

Q: How the reform movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi influenced the history of Muslim India?

1. Introduction:

History itself is evident of the fact that whenever Islam came at danger from external body or from ideology, it is saved by such religious personalities which not only saves it but also give it a new life, such is the case of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi. Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi's reform movement influenced the history of Muslim India.

2. Reform Movement of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi:

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi popularly known as Mujadid Alf Sani was a religious reformer. He reformed the Muslim society and revived Islam. His reform movement included both literary contribution and

Some other particular services.

Reform Movement

Literary Work

- ↳ Asbaat-e-Nabuwat
- ↳ Risalat-e-Nabuwat
- ↳ Need and importance of prophethood
- ↳ Maktubate-Imam-e-Rabbai
- ↳ Tawheed-e-Shahudi
- ↳ Islamic philosophy.

Particular Services

- ↳ Sending a large number of disciples
- ↳ Opposition to Atheism and polytheism
- ↳ Opposition to Deen-i-Ilahi
- ↳ Rectification of mysticism
- ↳ Opposition to Bidaat
- ↳ Letters to Notable leaders
- ↳ Protagonist of two nation theory
- ↳ Negation of Wahdat-ul wujud.
- ↳ propagation of simple habits
- ↳ To settle differences between scholars and my

This reform movement was based on the aim to revive Islam and to restore the Islamic principles and practices in its true spirit.

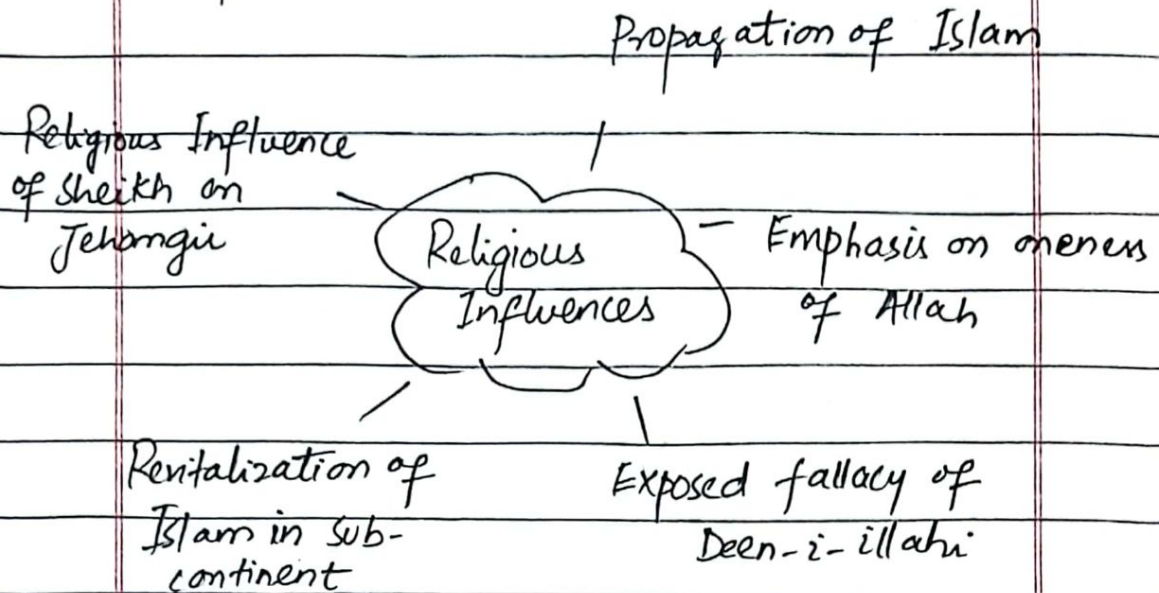
3. Influences of Reform Movement on History of Muslim India:

The reform movement introduced by Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi aimed to revitalise and revive Islam and Islamic society. It aims to remove un-Islamic and unethical practices from Islamic society. This reform movement, however, influenced the history of Muslim India. The influences of reform movement on history of Muslim India are: categorized into religious, political and social influences.

1. Religious Influences:

Reform movement religiously

influenced the history of Muslim India. Some of the religious influences are:



1. Propagation of Islam:

Sheikh Ahmad Rihandi reform movement provide a new spirit and impetus to the propagation of Islam in the sub-continent. He adopted an aggressive attitude towards the non-muslim and also towards the muslim who didn't belong to Sunni School.

2. Emphasis on oneness of Allah:

In the time of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, people were practicing polytheism and Athesim. But due to the tiring efforts of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi people once again returned to their God. They believed in the oneness of Allah.

