

Question :

Keeping in view the socio-political circumstances of sub-continent, discuss the role of Religious Reformists in creating the sense of Muslim identity in sub-continent.

Introduction:

The Muslims of sub-continent had an extensive period of reign in sub-continent under the Mughal Empire. However, several internal as well as external factors were the cause of downfall of Mughal Empire. Muslims deviated from the religion and emergence of foreign invaders was also a serious threat for Muslims. The religious reformists including Sheikh Ahmed Shirhandi, Shah Waliullah and Sayyed Ahmed Shaheed made significant efforts to reform the religious values of Islam and Muslims of sub-continent.



## B- Reformist movements in Sub Continents

Movements intended to unify the people on political, religious or educational grounds in order to develop a sense of self-identity are known as reformist movements.

### (a) Religious Reformist Movements:

"The reformist movements initiated with the purpose of protection of religious values, norms and system are known as religious reformist movements."

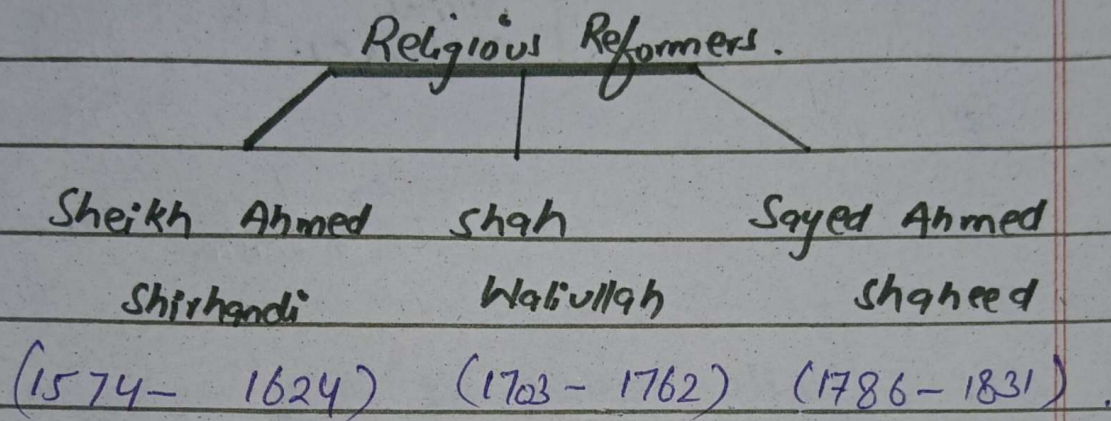
These movements have gradual but long lasting impacts on people.

### (b) Religious Reformers in Sub continent:

As the Muslims of sub continent lost their socio-political status, the religious movements were initiated by following personalities to reform the



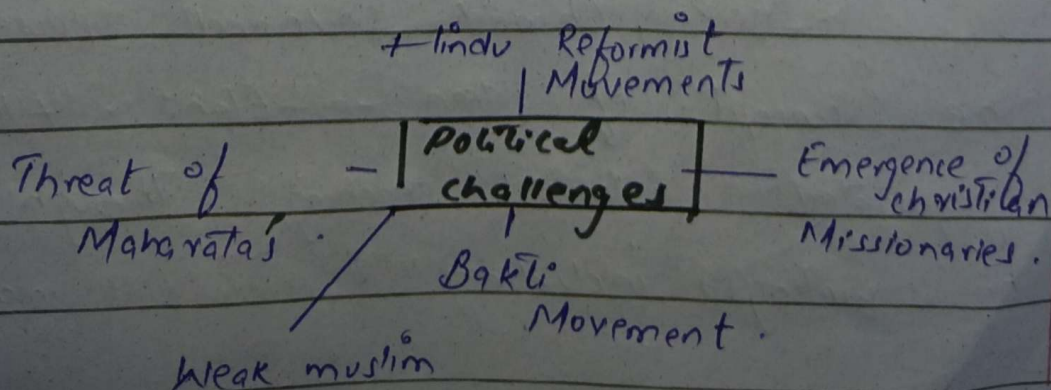
Socio-political status of Muslims and religious norms.



