

Question Explain the contributions of Shah Waliullah in terms of social and moral revival of Muslim Community in 18th Century Indian subcontinent.

Introduction

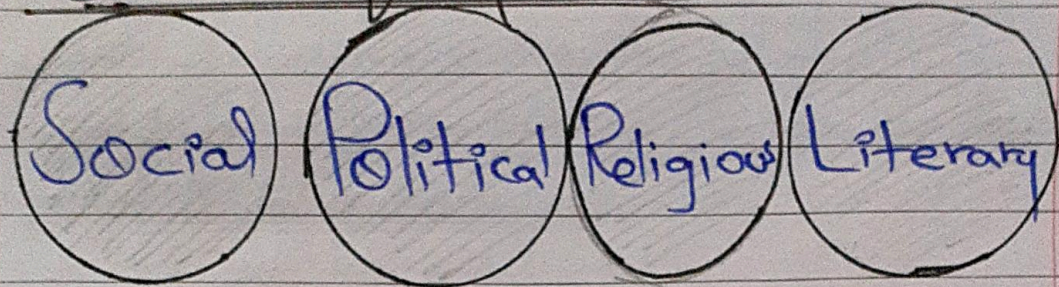
The start of 18th century can be attributed to the decline of Muslim rule in the Indian subcontinent. The then situation of Muslims was continuously declining to the extent that they started to fear for their survival and identity. Fortunately, Shah Waliullah, a prominent Islamic scholar of Delhi, decided to take matters into his own hands to protect Muslim Rule, culture, and religion. He believed that the religious decline was the reason behind the social, political, and economic devaluation of the Muslims and that former splendour ~~can not~~ ^{could only} be restored by applying Islamic teachings in every sphere of life. For this purpose, he started many efforts, like Ijtihad, to encounter rampant sectarianism. Moreover, he translated the Holy Quran into Persian to nip Islam's prevalent innovations in the bud. He also united different sects of Muslims for social harmony. Furthermore, he secured the status of Muslims as the dominant power by writing letters to Ahmad Shah Abdali of Afghanistan and making him come to the subcontinent to safeguard Muslims rule there. He also made contributions

to the literature and published many of his works. This answer highlights the incredible social, political, and religious services of Shah Waliullah for social and moral

Revival of Muslims in Indian Subcontinent. Background

After the death of Aurangzeb Alamgir, the Mughal Empire was a mere husk of a once glorious empire. A series of incompetent rulers made the Empire vulnerable to the invasion, and different groups started rebelling against the Empire. At that time, Marhattas were gaining power against the Mughals. The incompetent Mughal Emperors of that time could not stop the Marhattas, and in no time they occupied nearly half of the subcontinent. Moreover, the Sikh uprising was also started by them, giving a tough time to Muslim rulers. The British East India Company also strengthened its foothold in India by that time. Making the situation even worse, traitors among Muslims were also present. Most strong governors took advantage of their position and separated their areas from the Empire.

Shah Wali Ullah's Contributions For Social and Moral Revival of Muslims



Social Contributions

Socially, he made exceptional contributions. He aligned society towards success through his reforms. At that time, Muslims had totally forgotten their authentic teaching and actively practised many innovations in their daily lives that were against the spirit of Islam. He took several steps to eliminate these non-Islamic practices. His efforts are as follows:

Sectarian Reconciliation

Shah Wali Ullah sought to bridge divisions among various Islamic sects by emphasizing shared beliefs and common objectives. He worked hard to remove sectarianism from society by eliminating hostility between Shia and Sunni sects of Islam and making them unite on common grounds. He wrote several books, such as *It'iqat* ^{ul Khata} to end these groups' misunderstandings.

Elimination of inter-religious marriages

Inter-religious marriages between Hindus and Muslims were increasing becoming a norm of society. To eliminate this innovation in Islam, ^{and social evil} he decreed a ban on inter-religious marriage practice.

Encouragement of Zakat

Shah Wali Ullah completely opposed the accumulation of wealth. He believed that the Islamic system of Zakat was the best remedy to eliminate this social evil and encouraged Muslims to practise it.

Advocacy for the marginalised

Shah Wali Ullah highlighted the importance of social justice and moral obligation to support the needy and marginalized, which laid the groundwork for community welfare initiatives.

The contributions of Shah Wali Ullah in the social sector helped Muslims a lot in protecting their identity.

Political Contributions

Politically, Shah Wali Ullah's foresight and wisdom created a political enlivening of Muslims, and despite being an Islamic scholar, he emerged as a political leader of Muslims.

