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Question "Aligarh movement created awakening among Muslims to provide political platform through education network" Analyze.

The Aligarh movement was indeed a significant awakening among Muslims, aimed at providing a political platform through education.

Background:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan is known as father of Muslim Nationalism in India. He was not a separatist. Before 1867, Sir Syed Ahmed's perception was that all Indians are equal. But after war of Independence 1857, only Muslims were targeted by British. They were deprived all privileges and opportunities, from modern education, altogether politically and bankrupt economically. According to William Hunter, the English rulers would not recognise even the existence of Muslims.

Sir Syed's Role in Educational Development

His work for educational development for Muslims are

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Three-pillar policy of Sir Syed.

- ↳ Distance from politics
- ↳ Devotion to education
- ↳ Loyalty to British

In 1859, he established Muradabad school. It was starting point of Sir Syed Ahmed's struggle. He transferred from Muradabad to Gazipur where he took additional responsibility.

Aligarh Movement Timeline

- 1859 | Established Muradabad School
- 1863 | English Medium School in Gazipur
- 1864 | Scientific Society
- 1864 | Victoria School at Gazipur
- 1875 | Established MAO College
- 1876 | Issued "Tehzib-ul-Ikhlag"
- 1877 | Published "The Causes of Revolt"

The purpose of Scientific Society was to translate English books to Indian languages. On Dec 24, 1876, he issued his famous magazine "Tehzib-ul-Ikhlag" from Banaras to address the Muslims of their social evils and moral shortcomings.

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MAO became the centre of Muslim educational and Intellectual activity in the Sub-continent.

Political Education of Muslims:

Sir Syed perceived that if tensions among British and Muslims continued Hindus would get advantage of it. In order to alleviate this, he wrote a pamphlet entitled: "Essay on the Causes of Indian Revolt". He wrote that only Muslims were not responsible for the revolt. He also established "British Indian Association".

Sir Syed advised the Muslims to not to join Indian National Congress. As Muslims have to work first on their education. He believed that Muslims needed to strengthen their social, economic and educational base before engaging in politics. Also it will prevent conflicts between Muslims and British.

Sir Syed promoted and began advocating for Muslim participation in politics by 1880s.

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Legacy and Impact

He revolutionized Muslim thought and empowerment in India. By establishing MAO, he bridged a gap between Muslim values and Western education. Sir Syed's ~~legacy~~ political advocacy ensured Muslim representation in governance, paving the way for future leaders. The Aligarh Movement's legacy extends beyond India, shaping Muslim nationalism, modernization, and Pakistan Movement.

Question 2

~~Critically analyze the role of Sheikh.~~ Evaluate the role of Shah Waliullah in 18th century in India. How did he save Muslims from political annihilation and religious degeneration.

Shah Waliullah was an illustrious reformer of India and a great thinker of 18th Century. He stroived for the restoration of Muslim rule in which Ulema would play

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an important role.

He was born on 21 Feb, 1703 and that period was marked with persistent decline and deterioration of Muslim society. Sectarian conflicts, poor understanding of Quran and some general issues gave rise to political collapse accompanied by religious disintegration.

Disintegration of Mughal Empire had set in and Muslims were split among themselves. Consequently, they suffered much at the hands of the Sikhs, Jats and Marahatts.

• Muslims at edge of Political Annihilation:
Shah Waliullah take initiative after such a weak and helpless situation of Muslims. He wrote letter to Ahmad Shah Abdali to attack India. As he thought it was the only course left to save Muslim Community and crippling state from complete ruin. He stated in his letter detailed account of geographical situation of India, economic condition and military strength of well known parties. All this show that he was not only a religious scholar,

but a great thinker.

Ahmad Shah Attack - 1761.

Ahmad Shah Abdali attacked on India, the battle took place at Panipat. Despite military strength, Marathas suffered defeat. Muslims could have availed this opportunity but they remained where they were.

Political decline had made the country virtually bankrupt. Muslims had lost their economic power. Civil wars and loss of culture, loss of lives and resources. After all this he started a reform movement.

Services of Shah Waliullah:

- He translated Quran in Persian language as he wanted to educate Muslims of India.
- Muslims had to focus on their identity this can only be done by national integration.
- He wanted to replace incompetent rulers with the competent one.
- He wrote Hujjatullah-il-Baligha.