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Date

Hajra Akhter

Q No. 2.

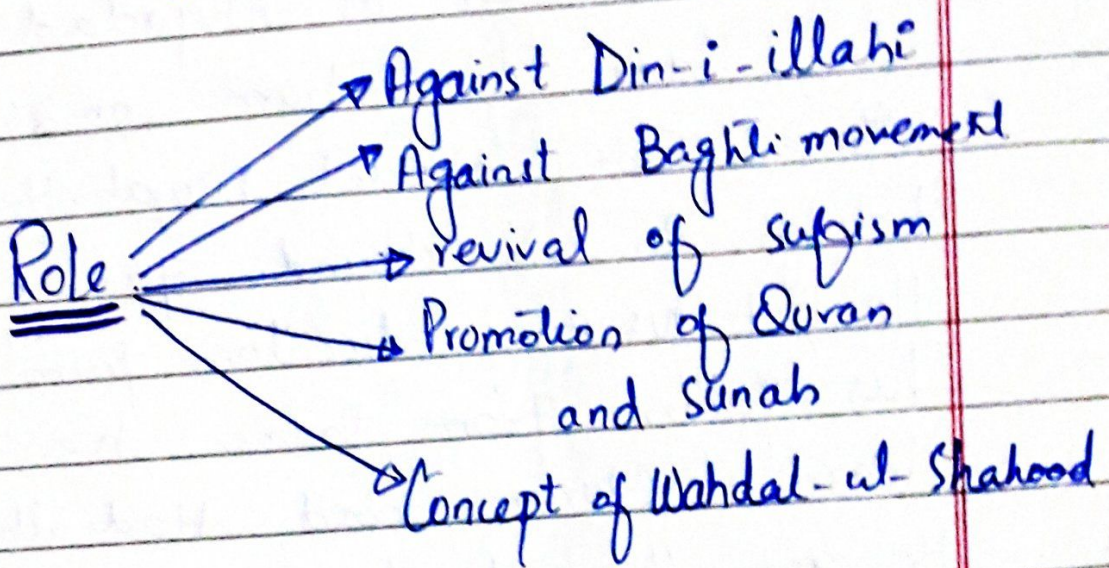
Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi

1. Introduction

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi known as Mujaddid Alaf Sani was born on 26 June 1564 in east Punjab. He belongs to Naqshbandi family. He got his early education from his father from there he learnt Quran and Hadi'ath. He got the education of Fiqah and Hadi'ath from Moleha Kamal and Yaqoob Kashmiri in Sialkot. Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi perform a great role in the religious reform movements of the continent by opposing dis-e-illahi, concept of wahdat-ul-

Wajood and his reforms have great impact on socio-political landscape as muslim identity was strengthened. He directed Muslims on right direction.

2. Role of Sheikh Ahmed in religious reform movement:



2.1. Against Din-i-illahi

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was against Din-i-illahi concept. Din-i-illahi concept was established by Akbar in which he order to say him zil-illahi and bow him in royal court - Sheikh Ahmed was

against this concept. He believed that one should bow only in front of Allah and start preaching Islam.

2.2. Against Bhagti movement

Bhagti movement was established by Hindus and Sikhs whose leader were Guru Nanak and

many Hindus. According to this movement, Hindus said that Muslims and Hindus

have same identity but real role of Bhagti movement was to check and balance the Muslims as they don't want to establish Islam.

So Sheikh^r was against Bhagti movement; he wrote letters to Molana Fareed Khan and asked him

① ^{is} it permissible to kill Hindus or Sikh who are leading

Bhagti movement.

② Is it ok to give punish

to Muslim who follow Din-i-Allah? These questions disturb Sheikh and they want the Muslim in right direction.

2.3 Revival of Sufism.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi is known for bringing new life to the Naqshbandi Sufi order. Even he was a Sufi he wanted to reform Sufism by making sure it followed the rules of traditional Islam. He was against mystic experience and promoted a balance approach where people work according to Quran and Sunnat.

