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Batch : 63

Subject : Pakistan Affairs.

→ Q. The Aligarh Movement was a pure educational venture but it had deep impacts on Indian politics, Discuss.

1. ⇒ Introduction.

Aligarh Movement is the movement which was inspired by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, his colleagues, and Muslim students at M.A.O college (later Aligarh Muslim University). The movement's influence on Indian politics was influenced on Indian politics was multifaceted. It is not only promoted political awareness among Muslims but also helped resolve tensions between the British government and Muslim communities. The Aligarh movement played a pivotal role in shaping the Two Nation Theory, which posits the idea of separate nations for Hindus and Muslims, ultimately contributing to the creation of Pakistan.

2. Aftermath of the War of Independence.

The War of Independence 1857 was

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the final attempt by the Indians to dislodge the British from the sub-continent. The Muslims awoke to the realization of being relegated to an inferior position from a ruling class. The British believed that the Muslims were the main protagonist of the mutiny (as they called it) and victimized them in the social, economic, educational, and political fields. Muslims had become a weak powerless supine minority distrusted by the British and disowned by the Hindus. At this critical juncture, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan appeared on the horizon and took a number of steps for the revival and renaissance of the Muslim Society in India.

3 → Life of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan:

- (i) Born: October 17, 1817, at Delhi.
- (ii) Father: Syed Muhammad Mutagi.
- (iii) His family belonged to high nobility.
- (iv) Gained traditional education and also studied mathematics and history.
- (v) Gained employment in East India Company and rose to the position of Judge.

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(vii) Was posted a Bijnaur when the war of Independence broke out in 1857.

(viii) Helped in saving the lives of many English men, women, and children.

(ix) Was knighted by the British in 1889.

(x) Died in 1898.

(4) => Sir Syed's Services for the Renaissance of Muslims:-

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan is remembered for his immense contribution to the revitalization, advancement, and modernization of the Muslims of the subcontinent.

He devoted his whole life for the uplift of Muslims of the sub-continent, and enabling them to come out of the depth of ignorance and backwardness.

K.K. Aziz His book "The Making of Pakistan Story".

"Sir Syed's services to his community may be summarized in three terse phrases: loyalty to the British, devotion to education and aloofness from politics."

(5) => Educational Aspects of Aligarh Movement

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan compelled the

Muslims to get themselves acquainted with modern western education. His slogan was "devote yourself to education; this is your only salvation." Sir Syed believed that "the conquered nation must learn sciences in which the conquering race excels."

In his view, good education was the only key to political and economic progress. For this purpose, he took the following steps:

S.1. In 1859, he set up a school at Muradabad, where both Persian and English were taught.

S.2. In 1863, another school was established at Ghazipur.

S.3. Scientific Society: In 1864 Sir Syed established Scientific Society which translated modern works from English to Urdu and Persian. A journal called the Aligarh Institute Gazette was published by this society from 1866 onwards. The journal was published in both English and Urdu to foster both better understanding.

5.4 M.A.O college:- Sir Syed established the Mohammedan Anglo Orientale School at Aligarh in 1875 with money collected through mandiant tours, begging letters, and supplicant speeches. In 1877 the school was given the status of college. The teaching at the college was in English and the main curriculum was Western. But at the same time both the Arabic language and religious instructions were compulsory subjects. MAO College was ultimately elevated to the status of university in 1920. Aligarh Muslim University ~~was~~ ~~the~~ contributed immensely to the creation of Pakistan. The students at this university were at the forefront of the Pakistan Movement and made tremendous sacrifices for the attainment of an independent homeland for the Muslims of India.

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5.5 Mohammedan Education Conference:-

Sir Syed established the Mohammedan Educational Conference in 1886 in order to bring awareness among the Muslims. The Mohammedan

Educational Conference was at once a social organ, an educational movement, a political group, and a society involved in benevolent acts. This organization held sittings in various cities of India with the aim of discussing modern developments in the field of education and adoption of techniques to improve the standard of education. All India Muslim League was also formed at the 1906 annual Mohammedan Educational Conference.

