

Negative Effects of Wars on Environment

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Summary

Islam has shown great care for environment and earth development, and has advised that earth should be farmed as for the role of agriculture in preventing drought and desertification.

Quran has likened farmed lands and gardens to the paradise. In addition, they have been considered as one of Allah's blessings on human beings. "And put forward to them the example of two men; unto one of them We had given two gardens of grapes, and We had surrounded both with date-palms; and had put between them green crops (cultivated fields etc.).

Each of those two gardens brought forth its produce, and failed not in the least therein, and We caused a river to gush forth in the midst of them." Al-Kahf, 32-33. And he said "How many of gardens and springs do they [Fir'aun's (Pharaoh) people] left. And green crops (fields etc.) and goodly places. And comforts of life wherein they used to take delight" Ad-Dukhan 25-27

The Prophet Mohamed exhorted saving and developing the environment by saying "If the end hour came while one of you has a seed in his hand, then plant it". He even insisted on not leaving a land without agriculture by saying "If any of you had a land, then either plant it or give it to your brother"

One of Allah's way to punish those who deviated from his way and chose to be corrupt is to destroy their lands. "Verily, We have tried them as we tried the people of the garden, when they swore to pluck the fruits of the (garden) in the morning, Without saying: Insha' Allah (If Allah will). Then there passed by on the (garden) something (fire) from your Lord at night and burnt it while they were asleep." Al-Qalam 17-20. He also said, "Would any of you wish to have a garden with date-palms and vines, with rivers flowing underneath, and all kinds of fruits for him therein, while he is stricken with old age, and his children are weak (not able to look after themselves), then it is struck with a fiery whirlwind, so that it is burnt? Thus does Allah make clear His Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses) to you that you may give thought" Al-Baqarah 266.

Moreover, the prophet's companions has kept his orders of preserving environment, especially in times of wars. For example, Abu Bakr the first Khalifa after the prophet ordered the leader of the army back then, Usama ibn Zaid, to preserve the environment constructions by saying "I exhort you all to do the following

ten things: do not betray, do not be extremists, and do not play false. Do not amputate and never kill a young child, nor an elderly nor a woman. Never cut a plant nor a fruitful tree and never destroy it. Never slay a cattle unless for food. And you will see some people who has left the world and stayed in a monastery, let them and never harm them"

Peace is the condition to keep the environment preserved, however, war can have devastating effects on the environment. Sometimes, war even obliges one of the war parties to harm human construction intentionally or not, and leaves its negative and devastating effects on the humanity and environment. As a result, war in Islam has always been for the ultimate necessity and not for fun or desire. Some wars are mentioned in the paper, which had direct devastating effects on the environment and were hugely debated as the Battle of Banu Nadhir, the wars between Muslims and Kahina in the western Arabic lands, and the revolution in Cordoba. Muslims tried to cure the effects of these wars as possible, based on the teachings of Islam and orders stated for them to preserve Environment and Construction. In this paper, we will show more what the orders and teachings are.