

Q. Keeping in view the socio. political circumstances of subcontinent, discuss the role of Shah Waliullah who revived Islamic ideology and established Muslim identity in subcontinent?

1) Introduction.

Islam in the subcontinent saw its deteriorating image. Muslims, besides confronting threat from Hindu rebellious groups, lacked understanding of Holy Quran and awareness of socio-political thought. They were on the verge of degeneration. Fortunately, it was Shah Waliullah whose reform movement enlightened Muslims spiritually, and among other domains.

a) An Overview of Shah Waliullah

Shah Waliullah was the son of Shah Adur Rahim. Born in 1703, he belonged to a religious family. After receiving higher education, he himself witnessed Muslim's galloping decline. Experiencing staunch disintegration among Muslims.

He decided to launch a campaign to popularize Islamic values amongst the Muslims and to prevent Islam in a rational manner.

3) Essential services of Shah Waliullah

3.1) Shah Waliullah aimed at reorienting Muslim society through social justice:

Shah Waliullah directed his teachings at removing social inequalities and balancing the inequitable distribution of wealth. To materialize this, he wrote comprehensive volumes about what is fair in the light of the teachings of Islam. He undertook several measures aimed at societal welfare:

Attempted to remove sectarianism from society

Discouraged the use of dawah among Muslims

Declared
a ban on
inter religious
marriage ~~between~~
between Hindus
and Muslims

3.2) Politically, Shah Waliullah
created deference for Muslims and
established the basis of Two Nation
Theory.

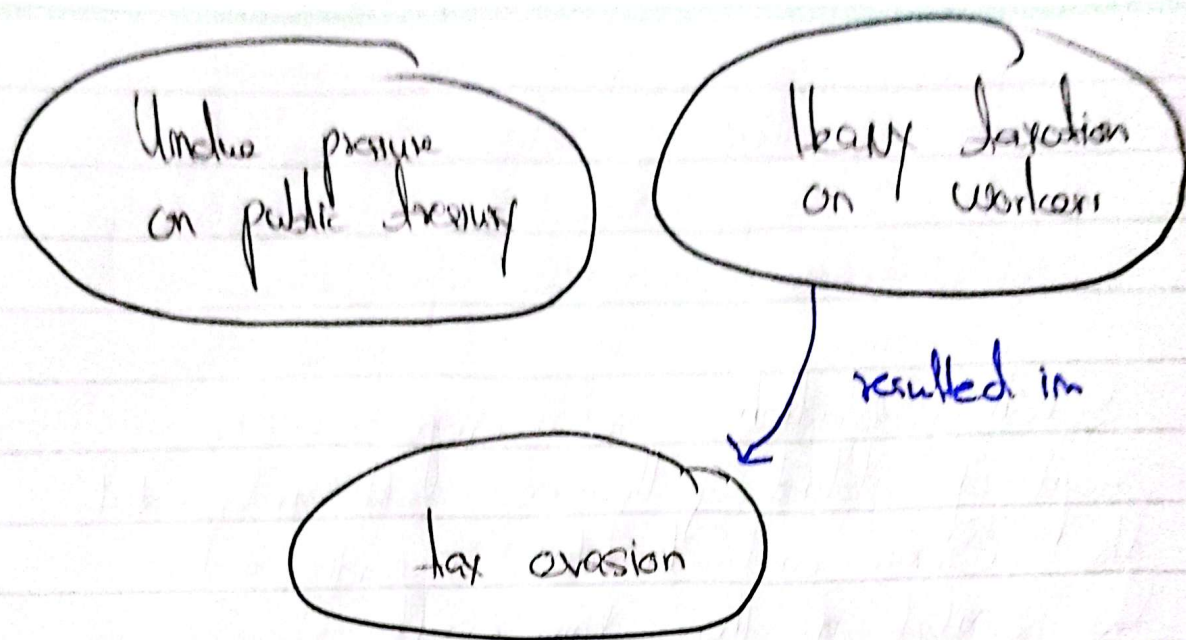
Shah Waliullah ~~has~~ realized that
Muslims political decadence would
not be suffice to deter the
threats from ~~Mughals~~ Marhattas and
Sikhs. He wrote letters to various
rulers, such as Ahmed Shah Abdali
to assist Muslims. Moreover, he
made Muslims realize that
they are separate nation completely
different from Hindus, Sikhs, and
others. Hence, he ~~and~~ endeavored to
uplift Muslims politically.

2.3) He instilled religious awakening among Muslims directed at cohesion and authentic principles of Islam

Sheh Waliullah discouraged the concept of blind following. He interpreted the Quran and hadith according to the context of the times. He recommended the principles of Ijtihad, arguing that its application would solve the newly confronted problems. Moreover, he wrote *Al-Umsaf fi Bayan Sabab al-Ikhtilaf*, highlighting common points among sects and thus bringing about national cohesion.

3.4) According to him, the major cause of Muslim's degeneration was economic mismanagement

In his book, *Hujjatullah-il-Balighah*, he stressed economic mismanagement as a sole cause of Muslim's declining prosperity. These included:



a) He advocated the maintenance of economic equilibrium:-

Shah Waliullah endorsed a social order with based on economic equality, denouncing the accumulation of wealth. Hence, to obtain this, he encouraged the preservation of economic equilibrium.

b) To him, Zakat is only prerequisite to address economic challenges.

Shah Waliullah believed that the Islamic system of Zakat

was the best remedy for this evil and encouraged Muslims to practice it. Therefore, he viewed Zakat as a solution for Muslim's economic collapse at that time.

3.5) With his literary prowess, he presented modern version of Islam.

Literally, Shah Waliullah made significant contributions:

Translated Holy Quran into Persian

Disseminated Quranic teachings to wide audience

Wrote Khilafat al Khulafa

Meant to end the misunderstanding between Sunnis and Shias

(g) Analysing Shah Waliullah's Contributions.

After evaluating his contributions, it is mandatory to be responsible for resuscitating Muslim community's faith, conscience, and identity. From translating Holy Quran to bridging the gaps between sects, he played a pivotal role in forging united Muslim front. In sum, his contributions proved ray of sunshine for Muslims.

5 Conclusion.

In conclusion, Shah Waliullah uplifted the Muslims when they faced severe downfall. Across all domains, he attempted to improve the status of Muslims. Hence, as Allama Syed said, "Shah Waliullah was the first Muslim who felt the urge of a new age and endeavored to reconcile the Islamic beliefs with the conditions of the modern world."