Due to educational services rendered by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, The Times of London called him the "Prophet of Education." Jawaharlal Nehru said, "Sir Syed's decision on the point that all efforts be concentrated on Muslims education was correct. Without education, they would have become ~~slaves~~ slaves of the Hindus who were of advanced in education and more stable in financial position."

S.6 ⇒ Urdu - Hindi Controversy:

In 1867 there arose a controversy about official language. Urdu-Hindi:

Controversy was the first public display of Hindu bigotry and brought a paradigm shift in the thinking of many Muslim leaders including Sir Syed Ahmad Khan vis a vis Hindu Muslim unity.

5.7. Sir Syed and Separate Electorate:-

Sir Syed took up the cause of separate electorates. Sir Syed believed that common elections could only be successful in a country which had one type of people. In India where there was a diversity of race, ethnic, origin, religion, sect and caste, such elections could not produce the desired results. The only solution was to introduce separate electorates so that each community could be represented only.

6. Sir Syed's Literary Works:-

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan strove for the revival of the Muslim society through his literary work. Some of his famous literary works are as follows:-

1. Tahzib ul Ikhlaq.
2. Tabeen ul Kalam.
3. Khutbat-e-Ahmadiya.
4. Risala: Ahkam u Tuam Ahle Kitab.

7. Political philosophy of Sir Syed :-

The political philosophy of Sir Syed can be studied under the following captions:

7.1. Detachment from politics :-

Politics was an unnecessary and undesirable encumbrance for Sir Syed. He opined that Muslims should devote themselves to educational uplift and refrain from participating in active politics. Unless the Muslims had freed themselves of the suspicion of disloyalty and had educated themselves to the Hindu level, it was suicidal to pursue politics.

7.2. Reconciliation with British :-

Sir Syed wanted to remove the state of tension and mistrust between the British and the Muslims after the war of independence. He knew that without creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding between the British government, Muslims shall remain a deprived community.

7.3. Sir Syed and Congress :-

When the Indian National Congress was founded in 1885, Sir Syed used every ounce of his influence, prestige, and

reputation in keeping the Muslims away from it. Sir Syed refuted the claim of Congress that it was a national body representing both Hindus and Muslims. To him, Congress was purely a Hindu body. Therefore, in order to protect the ~~political~~ ^{Political} fortunes of the Muslims, Sir Syed formed the Mohammedan Defence Association in 1893.

7.4. Proponent of Two Nation Theory.

Sir Syed is regarded as one of the greatest exponents of the Two Nation Theory. He was the first Muslim leader who spoke of the Hindus and Muslims as two different people and are called the Muslims "my nation". He compared Hindus and Muslims to "two eyes of a beautiful bride that is India".

7.5. Champion for the Cause of Urdu.

1. Set up a Central Association in Allahabad to protect Urdu.
2. Used the Scientific Society to strengthen the cause of Urdu.
3. Shifted his focus towards easy and comprehensible Urdu.

→ 8. Impact of Aligarh Movement:

The contribution of Aligarh movement towards the revival and resurgence of Muslim Society are immense. Pioneered by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the movement helped remove backward looking nostalgia among the Muslims and taught them to look to the future with confidence. This movement helped restore Muslim confidence, built bridges with the British and laid the foundations of a Muslim political movement.

→ 8.1 Educational Uplift of Muslims:

Educational institutions under the Aligarh movement played a vital role in the educational uplift of the Muslim community.

→ 8.2 Political Awareness of Muslims:

Aligarh movement sensitized the Muslims about their distinct ~~and~~ identity the ambitions of the Hindus. Institutions such as Mohammedan Educational Conference provided the Muslims with a platform for discussing ways and means for the political, educational, and social emancipation of the Muslim community of the subcontinent.

8.3. Conciliation between Muslims and British:-

Aligarh movement helped remove misconceptions between the British and the Muslims after the ill-fated war of independence.

8.4. Promotion of Two Nation Theory:-

The real credit for establishing the two-nation theory in the subcontinent goes to Aligarh movement. After the Urdu-Hindi controversy, it was Sir Syed who spoke of Hindus and Muslims as two different nations who would never live in harmony with each other. Thus, Sir Syed can be rightly called "the father of two nation theory".

