

## SECTION - II

Q:02 The Aligarh Movement was a pure educational venture but it had deep impacts on Indian Politics. Discuss

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## INTRODUCTION

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan <sup>is</sup> was a prominent intellectual personality in the history of Indian sub-continent. He was among ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~few~~ <sup>the</sup> people who were able to identify the painpoint of the Muslims after the War of Independence (1857). The aftermath of War of Independence was disastrous for all communities but it was far more terrible for the Muslim community. Muslims were declared as the main culprit of the conspiracy. The reason was just the leadership of Bahadur Shah Zafar, a Muslim leader. Somehow, British knew that the strong

## II - HISTORY

community concerning religious and politics is Muslim, their elimination of Muslim community became the aim of British and they started genocidal acts against Muslims. Lord Robert Lytton says to his father, "Elimination of Muslim community is pre-requisite for christianizing the whole Indian-subcontinent." So, for establishing strongholds British started ethnic cleansing of Muslims. At that time Muslims were mentally exhausted, assuming that there is no way out from this situation. Moreover, they were reluctant to send their children's schools for avoiding British influence. In turn, British government fired Muslims army men and stopped funding of Madaris, causing unemployment and alienation to education. In these circumstances, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan took the responsibility of encouraging Muslims to come step forward in education, social interaction and participation. Aligarh movement is the name of that struggle for education and social interaction.

## EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was a devotee of education. He have worked untiringly on his and as well as others education. Although, his life is full of educational achievements and services, but following are the most prominent services which later helped in re-building of a scattered nation.

- 1- Scientific Society (1864)
- 2- Tahzib ul Akhlaq (1870)



3. Mohammedan Anglo Oriental School
4. Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College
5. All-India Mohammedans Educational Conference.

## SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan launched Scientific Society in 1864. The main purpose of the society was to translate English books in Urdu and spread them among people. Most books were on the rise and fall of nations, to encourage people to critically evaluate the cause of fall and rise and implementation of identified blocks to rebuild the nation. The Scientific Society also launched an Urdu gazette named, Aliqahw Urdu gazette. The main purpose of gazette was to make people familiar with British rule and notify British government about the actual feeling of general public. The Scientific Society made a significant impact on Muslim society, encouraging them towards education and working for their interest.

## TAHZEEB-UL-AKHLAQ

Tahzeb-ul-Akhlaq was launched by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in 1870. The purpose of the magazine was to educate Muslims about basic ethics and encouraging them to leave the rituals which are adversely impacting the growth of Muslim society. Although, Sir Syed's criticism was right and also on a lighter note but it envisaged the society and a great

opposition appeared. Staying committed to his statements, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan confronted the opposition effectively. One cannot say that the magazine only created an unrest in the society, the undiscriminating bias of the society endorsed the facts written in the magazine and appreciated Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's efforts in rebuilding the society.

## MOHAMMEDAN ANGLO-ORIENTAL

### SCHOOL:

The Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental School was launched in Aliqauh. Although, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan confronted opposition and financial constraints but he managed to deal with initial operations effectively and after some time the school witnessed a great strength of students.

## MOHAMMEDAN ANGLO-ORIENTAL COLLEGE

The Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College was launched by initially MAO school that was converted in college in 1877. One is not wrong, if he mentions it as biggest achievement of Khan's life. Now Indian have an college which was led by an Indian rather than a British and this point eliminated many insecurities of of the society. The college was successful in providing higher education to



Muslims and it can be considered as the keystone of Aligarh movement's foundation and its impact on Indian politics.

## ALL-INDIA MOHAMMEDAN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

The AIMEC was launched in 1886. Although, MAO College was a big achievement but Sir Syed wanted to encourage the Muslims of all India for which he launched AIMEC. The purpose of AIMEC was to conduct conferences in different regions of India and providing a platform to people to participate in the conference. A noteworthy point is that the conferences of AIMEC and Indian National Congress were held on same day. However, the AIMEC played a significant role and people from all sub-continent started participating in conferences showing common interest.

## POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was against politics. He was of view that education is the pre-requisite of all forms. One should focus on education first and then tilt towards any other form. Although he was against of political system but growing political consciousness in sub-continent, especially after introduction of Indian National Congress, he was compelled to comment on the ongoing political process of in India.

## MUSLIM-SEPARATE IDENTITY

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan is among the first Indian Muslims who bowed the seeds of separate Muslim identity and their need of a separate state. At start, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was a strong supporter of Hindu-Muslim unity but after Urdu-Hindi conflict, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan changed his views on Hindu-Muslim unity. He used to say, "Hindu and Muslims are beautiful eyes of a charming bride" but after the conflict he stated that Hindus and Muslims are purely separate social systems and it is impossible for them to live together in a state. After Hindu-Urdu controversy Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was talking about Muslims' educational progress only. His friend, William Staines said that "It was the first time that Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was talking about Muslims' interest only."

## OPPOSITION OF INDIAN NATIONAL

### CONGRESS

From starting, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was against of whole political process in Indian sub-continent. Hence, he opposed the formation of Indian National Congress. He wrote multiple letters to the first Muslim president of Indian National Congress, Feroz Tyabji, asserting that, "A place where multiple ethnic races live with different social, cultural, and religious values, nothing like nationalism can be existed there. So, the name of the Indian National Cong



ness is irrelevant in the context of the sub-continent"  
 His opposition became so strong that prominent  
 Muslim personalities joined and Feroz Tyabji was  
~~also~~ compelled to cease the ~~to~~ holdings of Congress  
 every year.

## SIR SYED'S VIEWS ON DEMOCRACY

Congress demands of ~~separate and intrude~~ more  
 power in the legislative councils and electorate in  
 Indian sub-continent indicated the emergence of  
 Democracy in the sub-continent. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan  
 was against of Democracy. He was of view that  
 sub-continent is a place of multiple ethnicities with  
~~majority~~ majority of Hindus. If Democracy is ~~to~~ to be  
 introduced ~~in the continent~~, Hindus are ~~definitely~~ going  
 to dominate whole electoral process. After Hindu-Urdu  
 conflict, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan no longer ~~believed~~  
 in the Hindu-Muslim unity. Democracy will crush the  
 Muslim identity and it was proved in the period of  
 Congress ministries.

## IMPACTS ON INDIAN POLITICS

The glimpse of Aligarh movement's impacts on  
 Indian politics is provided above in the section of  
 opposition of Indian National Congress and Sir  
 Syed's views on democracy. Following are the detail  
 discussion on its impacts on Indian politics.

## SIMLA DEPUTATION

The Aligarh movement produced finest batch of

intellectuals. Although Aligarh movement was purely based on educational services but its students were among those who led the Simla Deputation. When Lord Minto announced electoral process for representation of Indians in legislative council. This made Muslim representatives concern because they also believed in Sir Syed's prediction about electoral process. After the completion of electoral process, Muslim personalities under the supervision of Aga Khan led the deputation. The deputation demanded for separate electorate and Muslim reserved seats in imperial legislative council. Minto mostly accepted the demands and Simla deputation was successful.

## FORMATION OF ALL INDIA MUSLIM LEAGUE

The success of Simla Deputation made Muslim representatives realize that a political platform for the Muslim representation is mandatory to eliminate the monopoly of Indian National Congress. This realization led to the formation of All India Muslim League and Muslims got a separate platform to convey their demands to the British Government.

## CONCLUSION

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and the Aligarh movement was not directly involved in politics but indirectly it impacts a lot in the political



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atmosphere of sub-continent. The Aligarh movement encouraged the consciousness of muslim community. Aligarh movement provided multiple platforms to over all muslim of sub-continent to share their ~~their~~ thoughts and pursue common interest. Thus, Aligarh Movement played a passive role in formation of All India Muslim League and other achievements of muslims in Indian politics.