

Q^{No} 2 Keeping in view the Socio-political circumstances of the Sub-Continent, discuss the role of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi who revived Islamic ideology and established Muslim Identity in sub-continent. 2024-CSS Pakistan Affairs paper. Date: _____

Introduction:

It was the 16th Century when India was under the Mughal ruler Jhaloruddin Akbar. Akbar's kingship greatly effected the value and legacy of Islam as he had introduced many reforms which were against the basics of Islam, therefore, despite being Muslim ruler, the Akbar's rule resulted in great loss for Islam and Muslim during his time. Thus, a great reformist well known in the history as Mujahid Alf Sani. He was also known as Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi. Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi rejected Akbar's religious changes and doctrines and promised to uphold the pure and original Islam.

Socio-political Circumstances of that time

Socially, the Muslims were degraded and the Mughal ruler placed, hindus in his court and replaced all muslims from important position, so muslims were greatly degraded. As Akbar married with rajput princess he wanted to create a soft corner for him in the hearts and minds of hindus, so he also introduced certain reforms such as he abolished jazyg which is not only an important source of revenue but also an important Islamic tax imposed on non-Muslims. likewise, he also introduced Zikr-e-Allah and Sub-e-kul like concept which were totally against

Islamic values

(ii) Political Conditions:

As the Mughal rulers were abandoning Islam there were emerging new challenges to the Mughal rule. The Marathas and the Sikh States were challenging the writ of the State and announcing their independence. Similarly, within the Mughal Empire the empire was so weak and inefficient that it was not capable to response to such a kind of aggression. Thus, due to these, the glory muslim rule and identity was in danger. Thus, Ahmed Sheikh Sirhindi emerged as a light in that dark era.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi's reforms.

To protect Islam and uphold the muslim identity. Sheikh Ahmed carried out a lot of works to reform the declining muslim rule and ~~identity~~ identity.

(i)

(i) Tried to resolved conflicts among Muslims.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi believed that the decline of Muslims is because of the disunity, therefore, he wanted to resolve all kind of conflicts among muslims by identifying similarity in their views and religious texts. he worked for the unity of Shia and Sunni, and he also studied all the four Imams to

bring about similarity in their views to end conflicts in their followers. Thus, at a time of disunity and chaos, he emerged as a sole light to unite muslims against the growing threats of non-muslims.

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(2) Wahadat ul wujud vs Wahadat ul shaid.

Sufism was very common at that time and the concept Wahadat ul wujud means Allah is in everything and in everything there is Allah. However, ~~Shah~~ Sheikh Ahmed rejected this saying that Allah is one and superior he can not be in everything. He stated that such concepts are corrupting the minds of Muslims, therefore, he introduced a new concept called Wahadat ul shauheed which says otherwise.

(3) Two Nations Theory.

As Sheikh Ahmed Sirhadi first time said that hindus and muslims are separate in all respect, so he was basically saying introducing two Nation Theory which was later on developed by Sir syed Ahmed Khan and others.

Conclusion:

As the muslims were in decline when Sir Ahmed Sirhadi came p forward and uplifted the muslims and their separate identity. So he was an original reformist for the muslims of sub-continent.