

~~Give an account of life and services~~  
 of How the reform movement of  
 Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi influenced the  
 history of Muslim India?

### Introduction

#### Reformist Movement

It is a social movement that aims to make social gradual or change in a certain aspects of society, rather than rapid or fundamental changes. It is often grounded in liberalism or often grounded may be rooted in religious and political aspects. Some rely on personal transformations.

#### 1- Life Sketch of Sheikh Ahmed

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was born on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1564 in East Punjab. Sheikh Ahmed, he who through his paternal line traced his descent from Caliph Hazrat Umar R.A. His father Sheikh Ahmad. He got his early education from him and then worldly education from Agra where he met with Farid and Faizi. At the age of 17, he completed

his religious education. Due to his great abilities he got the status of Naqashbandi. He died in 16 . His followers are Qasimiya, Tahiri, Al-Saidi, Naqari Sub-Order. He was the follower of great Naqashbandi Hassai Baqi Billah.

### Sheikh Influenced the history of Muslim India: —

During his reformist movement the situation of sub-continent was not good.

#### 2. Situation of Sub-continent at that time

- Hindu reformist movement was at its peak. Liquor and gambling were declared as haram etc.
- People started aloofness from Shariah.
- Dominance of Hindu culture during Akbar rule as he married to Hindu women.
- Moral decadence of ruler as a threat to Muslim rule.

→ Threat of Bahai increase  
 due to Sheikh Ahmed's  
 efforts, he saved the Muslims politically,  
 religiously and socially.

### 3. Religious Services—

Akbar was Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi  
 was successful in his religious  
 movement for Muslims of India.

→ Opposition of Bid'at—

Heresy are some innovation. Ulama  
 divided it into good and bad  
 innovation. But Sheikh declared these  
 innovations as reprehensible. He quotes  
 many times that Holy Prophet (S.A.W.)  
 denouncing it.

→ Opposition of Deen-e-Ilahi—

Sheikh Ahmed opposed the Akbar's  
 Deen-e-Ilahi. He said

“To consider Ram and Rehman ~~are~~ as  
 not consider one is stupidity because  
 Creator and creation are two  
 different and separate entities.”

→ Opposition of Wahdai-ul-wajoods—  
 He presented the concept of

Mahdai-ul-Shahood and opposed the Akbar's concept of Mahdai-ul-Shah Wajood because Creator and creatures are different entities and Creator cannot be One with its creation.

→ Reformation of Islamic Society:  
 Due to his efforts, reconstruction of mosques started, slaughtering of cows, taking Jizya all of Islamic teachings started again. His efforts impacted on Jahangir significantly as he demolished his father's practices and won him with honor and titled as Mujadid ulif Sami.

4. Social Services:

The social condition of Muslims was also interlinked with social condition. Sheikh Ahmed movement not only rejuvenated, revived and purified the nation religiously but the society as a whole.

→ Reformation of Society And Time

Spirit of Islam:-

He reformed the whole society and advised them to stop away from religion. The Muslims of India started flourishing the main pillars of Islam. They started to observe prayers and fast, giving zakat and dignified the practice of Hajj. Similarly, the practice of Sajda-e-Tarami was abolished during Jahangir's time.

→ Providing spiritual basis  
for National cohesion

His efforts resulted efficiency and Muslims started to move backward towards Islam due to which prohibition of Intermarriages, the root cause of social evil of that time.

→ To rescue Country's conscience,  
beliefs and faith from destruction

His efforts changed the Muslims thinking and they refreshed their beliefs. Moreover, Islamic rituals were restored and they started to live like a simple life according

to Qau and Sumah.

نہیں ہے اللہ کو اس مومن کی پرواہ  
 جسکی روح خوابیدہ ہے اب تک  
 مرنے کا دل کیا لگے ملتے ہیں مہرِ مہم دم  
 نہ ہو اب بھی جوان بیدار جب تک

## 5. Political Services:

As far as <sup>concerned</sup> Sheikh Ahmed never took part in politics. Still, all of his efforts gave birth to TWO Nation Theory. He raised the slogan of separation. He was the first who gave this idea. He said,

→ "If Muslims want to live as a nation then they have to quit the talk of Shirk and Bid'at and stay away from Hindus. If the awareness of separate National Identity is not awakened in Muslims it is feared that Muslims would be swept away with the flood of combined Nationhood. Islam would be destroyed like Buddhism and Hinduism."

→ Govt as an essential mean for regeneration of society:—

The king of the state should be away from all religious adulteration and bidaat. His role is a custodian in a society of Muslim state.

If "The king's position is same as heart's position in a body. If a heart is pure then body will pure if heart is not pure then body will not pure."

→ He Sheikh weakening the power of Rajputs.

→ He laid the foundation of all political, social and intellectual movement which would initiate in Indian sub-continent by the Muslims in future.

→ He gave the idea and state of Muslim Nationalism by Two Nation theory.

6. Conclusion:—

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was a great scholar, Sani and

reformer. He was one of the  
among greatest personalities of  
Islam. He influenced the Muslims  
of India very effectively. Sheikh  
Ahmed Rishindi paved the  
way for coming reforms like  
Shah Waliullah, Sir Syed Ahmed  
Khan, Syed Ahmed Shaheed  
and many others. Allama Iqbal  
praised his teachings and  
said about him:

“He was the guardian  
of Muslims' faith in  
India whom God had  
given timely warning.”  
(Iqbal)

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