

THE BEST LEADER IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND OR THE STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP OF PROPHET MOHAMMAD PBUH

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Abstract

This article explores the concept of leadership through an analysis of historical figures and their impact on humanity. It delves into various definitions of leadership, emphasizing its role in guiding others towards specific objectives across different domains. Drawing from renowned leaders throughout history, including Alexander the Great and Nelson Mandela, the article highlights the exceptional influence of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as recognized by scholars such as Michael H. Hart and John William Draper. It argues that Prophet Muhammad's unparalleled success in both secular and religious realms solidifies his status as the greatest leader of all time. The article further examines his remarkable achievements, portraying him as a leader who governed with divine authority while embodying humility and simplicity. Through an exploration of Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) profound impact on humanity, the article underscores the essence of effective leadership in influencing and accomplishing monumental goals.

Keywords

Leadership, guiding others, specific actions, objectives, admiration, influence, remarkable goals, renowned leaders, Prophet Muhammad PBUH, extraordinary leadership qualities.

INTRODUCTION

Leadership is primarily about guiding others to take specific actions to reach particular objectives. Various definitions of leadership were referenced to clarify this idea. While previous articles mainly centered on leaders within organizations, it's important to note that leadership isn't limited to the business realm. Leaders are found across various domains such as business, politics, and religion. A common trait among exceptional leaders in these realms is their ability to garner admiration and followership, leveraging their influence to accomplish remarkable goals.

Throughout history, the world has witnessed numerous renowned leaders. Among them are Alexander the Great, Martin Luther King, Peter the Great, Napoleon Bonaparte, Cyrus the Great, Nelson Mandela, George Washington, Mao

Zedong, Julius Caesar, and Justinian. There have also been notable Muslim leaders such as Hazrat Umer Farooq, Hazrat Ali, Ertugral Ghazi, Hazrat Ameer Mawvia, Sultan Salahuddin Ayubi, and Mohammad Ali Jinnah. All of them left significant marks as leaders. However, determining the greatest leader of all time requires an analysis of who exerted the most influence on the world and achieved exceptional results. Undoubtedly, this title belongs to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), a fact recognized not only by Muslims but also by impartial non-Muslim individuals like John William Draper, as mentioned earlier in this article. In the subsequent discussion, I will delve into Prophet Muhammad's remarkable achievements and profound influence, supported by quotes from various eminent figures.

Michael H. Hart, an American author renowned for his work "THE 100," conducted extensive research to identify the top 100 individuals who have significantly impacted humanity. After years of study, he placed Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) at the forefront of this list. Hart's decision might surprise some and face scrutiny from others, but he asserts that Muhammad stands out as the most influential figure in history due to his unparalleled success in both secular and religious domains. Hart emphasizes Muhammad's unique ability to exert influence on both fronts, making him unparalleled in human history.

In the same vein, I previously cited John William Draper, who stated that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was "... the man who, of all men, has exercised the greatest influence upon the human race." Thus, it's widely accepted that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) wielded unparalleled influence over humanity, indicating his status as the greatest leader of all time. Since leadership fundamentally involves influencing and accomplishing goals, Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) profound impact underscores his exceptional leadership.

While a comprehensive exploration of Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) accomplishments could fill volumes, I will endeavor to provide a concise summary in this brief article. As emphasized by Michael H. Hart, Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) significant influence extended beyond religious matters to encompass worldly affairs, a fact recognized by both Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

For instance, Reverend Bosworth Smith, an American bishop, eloquently depicted Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a leader who simultaneously held the positions of head of state and head of the Church. He embodied

characteristics of both Caesar and Pope, yet without the ostentatious airs associated with these roles. Despite wielding immense authority, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) governed with a divine right, possessing all necessary powers without relying on external support. His simplicity in private life mirrored his modesty in public affairs, illustrating his extraordinary leadership qualities.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME

Alphonse de LaMartaine, a French historian and statesman, asserts in his book that when considering the criteria of great purpose, limited means, and remarkable results, no figure in history can compare to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

While numerous revolutions throughout history have brought about changes in specific areas of human activity, such as the political upheaval of the French Revolution or the primarily economic focus of the Bolshevik Revolution in the USSR, the revolution initiated by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was unparalleled in its scope. It encompassed all aspects of human existence, including beliefs, worship practices, rituals, social norms, economic activities, and political affairs. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) exerted profound influence across these domains, preaching a religion, establishing a state, forming a nation, instituting a moral code, and implementing numerous social and political reforms.

In just 23 years of his prophethood, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) completely transformed the Arabian Peninsula. He shifted its society from paganism to the submission to One True God, resolved tribal conflicts to foster national unity, replaced disorder and debauchery with disciplined living, and elevated moral standards from destitution to the highest levels of excellence.

From its origins in the Arabian Peninsula, Islam swiftly gained momentum and spread across various regions. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) himself laid the foundation of Islam in the Arabian Peninsula and then expanded its reach internationally by correspondences with leaders of powerful empires, such as the Persian and Byzantine Empires. He entrusted his mission to his followers, many of whom emerged as influential leaders. Within fifty years of the Prophet's passing, Islam had reached three continents.

The essence of this message was succinctly expressed by one of the Prophet's companions before Rustum, the Persian Commander-in-Chief: "... We have come to liberate you from the servitude of humans and guide you towards the servitude of the Lord of humanity (Allah), from the oppression of false systems to the justice of Islam, and from the limited confines of this world to the boundless expanse of the hereafter."

Islam's expansion was not enforced but rather propagated through the appeal of the religion itself. Despite vast conquests by Muslim armies, the acceptance of Islam was not coerced, as emphasized by the Quranic principle: "Let there be no compulsion in religion." Consequently, many individuals chose to remain adherents of other faiths, and diverse religious communities coexist in Muslim lands to this day.

Islam's dissemination extended beyond its early miraculous expansion outside Arabia. Peaceful conversion to Islam occurred among the Turks, the people of the Indian subcontinent, and Malay-speaking regions. In Africa, Islam continued to spread even during the era of European colonial dominance. Presently, Islam remains the world's fastest-growing religion.

CONCLUSION

The teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) introduced numerous valuable concepts to the world, including the pursuit of knowledge, the recognition of women's rights, anti-racism, democratic principles, fair wealth distribution, and the idea of a welfare state. Thomas Carlyle, a Scottish writer and historian, pays homage to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) by highlighting his remarkable ability to unify disparate tribes and nomadic Bedouins into a strong and civilized nation within a short span of less than two decades. Carlyle acknowledges Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) pivotal role in igniting enlightenment throughout the world, as ordained by the Creator.

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