C- Reasons behind the initiation of Religious Reformist Movements:

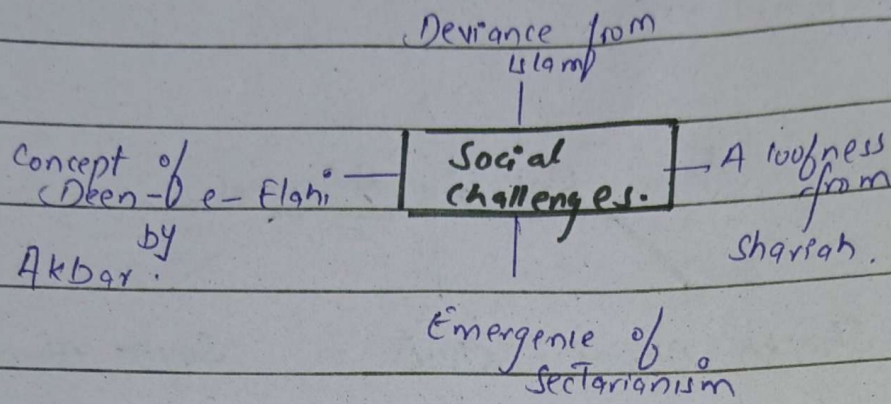
The muslims of sub continent were under serious internal and external threats that led to worst social political circumstances of muslims.

(a) Politically worst Circumstances of Muslims:





## (b) Socially Worst Condition of Muslims:



## D- Efforts made by Religious Reformers for Muslims of Sub continent:

Sheikh Ahmed Shirhandi, Shah Waliullah, Sayed Ahmed Shaheed made significant efforts. They initiated reforms in order to restore Islamic rule of law in sub continent. They unified Muslims of sub continent on spiritual basis.

## (a) Contributions of Sheikh Ahmed Shirhandi:

Sheikh Ahmed Shirhandi opposed the concept of Deen-e-Elahi. He propagated Islamic teachings through his writings, including Makoolbat and



Maarfat - e - Duniya.

### (b) Contributions of Shah Waliullah:

Shah Waliullah made eminent contributions including writing letters to army, emperors, rulers and artists of the muslim state. In his letters he emphasized on following <sup>Quran</sup> and Sunnah in affairs of life. He wrote Hijjat - ul - Balighah to spread islamic teachings in subcontinent. He also translated Quran into persian language.

### (c) Sayyid Ahmed Shah:

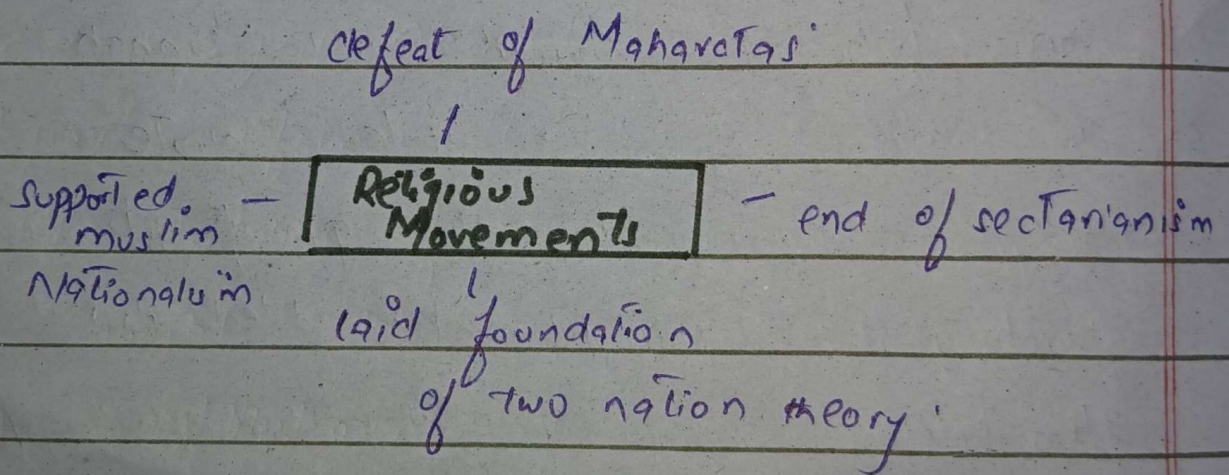
He was mujadid. He introduced the concept of Jihad among the muslims in order to get rid of false teachings. He spread message related to oneness of Allah. He was martyred by Sikh Army.



