

Q. 1:- Sir Sayyid was in no way pro-British. Agree or not? Prove it with arguments.

There is no iota of doubt that he was in no way pro-British. His remarkable contribution and services for the Muslims of subcontinent in numerous aspects of life are concrete proves, which will be elaborated in upcoming paragraphs.

Introduction:-

The uprising of 1857 war had brought ^{for Muslims} miseries and thrown them in abyss of hurdles and hardships. The blame was put on the Muslims for uprising which exponentially increase the acrimony of British. They started to aggravate the situation for Muslims, and had aggravated ~~more~~ problems for Muslims by taking their lands and treat them with animosity. In such anathematic environment, Muslims started to lose their hope which primarily caused by the downfall of Mughal empire. As Muslims

were the target of calumny for the rebellion of 1857, due to this cause to which their dimensions of life were facing horrible conflagration. They limited themselves to religious education only, whereas Indian Hindus start bragging every available opportunities.

1. Life sketch of Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan

Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan was born on 17 October, 1817. His father's name was Muhammad Taqi, who was serving to East India Company. His grandfather served to Mughal Empire and later worked for Britishers. Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan started his career as a clerk in 1838. After three years, he became sub-judge and served in different regions. During the uprising of 1857, he saved a lot of Britisher families, due to which he got the title of Sadr-us-Sadoor. In 1878, he was appointed as member of imperial council by Lord Dalton. In 1887, Lord Dufferin appointed him as member of civil service commission. He was honored with title of knighthood in 1888.

• Sir Sayyid as messiah for Muslims:-

After the war of 1857, Muslims felt abhorrence towards western education and consider religious education for their zenith of life. Without shadow of doubt that religious education was not enough to maintain the pace with modern times, so he was the first person to re-generate the Muslims of sub-continent and acquainted them with realization of modern upcoming technology. He lessened the grievances of Muslims and warned them about the deleterious consequences of their animosity towards western education. Putting it briefly, Sir Sayyid was messiah for Muslims in that desiccated time.

3. Aligarh Movement:-

The Aligarh movement was significant move of Sir Sayyid, which indicates that he was not pro-British. He was in favour of modern European literature and technology, and wanted to make these acquainted to Muslims to maintain pace with modern world. He for this purpose, launched Aligarh movement which

had two main objectives: to overcome the misunderstanding between Muslims and Britishers and to educate them with modern technology. He persuaded Muslims to learn English which was his primary goal. Apart from English learning, Aligarh Movement also played significant role in producing intellectual class among the Muslim community. Thus, Aligarh Movement is another proof that Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan was not a pro-Britisher.

4. Educational Contribution

Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan also contributed in the field of education for Muslims to equip them with modern education to avail job opportunities. He established Gulshan school in Mirzalabad in 1859-1863. He established Victoria school in Enghipur. Additionally, he established Muhammadan-Anglo oriented school in 1857, which in 1877 became a college, and in 1920, it turned to university. Many western books were taught in order to boost the intellect of Muslims. Thus, he was not a pro-British.

5. Political Services of Sayyid Ahmad

His political remarks are another ~~proofs~~ proof that he was not pro-British. For instance, during the time of Hindi-Urdu controversy in 1863, which has started by a campaign in Banaras. He not only defend Urdu, but also put efforts to handle the situation with his acumen. Apart from this, he was the first person who used the word 'nation' for Muslims of subcontinent. Additionally, he established United Indian Patriotic Association in 1888 to counter the influence of Congress. In 1893, Muhammadan Defense Association was established by Sayyid Ahmad Khan to defend the social rights of Muslims. From all these efforts, it is crystal clear that he was not a pro-British.

6. Religious Efforts of Sayyid Ahmad Khan

To counter the William Muir's objectionable remarks on prophet (S.A.W), he wrote an essay on his life. Additionally, he wrote a philosophical commentary 'Taba'een-al-Kalam' on the Bible. The main purpose of this commentary was to minimize the gap between Muslims

and British Christians. He wanted to foster better understanding between them, so it is crystal clear that he was not pro-British.

7. Social Efforts of Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan

In order to reframe the behaviour of Muslims according to the new trend, he wrote & started a movement called 'Tehzeeb-ul-Akhlaq'. This was his great social contribution for Muslims.

He further wrote a book called 'Ahkam-i-Taham-i-Ahle-Kitab' to encourage social interaction between Muslims and Britishers. Considering his social efforts, it is fair to say that he was not a pro-British.

8. Conclusion

Although, some critics have criticized him for bringing the concept of 'nation' for Muslims, which according to them create disparity among them. However, he devoted himself for prosperity of Muslims and worked for it. He reformed every socio-political, educational and religious aspects of Muslims. He was a messiah in that anathematic time (1857 war). It was Sayyid Ahmad Khan

effort which created true political leaders through Aligarh Movement. Due to his remarkable efforts in education; he is known as ~~epitome~~ prophet of education. His efforts helped Muslims to break free from challenges they were facing. In this regard, Allama Iqbal said, "The real greatness of the man (Sir Sayyid) consists in the fact that he was the first Indian Muslim who felt the need of a fresh orientation of Islam and worked for it." Thus, Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan was out and out humanitarian for Muslims of sub-continent, and was absolutely not a pro-British.