999, p. 322; Al-Mubarakpuri, 2002, p. 140). Therefore, the Quraish also took action to convince tribes and people around the Muslims in Madina to betray their commitment. One seen as a big betrayal is the change side of Bani Quraizah, who lived in southeast Madinah inside the defence line made by Muslims in Madina (Ash-Shallabi, 2018; Hatta, 2011, p. 362). With the determination of the Quraish and their allies, the war had already converted into a siege to the defensive Muslims in Madina. The situation was very sacred, with limited logistics, and always prepared if the enemy tried to intrude on the defensive line. The battle of the trench was the siege to the Muslims' defensive line, and the strategy was to exhaust the enemy for that unprepared war. The

psychological warfare strategy that was made by the prophets needed to guarantee the Muslims did not feel hopeless, and the confederates could start breaking their commitment to each other.

With that situation, prophet Muhammad also tried to break the trust among the confederates. For that mission, the prophet Muhammad asked hidden Muslims from Bani Ghatfan among the confederates, Nuam bin Masud, to do the strategy to spread suspicion among the confederates between Quraish and tribes around Madina (Al-Ghazali, 1999, pp. 335–336; Al-Mubarakpuri, 2002, p. 143). With the two-week siege, which the Quraish had not prepared for, the situation was also aggravated by Madina's cold and windy weather. The people and animals suffered, and some died because of the weather. This strategy was successful. The Quraiza felt they needed some guarantee that if the siege failed, they would not be abandoned by the Quraish. For this guarantee, there is some hostage from the Quraish. While on the Quraish side, Abu Sufyan felt the demand by Quraiza was too much, and they blamed and threatened Huyay bin Akhtab for the issue raised by Quraiza and started to be insecure about their betrayal. Huyay bin Akhtab fled to Quraiza for that situation. The psychological war started with a new situation arising and suspicion among the confederates. Many people and tribes among the confederates felt this situation was unfavourable and abandoned the siege (Al-Ghazali, 1999, p. 339; Al-Mubarakpuri, 2002, p. 143).

### 3.1. The leadership of Prophet Muhammad

The Battle of the Trench stands as a testament to Prophet Muhammad's advanced leadership, a facet that was crucial in navigating the Muslim community through one of its most perilous episodes. His approach to leadership during this crisis was marked by several key elements that are as instructive today as they were then (Ash-Shallabi, 2018).

First and foremost was Prophet Muhammad's ability to assess the situation realistically. He understood the gravity of the threat posed by the confederate army, yet he did not allow fear or despair to paralyze the community. Instead, he focused on harnessing the available resources and strengths of his followers. This realistic appraisal of the situation laid the foundation for a sound strategic response. Prophets Muhammad's response is a genuine example of how leaders should stand in belief when facing difficult challenges. It is both a mental and physical toughness of characters leaders should have.

Prophet Muhammad's inclusive approach to decision-making was evident in his consultation with his companions regarding the defence of Medina. This consultative approach, known as "Shura," highlighted his respect for the opinions of others, irrespective of their social or ethnic background. The proposal to dig a trench, suggested by Salman al-Farsi, a Persian companion, was a revolutionary idea that Muhammad accepted, demonstrating his openness to innovative solutions from diverse sources.

Leadership of Prophet Muhammad's
a) Realistic appraisal
b) Inclusive decision making
c) Strategic innovation
d) Active participation & exemplary
e) Balance defence and diplomacy
f) Spiritual ethical leadership

Table 1. Leadership of Prophet Muhammad's

The decision to build a trench was a strategic masterstroke. Traditional Arab warfare was characterized by direct combat, and the trench presented an unexpected obstacle to the cavalry-dominated Meccan forces. This innovation not only neutralized the numerical advantage of the enemy but also demonstrated Muhammad's adaptability and willingness to deviate from conventional tactics.

Muhammad's leadership was not confined to strategic planning; it was also evident in his active participation in the defence efforts. He worked alongside his followers in digging the trench, sharing in the hardship and boosting morale. This hands-on approach fostered a sense of unity and collective responsibility, crucial in maintaining high spirits during a time of crisis.

Throughout the siege, Prophet Muhammad maintained a careful balance between defence and diplomacy. He was acutely aware of the internal divisions within the confederate camp and exploited these divisions through strategic negotiations and psychological tactics. This astuteness in understanding and manipulating the dynamics of the enemy alliance was key in sowing doubt and disunity among their ranks.

