

STUDY AREA V: HAZRAT UMER FAROOQ (R.A)

ELECTION AS A CALIPH:

- 1 Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) discussed Hazrat Umer (R.A)'s nomination with Hazrat Abdur Rehman (R.A) bin Auf and Hazrat Talha (R.A).
- 2 They both accepted Hazrat Umer (R.A)'s abilities but expressed concerns about his strict behaviour.
- 3 Further Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) discussed with Hazrat Uthman (R.A) and asked him to write his will for Hazrat Umer (R.A).
- 4 Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A)'s final words to the people regarding the nomination of Hazrat Umer (R.A);
"I have not nominated any of my relatives but Hazrat Umer (R.A), whom I believe the best amongst you. Do you endorse my nomination?"
- 5 People did so.

INTRODUCTION TO HAZRAT UMER (R.A)

Valiant in battle, wise in counsel, elegant in speech, true to his friends, magnanimous to his foes, Hazrat Umer (R.A) was the paragon of Muslim nobility and the chivalry of Arab tradition. He was not only a good soldier but also great administrator. As a person he was humane in his conduct, forbearing and pious in manners and was endowed with so intellectual powers that his predecessors had consulted in matters of Islamic jurisprudence and other administrative affairs of the empire. As a great administrator, he paid special attention to the financial, administrative, and judicial institutions so that good management, tax system, and justice could be ensured throughout his empire. Hazrat Umer (R.A) owned, as we are told, one shirt and one mantle only both conspicuous for their patchwork, slept on a bed of palm leaves, and had no concern other than the maintenance of the purity of the faith, the upholding of justice, and the ascendancy and the security of Islam and the Muslims.

- 6 NAME: UMER BIN KHATAB (R.A)
- 7 TITLE: FAROOQUE
- 8 TRIBE: BANU ADI
- 9 PERIOD OF CALIPHATE: 13 A.H – 23 A.H (634 A.D – 644)

EXPANSION OF MUSLIM EMPIRE DURING THE CALIPHATE OF HAZRAT ABU BAKR (R.A) AND HAZRAT UMER (R.A):

CONQUESTS IN SASSINID EMPIRE (IRAN & IRAQ):

- 1 **QUEEN AZARMIR DAKHT** was the Sassanid/Persian empress when conflict started between Muslims and the Sassanids.
- 2 Initially the conflict started between the border Arab tribe, WAIL and the Iraqis.
- 3 Masna, tribal chief of wail tribe, requested Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) for military assistance to invade Iraq.
- 4 Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) dispatched army under the command of Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed.
- 5 When Khalid reached the border area, Masna accepted him as the commander-in-chief and organized Muslim army under Khalid's command.

6 Then there came the 'Battle of chains'.

1. BATTLE OF CHAINS.

7 It took place in 633 A.D

8 Hormuz was the Persian governor of Iraq.

9 Khalid wrote to Hormuz;

10 Hormuz forwarded the letter to the Persian empress and himself came out to face Khalid.

11 At the end, Khalid stood victorious in the 'Battle of chains'.

2. BATTLE OF WALAJA

12 It took place April; 633.

13 Persian army came under the command of Andarz gard.

14 It ended up with Khalid's victory.

3. THE CONQUEST OF HIRA

15 The people of Hira signed treaty with Khalid and offered to pay one lac and ninety thousand darhams as jizya.

4. THE BATTLE OF FIRAZ

16 The place firaz was a crossroads for Iran, Iraq and Hira.

17 Thus Iranians, Romans and Hirites jointly launched a defense of strategic point of firaz against Khalid's attack.

18 Finally, Khalid won.

19 After victory at firaz, Khalid left for Hajj and when returned, Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) sent him to Syrian invasion.

Note: Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) passed away while the Sassanid invasion by Muslims reached at this point. From now on, the conquests will be recorded in the caliphate of Hazrat Umer (R.A).

6. BATTLE OF BUYAB

30 This time Masna was to face the Persian commander, Mehran.

31 Once again Euphrates, hurdled between two armies.

32 This time Mehran was asked to cross the river.

33 Despite being wounded, Masna fought courageously and stood victorious.

7. BATTLE OF QADISIYA

40 It took place on May 30; 637 A.D (Muharam 14th A.H)

41 Rustam came with 1,20,000 (One lac twenty thousand) soldiers.

42 Hazrat Sa'ad had an army of 30,000 (thirty thousand) Muslims.

43 The battle lasted three days and four nights.

DAY – ONE: IRANIAN came with elephants and damaged Muslims a great deal.

DAY- TWO: Muslims covered their camels in black cloth which frightened the Iranian horses and remained dominant.

DAY – THREE: Muslims attacked courageously. Fight went on all night. Muslims virtually conquered.

DAY – FOUR: Rustam himself entered to fight but was killed. Sa’ad stood victorious.

