The Prophet (peace be on him)’s Merciful Reforms in the Conduct of War

The Prohibited Acts

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Abstract

This paper argues that Islam introduced far reaching merciful reforms to warfare. The conduct of the Prophet (peace be on him) and in compliance with his Sirah, the conduct of his successors do not allow the burning and drowning of enemy to death. Destroying buildings, cutting down trees, committing perfidy, breaching the trust of the enemy, the killing of women, children, servants, old, infirm, sick, wounded, priests, peasants, prisoners of war and envoys are strictly against the practices and teachings of the Prophet (peace be on him) and his successors. The destruction of harvest, livestock and forests, looting, plundering and corruption from the war booty, and indiscipline are prohibited as well. Mutilation of bodies, Genocide and war crimes are gravely abhorred and forbidden by the Prophet (peace be on him). Thus, the Prophet (peace be on him), this paper shows, brought humanity and Merciful Reforms to the conduct of war.

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