Prophet Muhammad's spiritual ethical leadership also played a pivotal role (Afifi, 2021; Wiwaha, Syawali, Nasrulloh, Hirji, & Muthmainnah, 2024). His unwavering faith and constant encouragement reinforced the resolve of his followers. He provided not just military leadership but also spiritual guidance, reminding them of the justness of their cause and the importance of steadfastness.

In addition to his strategic acumen, Muhammad's ethical conduct during the battle was exemplary. He set strict rules of engagement, emphasizing the importance of not transgressing moral boundaries even in the heat of battle. This principled stance not only upheld the ethical standards of warfare but also served to strengthen the moral fabric of the Muslim community.

Another key aspect of Muhammad's leadership was his foresight and planning for the future. Even as the battle raged, he was mindful of the long-term implications of the conflict. His strategies were designed not just to win a battle but to secure a sustainable future for the Muslim community in an environment fraught with hostility and competition.

Finally, the successful defence of Medina under Prophet Muhammad's leadership was a turning point. It solidified the Muslim community's confidence in Muhammad's leadership and demonstrated to the Arabian tribes the resilience and strength of the Muslims. The battle, although not won in the conventional sense, was a strategic victory that significantly enhanced the stature and credibility of Prophet Muhammad and his followers.

In conclusion, the strategic leadership of Prophet Muhammad during the Battle of the Trench was characterized by realistic assessment, inclusivity, innovation, active participation, diplomatic acumen, spiritual guidance, ethical conduct, foresight, and the ability to inspire and unify. These qualities not only steered the Muslim community through a critical juncture but also left enduring lessons in leadership and strategy.

### 3.2. Innovation in warfare

The Battle of the Trench is notably remembered for its remarkable innovation in warfare, introduced under the leadership of Prophet Muhammad. This strategic innovation was not just a mere tactical manoeuvre but a profound shift in the approach to warfare in the Arabian context, demonstrating foresight, adaptability, and ingenuity (Akhtar, Akhter, & Munir, 2021).

The use of a trench as a defensive mechanism was an unprecedented strategy in Arabian warfare. Traditionally, battles in the Arabian Peninsula were characterized by direct combat, often in the form of raids or open-field engagements. The concept of a defensive siege, especially one involving a physical barrier like a trench, was foreign to Arab military tactics. This innovation marked a significant departure from the norms of the time, showcasing a strategic mindset that was willing to adopt

techniques from different cultures and contexts (Oktavia, Afifi, Eliza, & Abbas, 2023; Siswati et al., 2023).

The suggestion to dig a trench came from Salman al-Farsi, a Persian companion of Muhammad. His knowledge of Persian military tactics introduced this novel idea to the Muslim community. Prophet Muhammad's openness to this suggestion, despite it being unconventional and untested in the local context, demonstrated his inclusiveness and his ability to recognize and utilize the diverse experiences and knowledge within his community.



Figure 1. Mountain of Uhud (Google Maps photo by Abdelhak Ghennai)

The construction of the trench was a logistical challenge, especially given the limited resources and time constraints faced by the Muslim community. However, the collective effort in building the trench not only fortified the city but also served as a unifying endeavor for the community. Men, women, and children of various social and ethnic backgrounds worked side by side, exemplifying a sense of collective purpose and resilience. With a length of 5.5 kilometres, width of 4,62 meters and depth of 3,3 meters which possible to put today's car in it (Jauhary, 2021; Lintang, 2021).

The trench itself was a masterful application of terrain adaptation in warfare. Stretching several miles and strategically positioned to protect the vulnerable parts of Medina, it effectively neutralized the cavalry advantage of the confederate forces. The surprise and confusion it caused among the enemy were significant, disrupting their battle plans and demoralizing their troops.

Prophet Muhammad's leadership during the construction and defense of the trench also highlighted his understanding of psychological warfare. By choosing a defensive strategy, he shifted the burden of action to the enemy, forcing them to lay siege and thereby exposing them to the

harsh desert conditions. This prolonged the conflict, straining the resources and resolve of the confederate forces.

Furthermore, the trench strategy was complemented by effective intelligence gathering and diplomatic maneuvers. Muhammad kept a close watch on the movements and morale of the enemy, using informants and allies to gather crucial information. He also engaged in negotiations and alliances with various groups within and outside Medina, further isolating the confederate forces and weakening their resolve.