- Protection of Muslim Rule

He worked tirelessly for the protection of Muslim rule. He foresighted that if Sikhs and Marhattas are not tackled properly, they will ruin the identity of Muslims. For this reason, he started motivating the Indian Muslims. Moreover, he did not rely on the incompetent Mughal rulers. Instead, he wrote letters to the heads of different ^{Muslim} states and made them aware of the situation of the subcontinent. At his request, Ahmad Shah Abdali came from Afghanistan and crushed the rising power of Marhattas, which was a great victory for Muslims.

- Establishment of the base of Two-Nation Theory

Shah Wali Ullah established the base of the Two-Nation Theory in _____ by making Muslims realize that they were a completely different nation than Hindus, Sikhs, and other communities.

- Awareness of Colonial Challenges

His writings addressed the implications of colonialism, urging Muslims to engage politically, and socially to safeguard their rights and identity.

Political Guidance

Recognizing the socio-political situation of the declining Mughal Empire, he called for an educated leadership to guide the Muslim community. He proposed that a governance system should be created in which all the matters should be carried out according to the teachings of Islam.

The political contributions of Shah Wali Ullah saved the Muslims from destruction.

Religious Contributions

Religiously, being an Islam scholar, Shah Wali Ullah always worked for the consolidation of Islam. He believed that Muslims should not only read the Quran but also understand it. He always opposed the concept of blind following and promoted logical understanding of concepts.

Revival of Islamic Teachings

He sought to return to original sources of Islam: the Quran and Hadith. He argued against the reliance on later interpretations that had become prevalent. His work aimed to purify Islamic teachings from superstitions or un-Islamic practices. He urged Muslim rulers to follow in Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) footsteps and lead a simple life.

- Promotion of Jihad

He promoted the concept of Jihad and demanded that soldiers should be taught about the real Jihad and they should practice it in wars.

- Promotion of Ijtehad

He strongly supported the need for Ijtehad and believed that the solution to the newly confronted problems lies in the practice of Ijtehad. He was the mujtahid of that time and found Islamic solutions to many problems.

- Fostering Unity among Muslims

He worked to create a balance between different sects. He studied all the Muslim fiqh and wrote Al Insaaf fi Bayan Sbab al Iktilaf, highlighting the common points among sects.

Literary Contributions

Literarily, he did wonders with his writings by presenting a new modern version of Islam. He wrote around 100 books in Urdu and Persian, which opened a new era of literature for the subcontinent.

- Translation of Holy Quran into Persian

One of his remarkable contributions is translating the Holy Quran into Persian. He translated it so that people could

understand it correctly. For this, he received a lot of criticism, but he remained steadfast in his endeavours.

- Curriculum Development

Shah Wali Ullah advocated for a comprehensive education system that integrated Islamic studies with modern sciences. He emphasized the importance of understanding the Quran and Hadith, alongside logic and philosophy.

- Establishment of Institutions

He founded schools and Madrasahs that became centers for learning and scholarship, enabling a new generation of scholars to emerge.

- Writings and literature

He mentioned the factors responsible for the downfall of Muslims in his book

Day: _____
‘Hujjat al Baligha’, which provided a rigorous framework for understanding Islam and its application in contemporary society. Moreover, he wrote ‘Fuyyuz Al Harmain’, where he described his dream in which he was told about his charge. Literature published by Shah Wali Ullah proved to be a turning point in the history of Muslims in subcontinent.

Conclusion

Shah Wali Ullah is among those personalities whose services and unforgettable efforts protected the identity and survival of Muslims in Indian Subcontinent. His political, social, religious, and literary contributions proved beneficial as he saved Muslims from the brunt of Marhattas. In addition, his idea of the understanding of the Holy Quran gave a new life to the belief of Indian Muslims who used to blindly follow the statements made by Ulema. He urged them to only accept a thing after verifying its logical reasoning and references from the Holy Quran. The God gifted wisdom of Shah Wali Ullah reduced the chances of Muslim's destruction to a great extent. Moreover, he tried to resolve the social issues confronted by Muslims through his writings and advice. He made them realize their separate existence and saved them from their ideological death in 18th century Indian Subcontinent.

Question Explain the causes of war of independence, 1857, reasons for its failure and its implications on the future of Indian sub-continent.

