

Diplomatic Strategies of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique: A Historical and Analytical Study

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Abstract

Islamic world can never deny the special services of Hazrat Abu Baker Siddique (R.A). He left great impact on history of Islam especially in foreign policies. His life is a beacon for us. When he became a caliph, after the death of Hazrat Mohammad (S.A.W), The Muslim Ummah was facing very critical situation. He handled their entire situation wisely and patiently. He adopted same clear policies and give punishment to Muasailma Kazab. Muslim world can never pay tribute to Hazrat Abu Baker (R.A) for his great contribution to Islam.

Keywords: Diplomatic activities, conflicts, disagreement, successor, Ambassador

Introduction:

Diplomacy is crucial and necessary for the countries. Its importance cannot be denied. The main aim of diplomacy is to build better relationship among countries and to convey its own policies and viewpoint on different issues of the countries. This is an evident fact that those countries whose diplomatic policies are established on strong foundation they prosper and excel rapidly and those countries that underestimate or ignore its importance they may fail or be subjugated by others. In foreign relations, role of diplomacy is unavoidable.

If we study the history of the nations for the progress and sustainable economic, political, social and cultural ties and relations diplomacy have always played a vital role.

Diplomatic activities come closer the countries and they solve their conflicts with mutual dialogue and discourse. In past Diplomatic institutions were not such strong, consulates and embassies did not have offices in other countries but still diplomacy had indispensable role in politics. Whenever the country needed to have ties with other countries they send their wise and sensible persons as ambassador to solve the issues. Likewise, in present era it is essential to use this tool effectively so that our dispute and disagreement can be resolved.

Since the topic is Diplomacy of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique رضى الله عنه I would like to present his brief introduction.

Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique (R.A)

He is the first to accept Islam, Companion of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ a steadfast and determined person. Prophet ﷺ said about him:

In my ummah the kindest person is Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A¹

Before Islam the name of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A was عبد الكعبه but when he accepted Islam Prophet ﷺ changed his name as ابو بكر. He belonged to Quray'sh and his tribe was بنى تميم بن مره. The name of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A was عبد الله بن عثمان بن عامر بن عمرو بن كعب بن تميم بن مره بن كعب. There are six lineages in his chains; it reached with Prophet ﷺ in مره بن كعب. His nickname was Abu Bakr²

In Arabic language “البكر” which means a young camel. The person who used to have many camels and take care of them well, Arab used to call him “ابو بكر”, his tribe was wealthy and since Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A knew all matters related to camel well therefore, he was famous as ابو بكر in Arabic ابو means having and بكر means first and foremost so the ابو بكر means foremost person. Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A was always ahead in spending his money in the way of Allah SWT and in every good deeds you were the first to serve. ³ عتيق is also the title of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A. Hazrat Abdullah Bin Zubair narrated that His name was عبد الله and Prophet ﷺ said about him “انت عتيق من النار” which means you are free from hellfire⁴

Hazrat Habbshi رضي الله عنه narrated that I heard from prophet ﷺ “يا ابا بكر ان الله قد سماك ”⁵ صدیق O Abu Bakar! Allah SWT has chosen your name as صدیق

Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A has privilege that despite many ethical and social evils prevalent in the society yet he was most pious and noble person. This was the reason that he was respected all around Makkah.

Hazrat Rabiya bin Kaab رضي الله عنه said that acceptance of Islam of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A was like revelation as he went Syria for trade. There he dreamed which he disclosed to ”بحيرا” he asked where you came from? Replied from Makkah, belong to which tribe? Replied Quraish, then he asked what you do. Said, trade then بحيرا said if God turn your dream true then He will raise a prophet and you will be his minister and after his demise you will become his successor.

Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A didn't tell anybody about his dream. When Prophet ﷺ announced His prophethood, Prophet ﷺ presented this event as evidence to him. Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A Hugged Him, Kissed His forehead and proclaimed I bear witness there is no God except Allah and you are his true messenger.

Hazrat Salaiman bin Yasar رضي الله عنه narrated that Prophet ﷺ said good deeds are Three hundred and sixty and when Allah SWT intends to give mercy to somebody

He creates one good feature in Ones Personality by this virtue he enter into the paradise. Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A asked is there any such feature in my character Prophet ﷺ⁶. Replied, yes, you have all these features in your character.

Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A has many services to Islam; professionally he was a successful trader. The wife of Prophet ﷺ was also trader.

Husain Haikal wrote about this that “Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A used to live in the same locality where Hazrat Khadija رضى الله عنه and others renowned traders lived, their trades existed Yemen to Syria. Here he became the fiend of Prophet ﷺ⁷.

The love of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A with prophet ﷺ was unmatched. Hazrat Aisha رضى الله عنها said I always see my parents in ever increasing state of Eman. Everyday Prophet ﷺ used to visit our home. Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A married his beloved daughter Hazrat Aisha رضى الله عنها with Prophet ﷺ in 8th Shawwal.⁸

Who are closer than Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A in friendship with the prophet ﷺ once in His death illness, Prophet ﷺ came and said the servant of Allah SWT opted to be with Allah in the day of judgment, hearing this Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A. Started crying and weeping grievously & said our life and death are for you how come we will be alive after you. Prophet ﷺ ordered to close all doors except the door of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A, pointing towards Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A said I couldn't find better then Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A among my companions. If I became خليل of any one, I must prefer Hazrat Abu Bakar

Siddique R.A as my خليل, our relationship is grounded with brotherhood and Eman. May Allah mingle us together in Aakhrih.

Here I will mention some events regarding the greatness and piety of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A

One the second day of homage of caliphate Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A was going to market having some clothes, Hazrat Umar رضى الله عنه asked where you are going said market for trade. Hazrat Umar رضى الله عنه said now you should leave the trade as you are caliph of all Muslims. Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A replied if I leave this how my family will survive. Hazrat Umar R.A said lets go to Hazrat Ubaidah رضى الله عنه he will decide your honorarium. They both went him Hazrat Ubaidah R.A allocated half meat of goat, dress and bread for him⁹

Hazrat Anas رضى الله عنه narrated that after became caliph Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A lived one year in our neighbor, spend three years before that the girls of our street came with their goats to Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A and Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A always milked their goats. When Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A was appointed as caliph, a girl came to him and asked now you became the

caliph will you not milk our goats as you did before. Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique R.A replied why not? I will do the same.¹⁰

Definition of Ambassador

The root of *سفر* is *س ف ر* and the plurals is *سفرأ* which means clarification and inspiration, travelling is also called *سفر* because with the travelling humans character can be derived and clarified like *الصبح يسفر* morning is lighten up.¹¹

Allama abn –e-Manzoor Afriqi mentioned in *لسان العرب* the *سفير* means to open as the women when open his face it's called in Arabic as: *سفرت المرأة وجهها اذا كشفت النقاب عن وجهها*¹². “Women has opened her face and removed the scarf”.

It is also used when veil lifted from something.

¹³ *سفرت بين القوم اسفر سفارة اى كشفت ما فى قلب هذا لا صلح بينهم*

I made diplomatic relation between the countries *اسفر سفارة* means I have disclosed my hearts so that I can resolve issues between them.

Allama Zubaidi wrote in *تاج العروس* about ¹⁴ *سفير: اما السفير فهو الرسول المصلح بين القوم*

Ambassador is the person who resolves the issues of the countries.

Ambassador has been stated as office of the diplomacy in

¹⁵ *محيط المحيط وظيفة السفير و مقامه فى اصطلاح، ارباب السياسة السفارة*

Ambassador responsibility is to run the office of the diplomacy.

Definition of Ambassador in English is: Ambassador is a minister sent by one sovereign or state on mission to another state.¹⁶

Representative of one state who resides in the capital of other state and has all authority to have communicated with other government.¹⁷

Diplomacy is also an art; “Diplomacy is a science, art, administration and direction of international affairs and it is a profession of different specialized functions aiming to serve on behalf of all persons”¹⁸

Brief history of Diplomacy

History of diplomacy is very old, either the diplomatic relation establishes between two persons or two nations, its geographical location and structure may be changed but diplomacy is always indispensable for the relationship building. In past diplomacy held not such importance, it was a part time responsibility assigned to someone. As soon as those assignments completed, he was relieved from the position such as to resolve the conflict and to made an agreement.

