

Mu'awiya bin. Abi Sufyan and His Achievement To Develop Umayyad Khilafat**Dr Mohammad Salman Khan****Associate Professor****Department Of Arab Culture,****Mumtaz P G College****Lucknow**drsalmannadwi@gmail.com**(Received:20October2023/Revised:1November2023/Accepted:25November2023/Published:30November2023)****Abstract**

In this research article, an attempt has been made to highlight the contribution of the great Caliph of Islam and Founder of Caliphate Hazrat Ameer Mu'awiah (R), Hazrat Muawiyah bin Abi-Sufyan was born in Macca to Abu Sufyan ibn Harb and Hind bint Utbah (602 CE) into the Banu Umayya sub-clan of the Banu Abd-Shams clan of the Quraysh tribe. He was one of the companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). His religious and political contributions possess very prominent place in the history of Islam. In the historical period of Hazrat Ameer Mu'awiah (R) there was a tremendous increase in the treasure of Bait-ul-Mall. The Bayt al-mal ran under the Rashidun caliphate in the 7th century and that continued through the Umayyad period. In his period the boundaries of Islamic state experienced a vast expansion of conquered territories. Due to his administrative capabilities, the Islamic state was strengthened, especially, economically. In this article government revenues like Zakat, Usher, Jizyah, Kharaj, Darieb, and other miscellaneous sources of revenues and different agriculture reforms executed during his reign have been discussed. His justice and leadership was recognized not only by his Muslim subjects, but by non-Muslims living under his rule as well. The 7th century Nestorian Christian writer John bar Penkaye recorded. He established a highly-trained army of Syrian soldiers which was used to expand Muslim authority east into Khorasan and west into North Africa. Muawiyah also led expeditions into Anatolia beginning in 672 C.E which resulted in an unsuccessful three-year seige of Constantinople (674-677 C.E).

Keywords: Caliph of Islam, Administrative Capabilities, Umayyad Khilafat

Muawiyah I was the founder of the Umayyad Caliphate and also its first caliph. He and his father, Abu Sufyan, had opposed Prophet Muhammad, who was their distant Qurayshite kinsman. They captured Mecca in 630 AD after which Muawiyah became one of the Muhammad's scribes. He reigned from 661 AD to 680 AD and his full name was Muawiyah ibn

Abu Sufyan. Caliph Abu Bakr appointed him for the conquest of Syria. He gradually climbed the ladder until he became the governor of Syrian under Uthman. After Uthman was assassinated, he took upon himself to avenge Uthman's death and oppose his successor, Ali. During the 'first Muslim Civil War,' their armies reached a stalemate in the 'Battle of Siffin,' and the war was settled through arbitration and Muawiyah was recognised as caliph. His ally, Amr ibn al-As, helped them conquer Egypt in 658 AD. He was known as a man of rare virtues. He was conscientious about justice and was fair to people of all sects. He was honourable towards people who possessed talent and helped them advance these talents, irrespective of their religion. He also showed great self-control toward ignorant men and generosity toward lesser beings. He was considered to be a balanced and just ruler. According to Abdullah ibn Abbas, there was no man better suited to rule than Muawiyah.

Childhood & Early Life

It is believed that Muawiyah was born in 602 AD, though many Muslim traditional sources cite his birth year as 597, 603 or 605 AD. His father, Abu Sufyan ibn Harb, was a renowned Meccan merchant who had led trade expeditions to Syria. He emerged as an important leader of the Banu Abd Shams tribe of the Quraysh during the early stages of its struggle with Prophet Muhammad. His mother was also a member of the same clan.

He did not become a Muslim until Muhammad conquered Mecca and reunited his former enemies with gifts. It is believed that due to Muhammad's efforts at reconciliation, Muawiyah was appointed a scribe in his service. His contributions to Islamic history, however, is entirely credited to his career in Syria, which started soon after the death of Prophet Muhammad.

After the death of his brother, he was appointed governor of Damascus by caliph Umar. By 647 AD, he had built a strong Syrian tribal army to oppose any Byzantine attack. In the coming years, he was also able to oppose the Byzantines in several movements that occurred in the capture of Cyprus, Rhodes and the coast of Lycia in Anatolia where he defeated the Byzantine navy.

Personal Life & Legacy

To secure his stronghold in Syria, he forged alliances with the Kalb's ruling house, the clan of Bahdal ibn Unayf by marrying the latter's daughter Maysun in 650 AD. He also wedded Maysun's paternal cousin Naila bint Umara for a brief period. He died in Damascus of an illness in April-May 680. He was buried next to the Bab al-Saghir gate of Damascus and his funeral

prayers were conducted by al-Dahhak ibn Qays. His grave became an important site for visitors as late as the 10th century. A mausoleum was also built over his grave and was open to visitors on Mondays and Thursdays. He is considered to one of the few decisive caliphs in Islamic history. He has remained a subject of lavish praise in Arabic literature as an ideal king. He was the driving force of all Muslim efforts against the Byzantines. He is also credited with the beautification of the Damascus city where he developed a court that rivalled that of Constantinople.

The Importance Of The Umayyad Period And Its Place In Islamic History

The period 661–750 AD was a crucial one for the history of Islam and the Middle East. The territories conquered by the Muslims in the Middle East, north Africa and Spain were ruled from Syria by a succession of caliphs belonging to the Umayyad family, the first caliphal dynasty to emerge in the history of Islam. Under their rule the region began a process of transformation which eventually led to the emergence of Islam, both as a religion and as a culture, in its classical form.