The trench also had a significant psychological impact on both sides. For the Muslims, it was a tangible representation of their collective strength and ingenuity, boosting their morale and confidence. For the confederate forces, it was a demoralizing obstacle, a physical manifestation of the unexpected and formidable resistance they faced.



Figure 2. Miniature of trench excavation process (from Dar al-Madinah Museum)

The aftermath of the Battle of the Trench also reflected the strategic foresight of Prophet Muhammad. The successful defense of Medina without a conventional battlefield victory demonstrated the effectiveness of defensive and psychological strategies in warfare. It also altered the perception of strength and power in the Arabian Peninsula, showcasing the resilience and unity of the Muslim community under Muhammad's leadership.

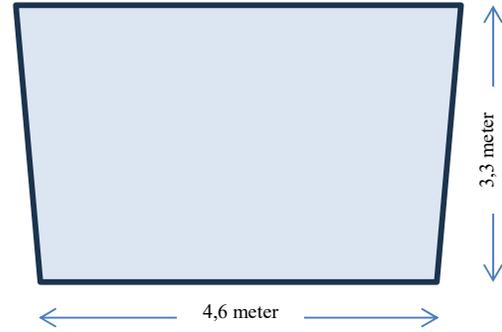


Figure 3. Illustration the size of the trench

In summary, the innovation of the trench in the Battle of the Trench was a pivotal moment in military history. It demonstrated Prophet Muhammad's strategic acumen, and his ability to leverage diverse inputs, adapt to new challenges, and utilize psychological and diplomatic tactics. This innovation not only played a crucial role in the survival and consolidation of the early Muslim community but also left a lasting legacy in the annals of military strategy.

### 3.3. Impact and legacy

The Battle of the Trench, under the leadership of Prophet Muhammad, had a profound impact on the course of Islamic history and left a lasting legacy in the realms of leadership, military strategy, and communal solidarity.

#### a) Consolidation of the Muslim Community:

The successful defense of Medina against the vastly superior forces of the confederate army marked a turning point for the nascent Muslim community. It consolidated their presence in Arabia and significantly enhanced Muhammad's stature both as a spiritual leader and a skilled strategist. This victory under dire circumstances bolstered the unity and morale of the Muslims, solidifying their identity and resolve.

#### b) Strategic and Military Innovation:

The introduction of the trench as a defensive measure was a groundbreaking strategy in Arabian warfare. It demonstrated innovative thinking and adaptability to new forms of combat, setting a precedent in military tactics. This strategy has been studied and admired in military circles throughout history for its ingenuity and effectiveness.

#### c) Diplomatic Acumen:

Prophet Muhammad's handling of the various tribes and factions, both within and outside of Medina, during and after the battle, showcased his diplomatic skills. He effectively managed alliances and negotiated with different groups, which played a crucial role in the eventual disintegration of the confederate forces. This diplomatic prowess was instrumental in the subsequent expansion and consolidation of the Muslim community.

d) Ethical Conduct in Warfare:

The ethical standards set by Muhammad during the battle had a lasting impact on the conduct of warfare in Islamic tradition. His emphasis on protecting non-combatants and avoiding unnecessary destruction set a moral precedent that has been integral to Islamic military ethics.

e) Spiritual and Moral Leadership:

The battle reinforced Muhammad's role as a spiritual and moral guide. His unwavering faith and ethical conduct in the face of adversity served as a model for his followers, influencing Islamic thought and practice in the areas of resilience, faith, and moral integrity.

f) Influence on Islamic Governance:

The leadership qualities exhibited by Muhammad during the battle, particularly his consultative approach, inclusiveness, and emphasis on justice, influenced the principles of governance in Islamic political thought. These principles have been integral to various Islamic governance models throughout history.

g) Inspiration for Future Leaders and Movements:

The strategic acumen and leadership qualities demonstrated by Prophet Muhammad in the Battle of the Trench have served as a source of inspiration for leaders and movements across ages and cultures. His ability to unite people, think creatively in the face of challenges, and maintain ethical integrity under pressure has been widely admired and emulated.

h) Relevance in Modern Leadership Discourses:

The multifaceted leadership of Muhammad during this battle remains relevant in contemporary leadership discourses. His approach to crisis management, team-building, strategic planning, and ethical leadership continues to be studied in various academic and professional fields.

i) Cultural and Historical Significance:

The battle has occupied a significant place in Islamic cultural and historical narratives. It is remembered not just as a military event but as a moment of profound collective trial and triumph, shaping the identity and history of the Muslim community.

j) Global Recognition and Study:

Beyond the Islamic world, the Battle of the Trench and Muhammad's leadership have been subjects of study in global historical, military, and leadership studies. The battle is recognized as an instance where strategic thinking, united communal effort, and strong leadership changed the course of history.