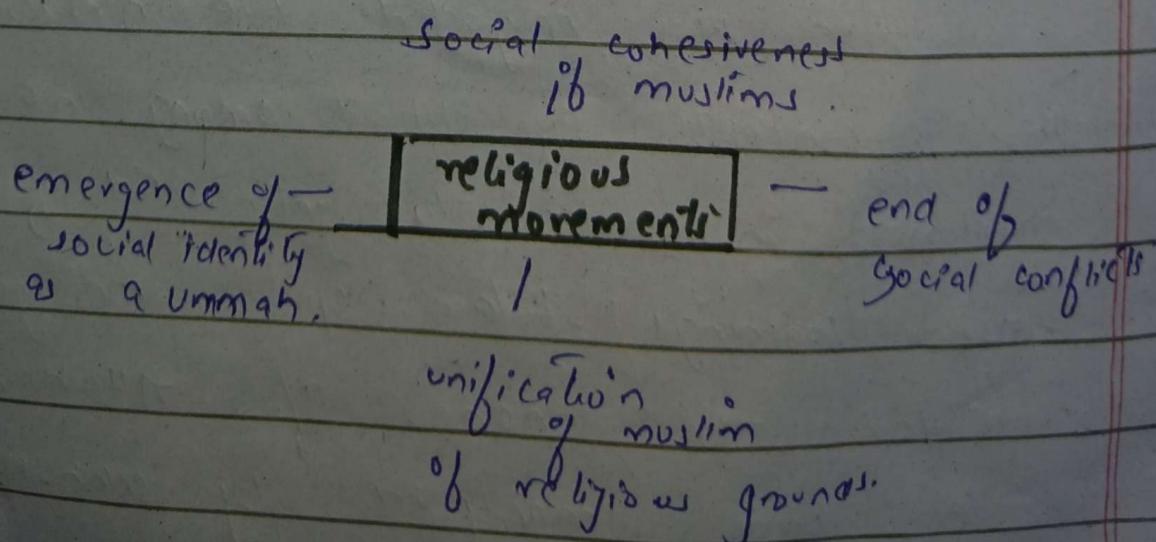
## E- Impacts of Religious Reformat Movements:

The religious reformist movements has political, religious as well as social impacts on muslims of sub continent.

### (a) Political impacts:

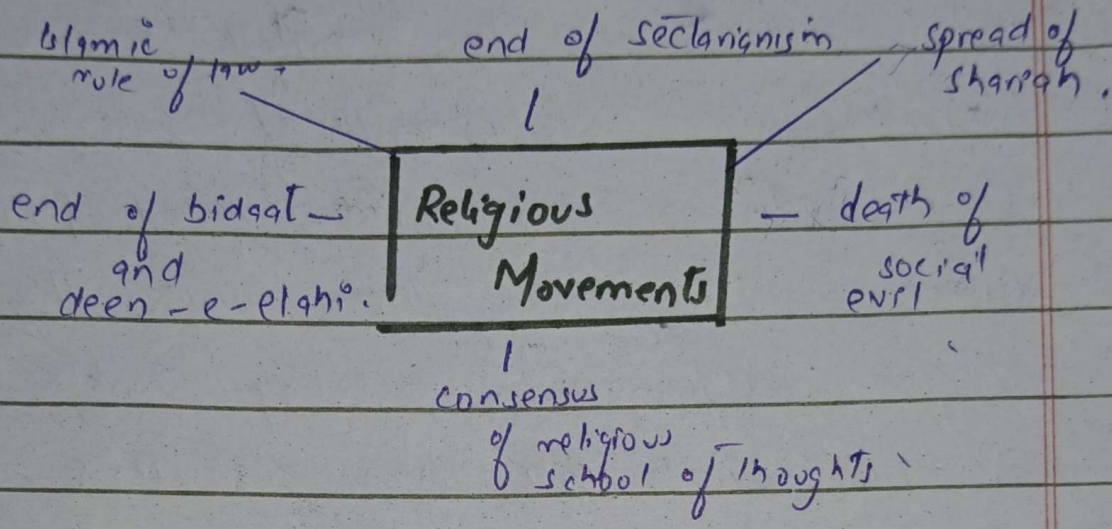


### (b) Social impacts:





(C) Religious Impacts:



F- Critical Analysis:

Muslims of subcontinent lost their socio-political status majorly due to deviance from Islam. Today, muslims all around the world are under struggling socio-political circumstances. The reason behind the weak muslim role is ~~the~~ lack of inclination with Islam. Muslims should stand firmly with teachings of Islam in order to regain their worth.



## Conclusion:

The Muslims of subcontinent lost their rule in the united India majority due to spread of social evils. Muslim emperors deviated from Islam and lost their worth. The religious reformers including Sheikh Ahmed Shirhandi, Shah Waliullah and Sayed Ahmed Shaheed introduced religious reforms. It led to spiritual identity building of Muslims as one ummah. This brought the change in subcontinent by establishment of Islamic state of Pakistan.

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