

# HOW DID THE REFORM MOVEMENT OF SEIKH AHMED SIRHINDI INFLUENCED HISTORY OF INDIA. (CSS 2020)

## I - INTRODUCTION

Rome was not built in day. The Two Nation Theory, which led to the creation our country, emerged from fluctuating circumstances, however could never be realized without the renowned efforts of some prominent personalities ~~the~~ one of whom is Sheikh Ahmed Sirhind who not only ~~rebutted~~ <sup>defeated</sup> the threats confronting Islam in the forms of Deen-e-Ilahi and other socio-religious ills, but also sowed the seed of separate nationalism in the hearts of Muslims of India which led to their remarkable struggle for Pakistan which emerged on the map of the world in 1947.

## Baqi SHEIKH AHMED SIRHINDI (1564 - 1624)

"Sheikh Ahmed is an individual from Sirhind, rich in knowledge and vigorous in strength. I associated with him for a few days and found truly marvelous things in his spiritual life. He will turn into a light which will illuminate the world." Baqi Billa.

### Life of

He was born to Sheikh Abdul Ahsad from whom he inherited association to different Sufi schools such as Naqshbandiya, Suhrawardiya, Chishtiya. He memorized Quran and also got education of Magul and Tafseer. Due to his tremendous efforts for the revival of Sufism he is also known as Imam Rabbani.

## II PREVAILING CONDITIONS OF INDIA

### A - AKBAR'S DEEN-E ILAHI

A The hybrid form of religion introduced by Akbar for political gains <sup>as</sup> consolidation of the empire, posed a threat to the unique identity of Muslims as it banned slaughter of cow, inter-religious marriage were allowed, jaziya was also prohibited and Akbar was called Shadow of God on Earth. Moreover, ~~a~~ further <sup>evils</sup> changes were introduced in religion.

B

### B - PHILOSOPHY OF WAHIDAT -UL- WADUD

As <sup>Promulgated</sup> introduced by the contemporary scholars of Islam having the notion that Allah is in everything which not only endorsed Akbar's religious philosophy to worship His

creation but also created a barrier between practice and faith, & making Muslims discontented for having faith alone.

### C - SOCIAL DEGENERATION

Common Muslims were away from true spirit of Islam. Some Sufis for getting a leverage over Hindu saints indulged in the practicing of karamaat and other supernatural presentations which contorted the real spirit of attraction of Islam.

## III - EFFORTS OF SA MUJADID ALIF SANI FOR REVIVAL

### A - CRUSADE AGAINST DEEN-I-ILAU

Sheikh Ahmed took the responsibility to combat the socio-political-religious threat posed by Deen Ilahi for

he undertook multi-dimensional steps.

i- Maktoobat-e-Rabbanī

The correspondences he sent to major influential scholars with the empire and also in neighbouring regions inviting them to teach the true spirit of Islam, in the wake of the <sup>impending</sup> eclipse, which

ii- Association with influential personalities in the Royal Court of Delhi.

He got in his students from the royal court included Mufti Abdul Rahman, Mufti Sardar Jahan, Abdul Rahim Khan-e-Khana, Khan-e-Azan, and Mirza Azeez. Moreover Abul Fozal and Abul Faizi also came under his influence who later parted their ways from him due to their weak religious <sup>teb</sup> knowledge.

knowledge.

iii - Sent his students for propagation of Itba'at-e-Sunnah who played significant role in the spread of true teachings of Islam throughout the country.

## IV - CONFRONTATION WITH AURANGZEB

Asaf Khan, a close associate of Aurangzeb persuaded Aurangzeb on prohibiting Ahmed from his the efforts of Renaissance as were on the way. On calling Ahmed to the court, when he did not prostrate as per the rule of Deen-i-Ilahi, he was put in <sup>Prison</sup> Gawaliyan for two years.

### His ACQUITAL

The <sup>efforts and</sup> teachings of Ahmed

did not stop even in prison.  
When Aurangzeb knew in detail  
about those teachings, he acquitted  
him and with honor with  
1000 one thousand rupees and  
some clothes and was allowed  
to preach in palace.

## V- INFLUENCE ON CHANGING THE COURSE OF HISTORY OF INDIA

### AKBAR'S A- ELIMINATION OF DEEN- -E- ILAHI

Thus influenced Aurangzeb  
to reverse all the harm done  
to Islam by it.

- i Reimposition of Jaziya  
Hindus envied this step  
of Jehangir which led them  
to behave in ways
- ii Reduced role of Hindus  
in state affairs.

- iii Ban on inter-religious marriages
- iv cow slaughter allowed.
- v prominent mosques <sup>were</sup> built.

## B - HINDU REACTION TO THE STEPS OF JEHANGIR

All these steps were a revival towards gaining back the role of Islam in politics which envied Hindu Sardars who started conspiracies and openly <sup>started</sup> showing their hate towards Islam.

## C - IMPACT ON MUSLIMS MUSLIM'S REALIZATION OF SEPARATE IDENTITY

Teachings of Imam Rabbani combined with Hindu's envious reactions saw revived Muslims the realization of separate identity in Muslims of India which persisted.



B-HIND

## D-SEED OF TWO NATION THEORY

The realization played a significant role in the wake of religio-political amalgamation of Hinduism and Islam as they reverted back to their original identity. This caused Muslims as well as Hindus that a combined religio-political system is never possible in India which later manifested itself in the emergence of Pakistan in 1947.

~~E-LENGTHENED~~ M

~~ERI~~ t

## E- SAVED ISLAM FROM THE IMPACTS OF THE ELLIPSE IN INDIA

"He was the guardian of <sup>the</sup> faith of Muslims of India whom God had given a timely warning -  
Iqbal

Due to his role in the reviving

Islam in the hearts of Muslims of India, he got the title of Mujadid Aley Sani who thus influenced the course of Islam in India.

## VI- CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

Although sheikh Ahmed was not a political but a religious reformer, his efforts proved significant in not only saving Islam and Muslims from amalgamation with Hindus and thus reverting back to the realization of their unique identity which later manifested itself in the Two Nation Theory as practically worked over by Quid in achieving a separate homeland for Muslim as Pakistan.

## CONCLUSION -

Sheikh Sheikh Ahmed's movement crusaded against the hybrid religion of Deen-Ilahi and

worked for strengthening belief of Muslims in true sense. Thus the realization manifested itself in the later struggle for a separate homeland which changed the influenced the history of India -