The impact and legacy of the Battle of the Trench under Prophet Muhammad's leadership extend far beyond its immediate historical context. It left enduring lessons in strategic military thinking, ethical warfare, diplomatic negotiation, and transformative leadership, influencing generations across various spheres of life.

Undoubtedly, the Battle of Trench, led by Prophet Muhammad himself, was one of the greatest and most decisive battles that happened in the early Muslim world. This battle put Muslims in a situation that never happened before. The companions still felt comfortable expressing their ideas, but they had already learned from the Battle of Uhud that Prophet Muhammad should make the final decision (saw).

This battle used a new strategy approach and the defensive line that involved psychological warfare. This battle proves the prophets were given the characteristics of great leaders by Allah (swt). From the Battle of the Trench, we can take some lessons about the characteristics of the prophet Muhammad (saw) demonstrated. These are:

- *As a leader, prophet Muhammad (saw) was the calmest person when they knew 10,000 people gathered and wanted to finish them.*
- *As a leader, prophet Muhammad (saw) had enough courage and intelligence to face this calamity.*
- *As a leader, prophet Muhammad (saw) was open to the forum discussion, like with the new idea raised, and tried to encourage others to participate.*
- *As a leader, prophet Muhammad (saw) actively participated in making the idea successful. He*

participated in digging the trench, carrying and lifting stones, and other preparations.

- As a leader, Prophet Muhammad (saw) was the one who tried to manage the situation. When the situation is full of stress and fear, he asks his companion to gather and pray in the night so it can fill their emotions with hope and courage.
- As a leader, prophet Muhammad (saw) tried to resolve the situation through psychological warfare to make the enemy doubt their trust in each other and exhaust the tense and unfriendly weather.
- As a leader, prophet Muhammad (saw) made sure the committed one got rewarded, and the one that did not commit in a war situation or a public affair faced the consequences. This is what happens with the betrayal of Bani Quraiza.

The analysis of the Battle of the Trench and the leadership of Prophet Muhammad offers profound insights into the art of leadership and strategy under extreme adversity. This historical episode transcends its immediate context, providing enduring lessons for a wide range of disciplines and endeavours.

#### 4. Conclusions

Muhammad's leadership during the Battle of the Trench was characterized by innovative thinking, inclusivity, ethical integrity, and a deep understanding of human psychology. His ability to adopt a defensive strategy that was unconventional in Arabian warfare not only changed the course of the battle but also demonstrated the power of adaptability and creative thinking in leadership. The trench, a simple yet effective defensive tool, became a symbol of the strategic acumen that can emerge

from diverse and inclusive decision-making processes.

The battle also highlighted the importance of ethical conduct and moral leadership. Muhammad's insistence on upholding ethical standards in warfare set a precedent that has resonated through centuries. This aspect of his leadership underscores the significance of maintaining moral integrity, even in the most challenging circumstances, a lesson that remains relevant in contemporary leadership and conflict resolution.

Furthermore, the unity and resilience displayed by the Muslim community under Muhammad's leadership during the siege were instrumental in their survival and eventual triumph. This episode serves as a powerful example of how strong, empathetic, and inspirational leadership can galvanize a group, fostering solidarity and a shared sense of purpose in the face of overwhelming odds.

In contemporary times, the lessons from the Battle of the Trench and Muhammad's leadership resonate beyond religious or historical boundaries. They offer valuable insights into strategic planning, crisis management, team building, and ethical leadership. Leaders across various sectors can draw inspiration from Muhammad's approach to facing seemingly insurmountable challenges with ingenuity, integrity, and inclusivity (Abbas, 2012; Beekun, 2012; Kurniawan & Afifi, 2023).

In conclusion, the Battle of the Trench remains a seminal event in Islamic history, not just for its military significance but for the profound leadership lessons it imparts. Prophet Muhammad's role in this battle exemplifies a multifaceted leadership approach that is as applicable in the modern world as it was in the 7th century. It reminds us that true leadership is about vision, adaptability, ethical conduct, and the ability to unite and inspire people towards a common goal, principles that stand the test of time.

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