3. Exposed Fallacy of Deen-i-illahi:

Nothing affected muslims religiously, politically and socially as did Deen-i-illahi. Deen-i-illahi was introduced by Mughal Emperor, Akbar. In order to counteract Deen-i-illahi, Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi exposed the fallacy of Deen-i-illahi. He, on one hand, denounced the newly born religion Deen-i-illahi while on the other hand, he also rejuvenate Islam in order to revive Islam in its true spirit.

4- Revitalization of Islam in the sub-continent:

Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi's reform movement aimed to revitalize Islam in the sub-continent. He introduced the theory of wahdat-ul-Shahud against the theory of wahdatul-wajud. He also denounced heresy and weeded out un-Islamic practices from the society.

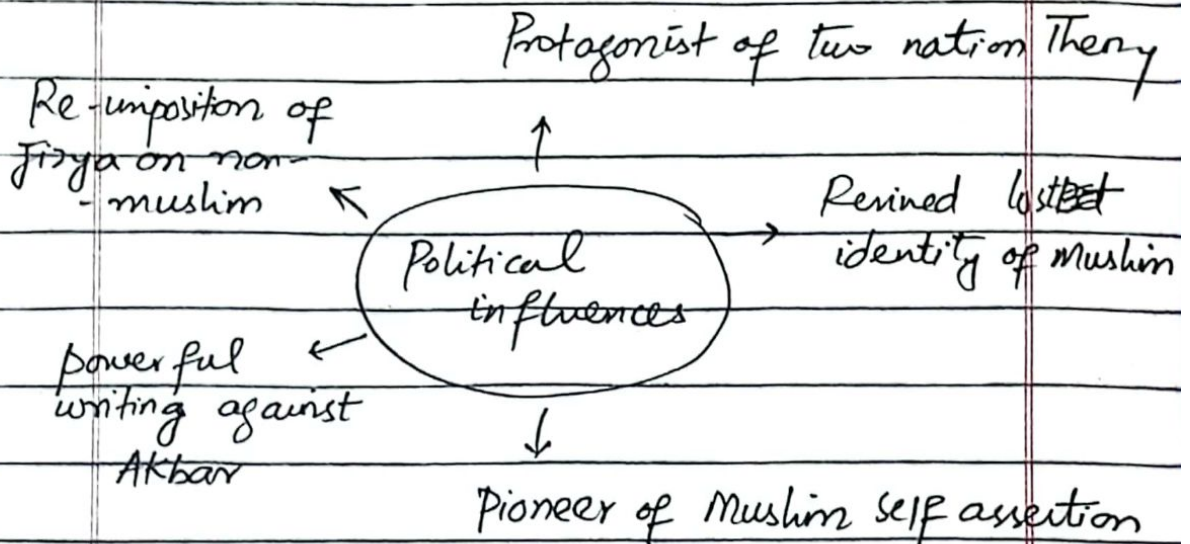
5- Religious Influence of Sheikh on Mughal Emperor, Jehangir:

Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi religiously influenced Mughal Emperor, Jehangir. Sheikh Ahmad refused to bow to Jehangir in the court on the plea that Muslims don't bow to humans. For that reason, he was imprisoned by Jehangir. But after two days, he was released from jail. Mughal Emperor Jehangir also

built a magnificent mosque on the advice of Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi.

2. Political Influences:

The political influences of the reform movement of Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi includes:



1. Protagonist of two Nation Theory:

Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi not only revised Islam but he was also a staunch supporter of two nation theory. He was not in favor of joint nation-ism; rather, he supported

Separate muslim identity. According to Professor I. H Qureshi, "He laid great stress on the wide and unbridgeable gulf between Islam and Hinduism."

2. Restored Lost Identity of Muslim:

Through reform movement of Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi, muslims restored their lost identity. At the time of Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi, Joint nationalism was gaining popularity but through the efforts of Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi Muslims were saved from losing their separate and distinct identity.

Allama Iqbal praised Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi for his efforts in these words; "He was the guardian of Muslim faith in India whom God had given timely warning."

3. Pioneer of Muslim self-assertion:

He was the pioneer of Muslim self-assertion. He removed many unethical and un-Islamic practices from society. His influence or efforts bore fruits in the reign of Aurangzeb Alamgir. Some historians believe that Aurangzeb was a disciple of the son and successor of Musam.

