

# Indo-Pak History

Q Evaluate the political role of Shah Waliullah in 18<sup>th</sup> - century India

## Introduction:

Shah Waliullah played a great role in the political as well as religious and social uplift of the Muslims in India. The 18<sup>th</sup> century is a period in which the downfall of the Mughal Empire in India had started. After the death of Aurangzeb in **1707**, the Mughal Empire had shattered and inept successors of Aurangzeb were unable to hold the Empire. At the time, the personalities like Shah Waliullah played an effective role in India.



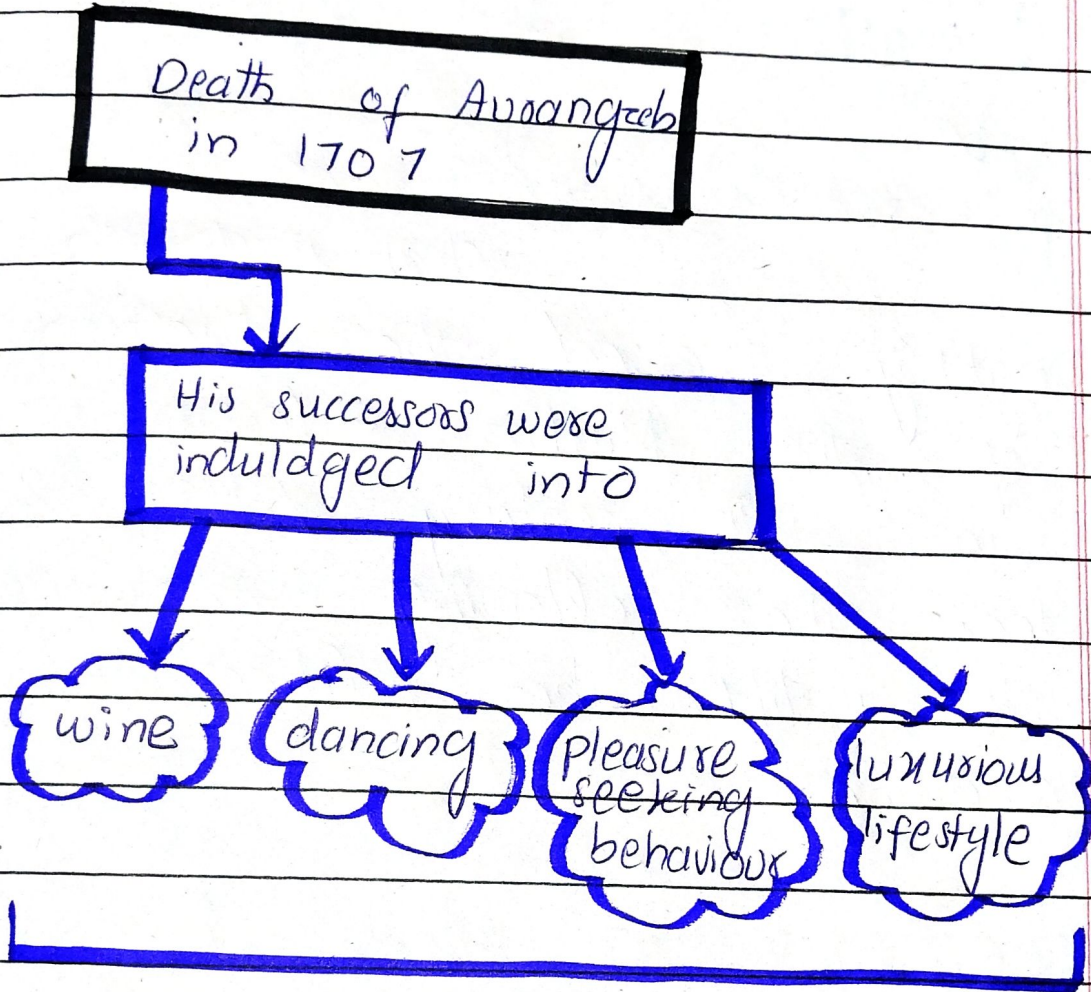
## Life Sketch of Shah- Waliullah:

He was born in 1703. His father was a great scholar and saint named as Abdul Rahim. He taught his son Shah waliullah and at the age of 11, he died. After the death of his father Shah waliullah began to teach at Mackassa Rhimiya. He studied Quran, Hadith, philosophy as well as fiqh. He died in 1793.