Mu'awiya were put in command of some of the raiding forces sent to Syria after the Prophet's death. When Syria eventually fell to the Arabs following the battle of Yarmuk in 636 and its Byzantine rulers were driven out, Yazid, the son of Abu Sufyan, became its second governor and, when he died soon afterwards, he was succeeded by his brother Mu'awiya in 639. It was from this position as governor of Syria that Mu'awiya, some fifteen years later, was to launch the campaign which brought him to the caliphate. .

He began his political career completely accidentally. He came as part of the Muslim army to Sham. However, a plague hit the region and in quick succession killed the governor Abu Ubaidah ibn al-Jarrah and his successor, Yazid ibn Abi Sufyan. Muawiyah (ra), Yazid's brother, with zero experience, found himself governor of a region that had just been conquered. Sham bordered the Roman Empire and was under constant threat from that area. Muawiyah (ra) oversaw the formation and training of the Syrian army to become the most powerful military force of the Islamic state. He convinced 'Uthman (ra) to allow the creation of the first Muslim navy and led the navy to conquer Cyprus. As the hadith in Bukhari state: "*Paradise is granted to the first batch of my followers who will undertake a naval expedition.*" He sent out the first Muslim expedition to strike against Constantinople, the heart of the Byzantine empire. In another hadith, the Prophet said the first army to wage Jihaad against Constantinople is forgiven.

Internally, he oversaw the establishment of a postal service and imported the existent Byzantine bureaucracy in order to effectively administer his land.

In al-Bidayah wan-Nihayah, commenting on the Year of Unity, Ibn Kathir writes:

“All the Muslims unanimously agreed to swear allegiance to Mu’awiyah in 41 AH, and he remained in charge throughout this period until the year in which he died. Throughout this period Jihaad was ongoing in the lands of the enemies, and the Word of Allaah remained supreme, and booty was coming to him from the ends of the earth; the Muslims were at ease, enjoying justice, tolerance, and goodwill. He was forbearing, dignified, a leader, prominent among people, noble, just, and a man of chivalry. He was a man of good conduct, forgiving, tolerant and overlooking the mistakes of others – may Allaah have mercy upon him.”

The famous muhaddith and ascetic, Abdullah ibn Mubarak was once asked who was better, ‘Umar ibn Abdul Aziz or Muawiyah (ra)? He responded that the dust from the hooves of the horse of Muawiyah (ra) was better than ‘Umar ibn Abdul Aziz and everything he did. His justice and leadership was recognized not only by his Muslim subjects, but by non-Muslims living under his rule as well. The 7th century Nestorian Christian writer John bar Penkaye recorded:

‘the peace throughout the world was such that we have never heard, either from our fathers or from our grandparents, or seen that there had ever been any like it’”

With that said, he was obviously not of the level of the 10 Promised Paradise but he is still a respected sahabi. He was a katib al-wahi, a scribe of the Qur’an. He had political differences with Ali (ra) but always acknowledged that Ali (ra) was superior to him. His dispute with Ali (ra) was over how to handle the matter of the murder of ‘Uthman. Ali (ra) himself said, after the Battle of Siffin:

O people, do not hate or talk ill of the leadership of Mu’awiyah, for if you were to lose him it would be such a tragedy as if you would see your limbs falling from your bodies.

Muawiyya (ra), whatever differences he had with Ali (ra), proved himself a very able ruler. He is referred to as “Uncle of the Believers” because his sister Ramlah bint Abi Sufyan was one of the Mothers of the Believers. The Prophet ﷺ made du’a for him and said, “O Allah guide him and guide people by him.” Muawiyah (ra) ruled Sham for 20 years and the entire Muslim ummah for 20 years. 40 years of leadership during which he proved himself to be one of the most able leaders in our entire history. He was asked once how he was able to maintain such a ruler and he

replied, “I never used my sword when my whip would suffice and never used my whip when my tongue would suffice.”

Mu‘awiya’s Acquisition Of The Caliphate

Mu‘awiya became caliph and founder of the Umayyad dynasty as a result of the events of a period of about five years, between 656 and 661, during which the Arabs were divided into several camps each hostile to the others. These internal hostilities led on a number of occasions to the outbreak of fighting among the recent conquerors of the heartlands of the Middle East. Muslim tradition knows this period as the *Fitna* (‘time of trial’), or Great *Fitna* to distinguish it from other, later periods of internecine conflict between Muslims. Modern writers usually refer to it as the first civil war of Islam. The *Fitna* came to be seen as a period of crucial importance and as the end of something like a Golden Age in the history of Islam: not only did it give rise to the Umayyad caliphate, it is traditionally regarded as the time when the three major Muslim sects—Sunnis, Shi‘ites and Kharijites—emerged from what had previously been a united community.

Muawiyah is credited with the creation of specialized bureaus, known as diwans, to increase the centralization of the government. They included; Diwan al-Kharaj (the Board of Revenue), Diwan al-Rasa'il (the Board of Correspondence), Diwan al-Khatam (the Board of Registry), Diwan al-Bard (the Board of Postal services), Diwan al-Qudat (the Board of Justice) and Diwan al-Jund (the Military Board). The capital of the Muslim empire was transferred from Makkah and Madina to Damascus.

He established a highly-trained army of Syrian soldiers which was used to expand Muslim authority east into Khorasan and west into North Africa. Muawiyah also led expeditions into Anatolia beginning in 672 C.E which resulted in an unsuccessful three-year siege of Constantinople (674-677 C.E). He retained the administrative structures left by the Byzantines and Persians but consolidated his authority by appointing kinsmen to key posts. He constructed a gigantic palace called the Green Palace of Damascus.

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