

Q How the reform movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi influenced the history of Muslim India?

Ans. Reform Movement :-

start with the introduction of the question.

Reformist movement refers to a movement that is intended to bring social reforms. It does not altogether replace/change the existing ideals but brings improvement in it.

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi :-

Life Sketch:

He was commonly known as Mujaddid Alf Sani (the reformer of the second Millennium). He was born in 1564, in Sirhind. He belonged to a devout Muslim family who claimed descent from Hazrat Umar Farooq (R.A). His father was a well-known sufi. He got his initial instructions in Quran and hadith in Sirhind and later went to Sialkot, where he learnt logic, philosophy and theology. He got his religious education from Khawaja Bagji Billah. He devoted most of his time to the study of hadith and tafseer. He died in 1624.

Situation at his time:-

The people were becoming distant from religion during Akbar's reign. Akbar was a proponent of multi-culturalism. He propounded an innovation in religion, what is known as, Din-e-Elahi. It is an amalgamation of Muslims and Hindus beliefs. Many of the scholars and Ulema in the royal court, some of which enjoyed Akbar's closeness remained quiet on this development. But Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi openly criticized Akbar's innovation and experimentation with religion. He laid stress on the true contours of Islam.

As a result of Akbar's liberal policies, people became distant from Shariah. Sirhindi stressed on the implementation of Shariah. He highlighted the obedience of Shariah as paramount to the mystic discipline and knowledge. To him, mysticism without Shariah was misleading.

Akbar was more sympathetic towards Hindus. His sentiments towards Hindus and secular approach proved detrimental for Muslims. The Hindu culture started

this part is not asked. so keep it brief. this much detail is not required.

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dominating. There were various hindus reformat movements being started. There was a threat to Muslims from Bhaktis.

The rulers have become morally corrupt. There was a deterioration in the upholding the norms, beliefs and values. According to J.F. Matlock, moral decadence of a ruler is threat to a state, while moral decadence of people is threat to society.

There was deviance from divine laws. Akbar was implementing his own liberal and secular policies, with no regard to religion.

Works:-

- He wrote many books. Some of which are given below:
- (i) Isbat-ul-Nibat (logic and reason)
 - (ii) Maarif-ud-Dunia (Shariah and Tasawwuf)
 - (iii) Risal-e-Nabuwat.

Services to Islam/Impact on Society:-

Nagshbandia order was introduced by Ichwaja Buzi Billah and his disciple Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, which rendered great services to counter the pantheistic ideas of Akbar. He

put efforts to purify the Muslims.
He worked for the reformation of Islamic Society.

He was highly critical of Wahdat-ul-Wajood and instead presented his philosophy of Wahdat-ush-Shuhud. His greatest work on Islamic philosophy is Tauheed-i-Shuhudi.

His greatest contribution was countering unorthodox mysticism and mystic beliefs. He stressed that Shariah is necessary for mystic discipline and knowledge.

He opposed the heterodoxy prevalent during the reign of Akbar. He was a forceful voice against unfaithful activities of the rulers. He was once imprisoned for two years by emperor Jehangir for refusing to prostrate before him.

He opposed assimilation. According to Jawahir Lal Nehru, if there had been any policy of Salah-e-Ikul and universalism, there had not been the concept of Nation. There is sketch of A. Sirkhindi who give me the idea of nation. Sirkhindi worked for preserving the identity of Muslims.

short and incomplete answer. attempt the services and impacts in detail separately by giving subheadings.

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He opposed all plans of bringing Hinduism and Islam together on religious level, knowing that it would loosen Muslim grip on imperial strength. He was responsible for the swing from Akbar's heterodoxy to Aurangzeb's vigorous orthodoxy.

Conclusion:-

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi revived Islam and Shariah. He prevented Muslims from co-mixing with the Hindus. It was under the influence of his movement, the later reform movements came to be represented by Shah Waliullah and Syed Ahmad Shaheed.

a 20 marks qs should have 15-20 subheadings/arguments.

the structure of the answer is poor and needs much improvement.

work on the paper presentaiton, references, headings quality and the arguments