Introduction

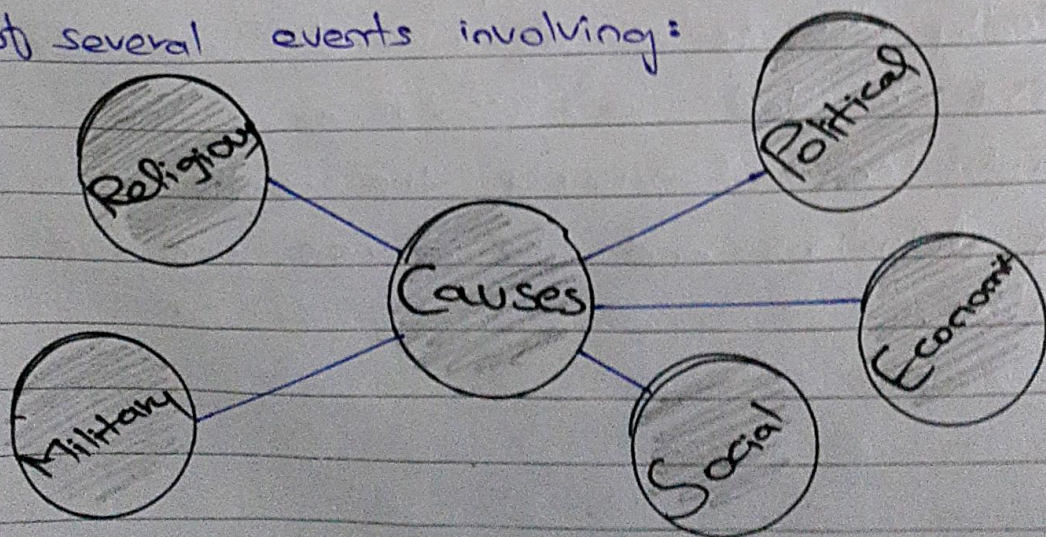
The 17th century commencement is attributed to the rise of the East India Company, which began usurping control of Indian territories and becoming a cause of Mughal downfall. After its arrival, the company implemented policies that tightly gripped the system. Muslims and Hindus collaborated to resist British domination, leading to failure of war of independence, 1857. Causes paving the way for this war included unfair treatment of Indians by the British, changes in India's education system, and rising unemployment. The East India Company's occupation also destroyed local industries. Removal of Indians from high positions and dishonest policies were also the major factors. Causes for failure of war include lack of vision, leadership failure, internal rifts, and unequal fight. Undoubtedly, the failure of war of Independence 1857 resulted in dissolution of the East India Company, the oppression of Muslims, and the "divide and rule" policy.

Background

On April 27, 1857, 85 soldiers of a Bengal regiment of the British East India Company, posted in Meerut refused to use the new cartridges ^{when ordered to do so} for the newly introduced Enfield rifles, allegedly encased in cow and pig grease. The British court-martialed and sentenced them to prison. After the sentencing, the British humiliated them by stripping off their uniforms and shackling their ankles in front of 4,000 sepoy troops. Shocked by what they had seen, the troops mutinied, which ultimately became a general uprising of the Indian people.

Causes of War of Independence, 1857

The war of independence in which ^{both} Hindus and Muslims rebelled against the British did not occur as a result of one specific event or cause; it was an accumulation of several events involving:



Social Causes

Socially, after their occupation, the British began humiliating Indians and considering themselves superior. They oppressed and exploited them in various aspects of life, including public disrespect, dishonouring women, and physical assaults. They also abolished local Indian laws based on their culture under the guise of social reforms. Indians and British did not generally mix as social equals and the British societies regarded themselves as small oasis of culture in a largely uncivilized world. Hence, the social conditions created by British were a significant cause behind the war of Independence, 1857.

Economic Causes

The aim of the British East India company had always been to exploit the subcontinent for its resources as well as to protect British interests. The Britishers destroyed Indian's flourishing economy, turning ^{it} into a desert. The subcontinent, once known as the golden bird, became a supplier for the British. After the Industrial Revolution, they extracted cheap raw materials from India to produce expensive finished goods. This led to peak ^{to} unemployment as many industries were

shut 'down, forcing Indians to buy British goods. Additionally, the British imposed high land taxes, detrimentally affecting Indians and causing a decline in agricultural productivity. Thus, the economic exploitation by the East India Company provided impetus for the war of Independence, 1857.

Political Causes

Politically, the British stirred anger among local people with their policies. The Doctrine of Lapse, a notorious doctrine focused on annexing princely states, was initiated by Lord Dalhousie. This policy led to the exile of the last Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, from the subcontinent. By 1857, the emperor had little power left, but was an important symbolic figure. Dalhousie's decision to move the royal family from the Red Fort of Delhi to Qutub Sahib was seen as a sign of disrespect. At a lower level in society, there was also resentment at the lack of opportunities for native Indians in civil service. Indians were not allowed higher jobs, and their salaries were much lower than those of white people.

Finally, Indians in higher positions were replaced by the British. Added to this, English had replaced Persian as the official language of the administration and education. All these political decisions caused animosity and urged Indians to launch a revolt against British

Military Causes

Before becoming the rulers of the subcontinent, the British East India Company was considered a trading partner looking to make significant investments in the subcontinent. This included the British Indian Army which consisted of well-trained, effectively armed and well-paid Indian officers that changed once the British became rulers. Many developments — higher budget allocated to soldiers of European descent; rapidly growing communication gap between the Indian soldier and British officers; discriminatory procedures and preferences for recruitment into the British army and slow promotion process of Indian officers, all added to the causes of war of Independence, 1857.