4. Powerful writing against Akbar:

Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi's important tool was his articles. He wrote many powerful writings (articles) in order to counter the newly born religion of Durr-i-illahi. Besides, he wrote letters to many notable rulers. In one of his letters to Sheikh Faeed he wrote, "Monarch is to the World (State) as heart is to the body. If heart is pure, it keeps

the body as well pure. The purity or impurity of the state depends upon the purity / impurity of ruler. You have observe the situation of muslims in present reign In present Akbar reign ~~was~~ the infidels forced pagan practices on muslim land and Muslims were deprived of observing their true commandments."

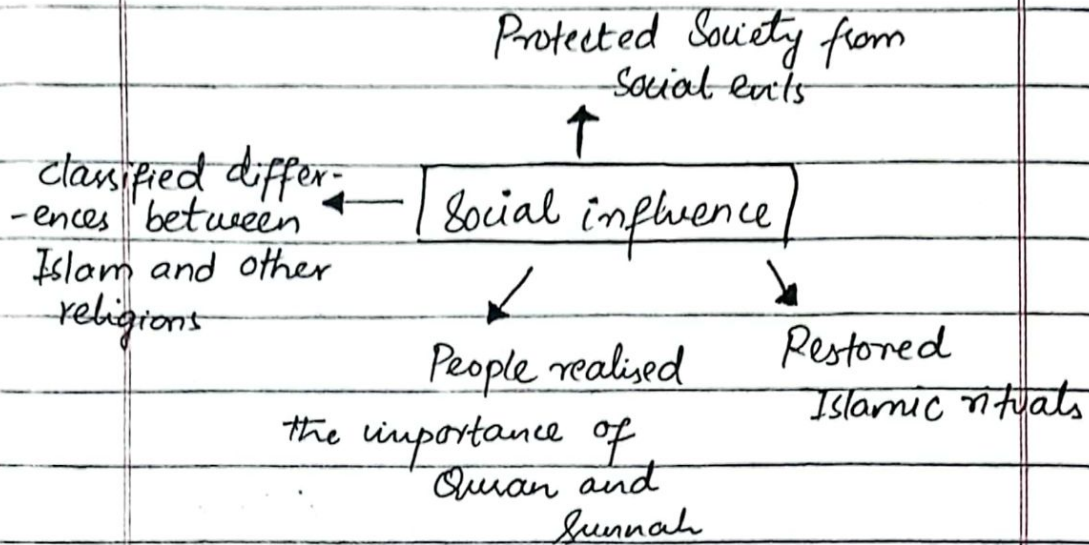
5. Re-imposition of Jizya on non-muslims:

Akbar, mughal Emperor introduced many unethical and unislamic principles. He set free non-muslims from jizya. But, through the tiring efforts of Sheikh Ahmad Lūhindi jizya was again imposed on non-muslims.

3. Social Influences

The reform movement

not only religiously and politically impacted history of Muslim India but also affected it socially.



1. Protected society from social evils:

At the time of Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi, many social evils were prevalent in the Islamic society. Marriage with Hindus were common. Drinking was also common at that time.

But the efforts of Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi resulted in the closeness of people to Islam. Reverting of

to Islam and Islamic practices
eliminated all these evils from
the society.

2. Restored Islamic rituals:

The efforts of Sheikh Ahmad
Sihiindi resulted in the
restoration of Islamic rituals.
The ban on cow slaughter was
removed, call for Azan was
again started. People started
observing their Islamic rituals
in its true spirits. As Allama
Iqbal aptly said:

ہے نہیں ہے اللہ کو اس عوس کی پروا
کہ جس کی روح خوابدہ ہے اب تک
مرا دل تیا گے کلب میں ہم دم
نہ ہو آک بھی جوان بیدار جب تک

3. People realised the importance of Quran and Sunnah:

At the time of Sheikh
Ahmad Sihiindi both scholars
and mystics were indifferent
to the teaching of Quran
and Sunnah. But it was

Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi who reverted people again to the teachings of Quran and Sunnah. People started following the teachings of Quran and Sunnah in their life.

4. Sharpened the differences between Islam and other religion:

Akbar, Mughal Emperor tried hard to blur Islam with other religion. Deen-i-illahi, theory of Wahdatul Wajud and Bakhti movements are the examples of that efforts. But it was Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi who sharpened the differences between Islam and other religions.

4. Conclusion:

Sheikh Ahmad Rihindi, a reformer, played important role in reforming muslim society by introduction of reform movement. The reform movement

politically, religiously and socially impacted the history of Muslim India.

"He was one of the forceful and original thinkers, produced in the Subcontinent before Shah Wali-Ullah and Allama Iqbal, was most popular not only amongst the religious personalities of Indian Sub-continent but in the whole world."

- SM. Ikram.