9. BATTLE OF NAHWAND

48 Yazd Gard made final ditch effort to recover the Empire from Muslims and sent Mardan Shah with one lac fifty thousand (1,50,000) army.

49 Hazrat Umer (R.A) desired to lead army himself but once again Majlis-e-Shura did not permit.

50 Hazrat Nouman bin Makran, was appointed commander-in-chief of Muslim army.

51 Muslims ended up with victory.

52 After this battle, general expedition took place and the whole of Sassanid Empire fell to Muslims.

1. BATTLE OF AJNAHDAIN

57 It took place on July 30; 634 A.D

58 Muslim strength 40,000.

59 Christian strength 100,000 plus.

60 Muslim commander Khalid bin Waleed.

61 Christian commander Theodrus, emperor’s brother.

62 Khalid stood victorious and Theodrus fled away.

63 The news of the victory at Ajnahdain reached Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A) on his death bed.

3. BATTLE OF YARMOK

70 It took place on August 20; 636 A.D

71 It was the decisive battle in the Syrian land.

72 Byzantine commander Theodrus came with one lac plus troops.

73 Hazrat Khalid had thirty thousand Mujahideen.

74 Byzantine army despite greater in number was divided and parted in racial and geographical terms.

75 Secondly, they were strange to the adverse climate of the desert.

76 The Arabs were extremely united under the command of Hazrat Khalid.

77 They were also fighting on home ground as desert and its climate were never new to them.

78 Almost one lac of the Christian soldiers were put under the sword by Muslims.

79 After the ‘battle of Yarmok’ there was no formidable resistance for the Muslims in the Syrian land.

“*Syria is as calm as a camel.*” Khalid wrote to the Caliph.

80 After this battle, Hazrat Umer (R.A) dismissed Khalid from the commandership of Muslim army and appointed Abu Ubaida Al Jarah as new supreme commander of Muslim army.

81 Abu Ubaida divided his army such as;

i. Shurabil sent to Jordan.

ii. Yazid sent to Lebanon.

iii. Amr bin A’as to Palestine and Jerusalem.

iv. Abu Ubaida himself captured Damascus.

4. CAPTURE OF JERUSALEM

82 Amr approached Jerusalem.

83 Byzantine commander Artubun came out for fight.

84 After facing the Muslim resistance, Artubun offered to surrender the city but demanded that the Muslim caliph should himself come to receive the keys of the city.

85 Hazrat Umer (R.A) reached Jerusalem on camel with his slave.

86 The treaty was signed between Hazrat Umer (R.A) and people of Jerusalem.

87 After this, Umer (R.A) was reluctant to launch any further invasion.

ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT/REFORMS OF HAZRAT UMER (R.A)

1. MAJLIS-E-SHURA

104 Hazrat Umer (R.A) was a born democrat.

105 After becoming caliph he constituted Majlis-e-Shura which was prime decision making body of the Islamic Republic.

106 It was composed of the most important sahaba and think tanks of Islam.

107 Every important decision was referred to the Majlis.

108 If it could not draw consensus, it was referred to the public.

109 The will of the majority would prevail.

110 At the time of the battle of Qadisiyah and Nahwand, Hazrat Umer (R.A) decided to lead the army himself, but the Majlis did not permit.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF THE EMPIRE

111 He divided the country into eleven provinces.

112 Each was headed by governor called 'Wali'.

113 A collector, a treasurer, a Qazi, an army commander, a police officer, a head of accounts were also appointed in each province.

114 Each province was further divided into districts.

115 Each district had its own administrative officer, treasurer and a judge.

3. SELECTION, POWERS AND DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATOR

116 Hazrat Umer (R.A) was very meticulous in selection of administrators.

117 He would consult with Majlis-e-Shura, and selected the best suited person.

118 Each officer before taking his charge was given a list of his powers and duties.

119 Those conditions were also read to the people whom he had to govern.

120 All his belongings were listed before he left Madinah and were also checked on his return.

4. JUDICIAL SYSTEM

121 Hazrat Umer (R.A)'s justice was proverbial.

122 Nobody was above law before him.

123 The judicial department was called 'Quza'.

124Each district had its own court headed by a Qazi.

125Only the richest and most pious people would be appointed as Qazi so that no corruption and influence should work.

5. POLICE AND PRISON HOUSES

126Hazrat Umer (R.A) laid down the foundation of Police department.

127He also started the system of night watchman.

128He first time introduced the system of prison houses.

129He amended the punishments.

6. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

130Hazrat Umer (R.A) formally established the finance department.

131The finances obtained from the conquered were administered by Dewan.

132Sources of finances were Jazya (Poll tax), and Khiraj (land tax).

7. BAIT UL MAAL

133Hazrat Umer (R.A) established Baitul Maal in each province and one in central capital also.