Religious Causes

The religious sentiments of Indian Sepoys were hurt over the ammunition for new Enfield rifles. The British ^{had} issued new copper-lead cartridges that were widely believed to be greased with cow or pig fat, which insulted both Hindus and Muslims. To load the new rifle, the sepoy had to bite the cartridge open. The word was regarded as unclean by Muslims, and tallow was regarded as anathema to Hindus. Additionally, Christianity missionaries had set up schools in subcontinent who were trying to convert people's religion.

Reasons for Failure of War of Independence, 1857

- Lack of Vision, Strategy, and Planning

Although, the ground was ripe for such an eventuality, yet the uprising resulted from cartridge incident was a spontaneous and unplanned act. It was doomed to fail right from the start because of lack of vision, strategy, and planning on the part of rebel forces.

- Leadership Failures

Lack of strong political and capable military leadership played the most crucial role in this fiasco. The political leader was neither a brave general nor an astute leader of the people. The military leadership of the rebels was no match for the ^{brilliant} British leadership. On top of it was the non-existence of any well-managed centralized command and control system that could provide proper guidance and plan to rebels.

- Internal Rifts

After the euphoria of the initial revolt was over, inter-communal, inter-racial, and inter-regional rifts started among the rebels. Many Indians supported the British, due to their dislike of the idea of the return of Mughal rule.

Desperate Fight by British
 The British fought with their back against the wall because there were no option for them. Once the British got a foothold, they mastered all their resources and made a big assault on Delhi with full force.

Lack of Response from other states
 Only three other big cities rebelled. Many states did not take part in the war as these were ruled by the Nizams or the Mysore royalty, and were thus not directly under British rule. So, the British did not have to fight on different fronts.

Technology and Techniques
 The British proved to be formidable foes, largely due to their superior weapons, training, and strategy, which plays a decisive role in any military contest.

Unequal Fight
 War of independence, 1857 was an unequal fight between a decaying agricultural empire and a rising industrial empire, in which the die was cast before the battle started.

Implications of War of Independence 1857 on Indian Subcontinent

- Racial Animosity against Indians

There was a surge in racial animosity against Indians once the British government assumed official control. Post-war, they believed loyalty could not be expected from Indians as their trained army personnel were involved in revolt.

- Rise of Nationalism

As the ideological divide between Muslims and Hindus of subcontinent was deepening, strong feelings of nationalism, communal conflicts, and movements based on religious affinities rather than class or regions caught strength.

- Oppression of Muslims

The British placed all responsibility for revolt on Muslims, they were considered to be the main "culprits", and thus bore the brunt of British wrath. The British deliberately followed a repressive policy against Muslims subjecting them to indiscriminate seizures, confiscations and executions.

- Discriminatory Policy against Muslims

After 1857, British administrators discriminated Muslims in every aspect. Without free access to government employment, the Indian Muslims had neither social status nor honourable means of subsistence.

- Drawbacks of English Educated System

The newly introduced ^{English} education system had many drawbacks for the Muslims, mainly because it made no provisions for religious education. As a result, they stayed away from it. They lost political power, avenues of employment, were dispossessed of their states, and deprived of the benefits of education. In their place, British educated Hindus began to occupy positions in government offices formerly held by the Muslims.

- Religious Setback to Muslims

The British replaced 'Shariah' by 'Anglo-Mohammedan Law', which was a huge setback for Muslims.

- Formation of new Social Class

Hindus were forging ahead in all fields. They formed a new middle class which assumed a leadership role in the new India.

- Destruction of Infrastructure

The infrastructure suffered due to the war as the British used advanced weapons, cannons, and heavy artillery. The lives of nearly one million were also claimed in the war.

- Dissolution of East India Company

Post-war, the company was destroyed, having utilised all its resources, and British government assumed official control of subcontinent.

- Divide and Rule Policy

British created divisions and fragmented Indians into different societies.

Critical Analysis

The ^{failed} war of independence, 1857 worsened the plight of the Indians in subcontinent. Muslims were the most affected segment of society, and their condition deteriorated significantly after its end. Many British government policies were against Muslims, aiming to subordinate them in the community. However, the impacts of 1857 war served as an impetus for the creation of Pakistan as Muslims realised the need for independence not only from the British but also from hypocritical Hindus. Thus, the consequences of the 1857 war became a turning point in the history of Muslims.

Conclusion

The war of 1857 proved to be an essential event in the history of subcontinent. There were several malfunctions in the policies of the East India Company, which served as catalysts for war. Resultantly, the British government officially took charge of the subcontinent and made many suppressing policies, which were mainly aimed at discriminating Muslims. Consequently, it created a sense of nationalism and paved the way for future national movements.