There are two views about diplomacy one is it have always been there and second are started from Bishop of Rome:

Diplomacy has been as an old function its history is reached to the old tribal era and first human communities when they resolved their political issues, set rules and regulations and made different agreements. Its reflection is found in Pharaoh and Ash'oore era and also in China, India, Athens and Roman History. History of near Eastern civilization reveals diplomacy rise in Pharaoh and Mesopotamia civilization. In those days, issues of international relations of Egypt, Syria, Persia and India were structured and executed through diplomacy, conflicts. Disagreement was resolved by the diplomatic efforts.

Early China introduced diplomacy and developed its rules and regulations upon its ideological philosophies. Its main source is Buddhism. Athens also used diplomacy as tools to resolve and solve issues and establish peace. Romans were also aware with the importance of diplomacy but they used power instead of diplomacy. After the roman empire there came Byzantine they were more competent in diplomacy they made dialogue by giving gifts and bribe gained friendship with their neighbors, they used diplomatic observer instead of diplomatic titles for this a very seasoned diplomat was assigned for the tasks. Byzantines were the first established the formal office for their foreign affairs in Constantinople.

One of the view is history of diplomacy emerged from Roman Holy Scc Catholic church and in Italy, the first office was established.¹⁹

Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A as Caliph

Prophet ﷺ used diplomacy efficiently during His period for the prosperity of Islam. After the death of Prophet ﷺ His companion and best friend Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A took charge and fulfilled his duty as successor. In diplomatic affairs Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A did significant services which became the good principles for other Caliphs in later. From the announcement of the prophet hood till the death of Prophet, He showed great love, dedication, courage and always supported Prophet ﷺ. Prophet ﷺ prepared the squad of Usama Bin Zaid رضي الله عنه in His life but due to the internal and external consequences most of the companions had opinions not to send the army immediately, but Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A proclaimed that the squad which Prophet ﷺ Prepared himself should not be delayed. This squad got many achievements and opened the door for the success of Syria.

After the death of prophet ﷺ tribe of خزرج gathered in سقيفة بن ساعدة Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A and all the Muslims were in severe grief and pain at that moment Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A gathered the Muslims in one page and said:

ايها الناس من كان يعبد محمدًا فان محمدًا قد مات ومن كان يعبد الله فان الله حي لا يموت.

“O people! Those who worshiped Muhammad ﷺ should listen that He has passed away and those who worship Allah SWT He is alive, everlasting.

Then recited this verse:

وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ أَفَإِنْ مَاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ انْقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَى أَعْقَابِكُمْ وَمَنْ يَنْقَلِبْ عَلَى عَقْبَيْهِ فَلَنْ يَضُرَّ اللَّهَ شَيْئًا وَسَيَجْزِي اللَّهُ الشَّاكِرِينَ²⁰

“Muhammad is not but a messenger. [Other] messengers have passed on before him. So if he was to die or be killed, would you turn back on your heels [to unbelief]? And he who turns back on his heels will never harm Allah at all; but Allah will reward the grateful.

Apostasy Campaigns, Politics & Leadership of Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A after taking charge of khilifah Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A had to face many challenges but among these, apostasy was big issue. It is a fact of history that when the ruler faces resistance from opponent forces, they usually crush these elements. But Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A dealt with them wisely and carefully. He wrote letters to مرتدین & invited them to come to Islam again. In the beginning of the letter, he praised Allah SWT and then mentioned prophet hood of Prophet ﷺ and reminded them that Prophet ﷺ performed his responsibilities effectively and returned to Allah SWT. Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A also wrote this verse:²¹ إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ مَّيِّتُونَ Indeed, you are to die, and indeed, they are to die.

The purpose to mention these verses were to remove the confusion that if Prophet ﷺ is true prophet, he would not die. Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A also wrote:

“I know some of you have reverted due to ignorance and satanic trap after accepting Islam. I am sending to you squad of Ansar and Muhajireen they will not fight with you until and unless convey you the message of Islam. Those who will accept the message and promise to abandon all the activities against Islam he will be forgiven and those who will not accept they will be killed and burnt into fire, their women and children will be seized as prisoners. It is better to accept Islam you cannot stop Allah SWT to implement and enforce His decision. I ordered the messenger to read this letter in congregation ²²Hearing this announcement many مرتدین decided not to fight against Islam. This policy of Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A gave many advantages to Islam. This was the best diplomatic and political strategy.