## Prevailing political condition at the time of Shah Waliullah:



In 18<sup>th</sup> century, after the death of Aurangzeb, the political condition was very poor.



They became mere puppets of the Britishers

According to I. H. Qureshi in his book "**The Struggle for Pakistan,**" "The late Mughals were the cause of the downfall of



the Mughal Empire due to their pleasure-seeking behaviour and luxurious lifestyle."

## Political Role of

### Shah Waliullah:

Shah Waliullah rightly assessed the situation of the Muslim Rulers in 18<sup>th</sup> century. He took the following measures to uplift the political condition:

## 1. Letters to Mughal

### Rules:-

Shah Syed Waliullah wrote letters to the Mughal rulers. His main purpose was to awake them from their inept behaviour. In these letters, Shah Waliullah



decisely called the Mughal rulers to end up their luxurious lifestyle and immoral activities.

As Hafeez Malik rightly said, "Shah Waliullah gives a new socio-political philosophy to the Muslims of the sub-continent. His role for the Muslims of 18<sup>th</sup> century is same as the role of Martin Luther for Germany."

## 2. Asked to Britishers to end-up nepotism:

The nepotism of the Britishers was at the peak. It was because they wanted to get utmost benefits from the Mughals. For that purpose, they used the tool of



nepotism. According to K. K. Aziz, Shah-waliullah rightly assessed the situation and his letters to britishers was a call in which he asked them to end their nepotism.

### 3. Efforts of Shah waliullah to develop unity among

masses:

Due to weak political condition, the masses were shattered and disunited. Shah waliullah took the following steps for their unification:

Efforts to end  
sectarian differences

Izlat-Al-Akhifa

Efforts to find  
common points  
between four schools

Al Inṣaf-fil-Bayan Sabab-al-Akhtalaf



unite on the  
basic principles  
of Islam

End →

Anti-  
Islamic  
activities

Follow  
the law  
of Shariah

#### 4. Efforts of Shah waliullah in case of soldiers:

It is generally said that when a ruler is indulged in immoral and luxurious activities not only the masses but also the soldiers of his army lose their spirit. During Mughal era, the rulers were also the commanders of soldiers. When a ruler is weak and inept, it ultimately affects his army. To awake the spirit in the soldiers, Shah waliullah



wrote letters to the soldiers and asked them to be active as they were the custodians of the empire.

## 5 Protagonist of Two

### Nation Theory:

Shah Waliullah is also regarded as the protagonist of two Nations Theory. As he regarded the Muslims as a separate nation on the basis of their religion and had their own cultural, moral, social and religious values. So, they were considered by him as separate.

**Farzana Sheikh** pays a tribute to Shah Waliullah's concept of Two Nation Theory and to his far-sightedness



in her well-known book  
"Making sense of Pakistan"

## • Impact of the political role of Shah Waliullah:

Shah Waliullah played role in 18<sup>th</sup> century as a reformist. The impact of his political reformation is as follows:

Gave foundation to the Two-Nation Theory

Paved way for the future demand of Muslims for a separate homeland

Open the doors for Jihad movement



## Critical Analysis:

Shah Waliullah was a great reformer in the history of sub-continent. He not only gave the reforms in the field of politics but also in the field of religion and economics. He was fully aware of the importance of religion and economics in the political field of a Muslim state. His economic system has four principles that align with the Islamic principles.

## Conclusion:

The political role of Shah Waliullah was very effective. He clearly



understood the prevailing political condition and ills in that political system. He was against the luxurious lifestyle of the inept Mughal rulers and did his utmost effort to awake them from their ignorance.

“Allah shall raise for this Ummah at the head of every century, a man, who shall revive for it its religion.”

Sunan Abu Dawud

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