8.5. Moral Reformation of Muslim Society:-

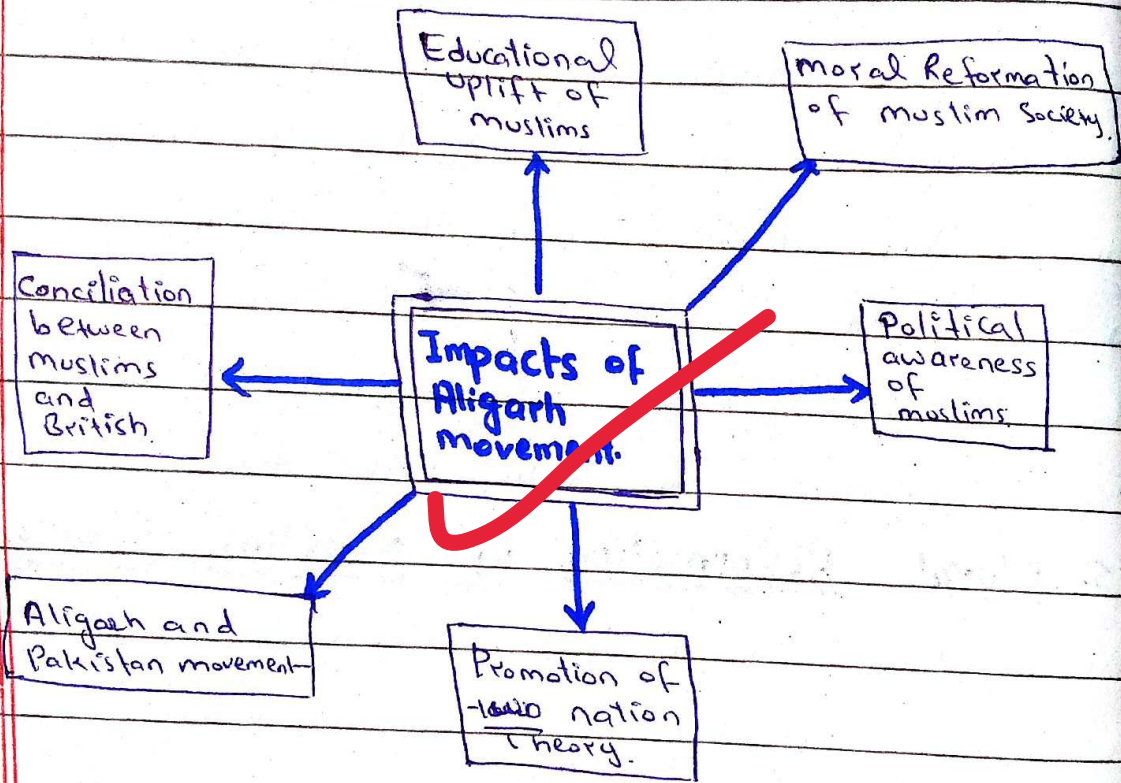
Sir Syed also contributed towards the moral reformation of the Muslim community. In this regard, he gave due emphasis to religious education at Aligarh college. Literary works like the magazine Tahzib ul Ikhlaq were also directed towards refinement of Muslims so that they become enlightened and dynamic citizens.

8.6. Aligarh and Pakistan Movement:-

The Aligarh University was the one institution which contributed most to the

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Creation of Pakistan. An entire generation of Pakistan's leadership was product of the Aligarh Muslim University. **Quaid-e-Azam** was to call the Aligarh Muslim University as his arsenal.



Conclusion

The Aligarh Movement

⇒ (9) Critical Analysis:-

The Aligarh movement's emphasis on modern education continues to inspire marginalized communities, fostering social mobility and equality. It raised political awareness among Muslims, bridging the

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Knowledge gap between Western and Islamic values. In current era, the Aligarh movement's legacy serves as a testament to the power of education in shaping societal and political change.

Conclusion:-

The Aligarh Movement's transformative impact on Indian politics cannot be overstated. By educating and empowering Muslims, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's vision helped reshape the country's social, cultural and political landscape, leaving a lasting legacy in the Indian Subcontinent.

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