134The provincial baitul maal would pay for the expenditures and surplus was sent to central baitul maal in Madinah.

8. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

135It was a separate department. Thousands of labourers were employed by this department.

136One lac only in Egypt.

137They were busy in construction of waiting houses, roads, bridges, inns, water canals etc.

9. EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

138Hazrat Umer (R.A) was keenly interested in educating the masses.

139Mosques served as schools. Teachers were paid salaries by the government.

140Hazrat Umer (R.A)'s chief achievements in education are;

- i) Initiating Islamic Hijrah Calendar.
- ii) Islamic coinage
- iii) Systematizing Arabic alphabets.

10. Military Reforms

141Hazrat Umer (R.A) was the pioneer of military administration.

142He got the names and ranks of soldiers registered.

143Salaries were paid according to the respective ranks.

DIVISION OF ARMY

144Hazrat Umer (R.A) divided his army into two parts.

- i) Regular Army; It continued fighting.
- ii) Reserved Army; It was summoned when needed.

COMPOSITION OF ARMY

- i) Cavalry; they fought on horses and camels.
- ii) Infantry; they fought on foot.

MILITARY CODE

- Hazrat Umer (R.A) gave a code of conduct for regular army.
- The regular army was not supposed to remain away from homes more than four months.

CONSTRUCTION OF CANTONMENTS

- 1 Hazrat Umer (R.A) first time constructed cantonments, barracks, stables, pastures for the facilitation of army.
- 2 Four main cantonments were at Kufa, Basra, Ramala, Fustat.

CHARACTER/ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAZRAT UMER (R.A)

“Umer’s life requires but a few lines to sketch; simplicity and duty were the guiding principles of his life; impartiality and devotion, the leading features of his administration.”

William Muir.

“He was best suited to rule over the wild sons of the desert and other unruly elements which threatened to disrupt the national unity and cohesion.”

Muhammad Arshad.

“Umer has been ranked higher than such men as ceaser etc. The reason is that the conquests made by Arabs under Umer, taking into account both size and their duration, are substantially more important than those of either Caesar or Charlemagne.”

Micheal H. Hart, in his book, THE HUNDRED.

1. Pious and dutiful
2. A born democrat
3. Humble and simple
4. Master administrator
5. Paragon of Justice
6. Unparalleled conqueror
7. Stern and strict ruler
8. Humanitarian
9. Hardworking and diligent
10. Bold, Brave and determined

Achievements of Hazrat Umar r.a.

In this area Umar would excel as no other for many reasons some of which are that in his time the state would be stable. He dealt with many matters quickly and before they would rise to cause. It was also the sharpness of his personality and austerity that quelled many of the troubles that would appear to his successors. Here is some of his major achievements in list form.

1. Establishment of Public Treasury
2. Establishments of courts of Justice and appointment of Judges
3. Placing the reserve army on the state’s Payroll and organization of the War department

4. Establishment of Postal service
5. Establishment of the Land Revenue department
6. Survey and assessment of lands
7. Public census
8. Punishment of those who practice Monopoly by exile to different lands
9. Establishment of and use of Jails
10. Building of Canals and Bridges
11. First to use the Whip
12. Establishment of Public Rest Areas, hostels and Wudu (Ablution) Stations
13. Fixing the date to the Start of the Migration of the Messenger
14. Dividing the state and the conquered territories into provinces
15. Founding of new cities (al-Amsar) such as Kufah, Basarah and Fustat
16. Zakat on Produce of the sea, such as fish, Lobster, shrimp etc., and appointment of a responsible official.
17. Use of secret reports and specially designated emissaries to provide first reports as what is really going on in different provinces
18. Salary for Imams, Muadhans (Callers to prayer) teachers and public lectures.
19. Stipends for the poor among the Jews and Christians who lived in conquered lands.
20. Punishment for drunkenness, written satires and lampoons.
21. Establishment of Guilds for certain trades.
22. Prohibition of the mention of women's names in poetry.
23. Holding tarawih (Ramadan night prayers) in congregation, before his time it was done individually.
24. Providing lighting in the Mosques at night
25. Persuading Abu Bakr to collect the Qur'an in one book.
26. Establishment of Military bases at strategic points in the different provinces.
27. Establishment of the Police department
28. Personally making nightly rounds to check on the condition of the people first hand.
29. Formulation of the Principal of Qiyas (Analogical Reasoning.) for determining rulings on newly encountered matters in Fiqh (Jurisprudence.)
30. Establishment of a more exact system of calculation of the inheritance.
31. Limiting the relationship between Muslims and Non-Muslims
32. Establishing a stable for the lost camels
33. State intervention to control the price of merchandise
34. First to enlarge the al-Haram (the Sacred Mosque) at Mecca. First to place a cover on the Kaaba
35. Discovered the place of Isra, Ascension of the Messenger to heavens at Jerusalem