2.4 Promotion of Quran & Sunnah.

In Akbar's region it was banned to say prayer and live their lives according to Quran and Sunnah. But Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi strongly emphasized following Islamic laws.

For this Sheikh wrote many letters to Jhangir who was king at that time. In his letters

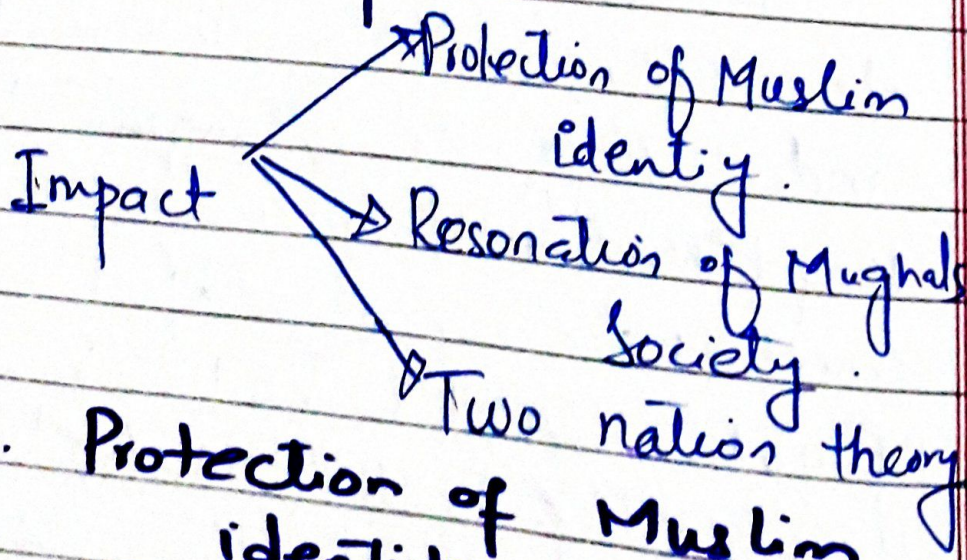
1. He criticized Mughal's political and administrative policies. not only criticize but also tell the Muslims are spending their life not according to Islam. It was anti-Islamic.
2. He criticized Mughals Political system and give suggestion how this system should be better
 - i - central authorities should obey Quran & Sunnah.
 - ii - Constitution should be according to Quran & Sunnah.
3. He criticized on liberal scholar and suggested Jhangir to kept those scholars in royal court who are expert in fiqh and hadith.
4. He criticize that Muslim leaders are wasting Treasury &

be used in preaching Islam. Through his writing he tried to awaken Muslims.

2.5. Concept of Wahdat-ul-Shahood.

Sirhindi introduce wahdat-ul-shahood against the Ibn-arabs idea of wahdat-ul-wajood. According to Wahdat-ul-wajood God & creation were one but in wahdat-ul-shahud God and creation are separate that any feeling of unity is spiritual experience not unity.

3 Impact on Socio-Political Landscape.



3.1. Protection of Muslim identity.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi had a great impact on Muslim identity protection. By his effort Muslims starts practicing right prayers. By his preaching on Quran and Sunnah, Muslims starts their live according to Islam.

3.2. Resonation of Mughals Society.

Jahngir under the influence of Mujadid's preaching order Khutba to be recited and cow slaughter to be carried out as required by Islamic principles. Jahngir also build masjid on the advise of Mujadid. He lived three years in the emperor Jahngir and changed all the public, political system administration in the royal court.

3.3 Two nation theory.

Sheikh Ahmed openly

negated the philosophy Wahdat-ul-wajud. Sheikh Ahmed firmly believe two nation theory

He was in favor of maintaining difference between hindus & Muslims. He wanted Jizya to be reimposed.

Critical Analysis

Sheikh Ahmed's strong opposition to religious diversity and mixing of hindus Muslim practices has been exclusion of non Muslims in Islamic rule. By rejecting Akbars policies, he promoted a more rigid and extraordinary vision of Empire

Conclusion

Sheikh Ahmed played an important role in protecting Muslims identity and establishing Islam in the sub-continent by his preaching and by his writing -