Diplomatic Contributions of Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A

Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A was competent in foreign affairs and had many skills. For any successful diplomat, it is crucial to know history, geography, trades and economics conditions of that particular region. As Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A belonged to بنی تمیم بن مره before Islam this tribe was engaged in the politics of Mecca and got many significant positions²³

In غزوہ بدر Muslims got success. Strong conviction, belief and love of Prophet ﷺ defeated the non-believers. At this moment Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A through his effective diplomatic strategy gained long lasting outcomes. Quraish asked to Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A

“O Abu Bakr R.A you know among us prisoners some are your relative, some are your brother or uncle. If you persecute us so you will be killing your own relatives.

We request please ask Muhammad ﷺ to release us for the God sake. Have mercy on us or take some taxes”

Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A promised that I will do something for you and went to Prophet ﷺ, convinced Him to release as the war prisoners by taking taxes/fine.

Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A was very much sensible and competent in negotiation and had other required skills for this task.²⁴

Once Hazrat Yazeed Bin abu Sufyan R.A asked ‘O successor of Prophet ﷺ

ما انت بنازل ولا نا براكب انى احتسب خطي هذه فى سبيل الله.

“You will not get down from horse nor I will sit on it, I want to walk in the way of Allah SWT”.²⁵

Another important skill which Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A possessed was Communication, you always attached with prophet ﷺ you could easily recognize the family background of any person you talked or spoke to.²⁶

When Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A sent any ambassador he used to give those detailed instructions. Allama ibn-e-aseer Joozi recorded when Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A sent Hazrat Yazeed Bin abu Sufyan رضى الله عنه to Syria he gave him this instruction:

و اذا قدم عليك رسل عدوك فاکرمهم، و اقلل لبئهم حتى يخرجوا من عسكرک و هم جا هلون به ولا ترينهم فيرو خللك، و يعلموا علمك، و انزلهم فى ژوه عسكرک، و امنع من قلبك من محادثهم، و كن انت المتولى لكلامهم، ولا تجعل سرک لعلانيتک فيخلط امرک²⁷

“When the ambassador of enemies come to you respect them but don’t allow them to sit with your squad so that they knew your weaknesses and don’t allow them to talk with your army. Talk with them in segregation, don’t expose your secrets”.

These are golden advises given to ambassador or to any head of the state.

Political Impact of Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A on diplomacy

Hazrat Abu Bakar R.A started his responsibility as caliph in a challenging environment but with the help of his sensible and long sighted strategy he overcomes all these challenges. With his convincing and impressive personality, he took over مرتدين and those who created problems in Islamic state rightfully. Dr. Mahmood Ahmed Ghazi wrote:

“To implement and execute any policy and strategy successfully, it depends on the person who pursues it. Additionally, if team and companions are not supportive success cannot be achieved. First companion and very reliable friend of prophet ﷺ Hazrat Abu Bakr R.A had many attributes of Prophet ﷺ. Abu Bakr R.A didn’t dismiss any Person from the position whom prophet ﷺ appointed.²⁸

Hazrat Abu Bakr R.A with his vision and long slighness faced all the challenges and thus protected Islam and its mission. His period is a role model for the Islamic rulers and diplomats.

Conclusion:

This is a fact of history that only those nations become successful which have vision and objectives and characters speed up its progress. Hazrat Abu Bakr R.A with his piety, sincerity, vision and commitment took out the ummah in a very difficult time and gathered them in a common platform. It's need of the time that we spread the unity among ummah, resolve our issues mutually, strengthen our relationships and use diplomacy as a tool to come closer.

Now, the world is divided into two blocks Muslims and against Muslims and the worst situation is of Muslims. Present Muslims rulers are responsible for the prevailing situation. Team of Prophet ﷺ was wise, competent, pious and committed but now the condition is outward.

Thus it's required that we study the life of these exemplary persons and devise our diplomatic policy in the light of their philosophies and ideologies. So we should;

- Save and protect the values of Islam
- Spread respect among nations and religions
- Freedom of expression and coordination be established at national and local level
- Welfare activities should be increased
- Political freedom in countries needed
- Rights of Marginalized people be protected at national and International level
- Small and poor countries be supported on priority basis
- Reconciliation and mutual understanding should be increased among countries
- Foreign policies should be added as curriculum at local and International level.

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