

Q: Keeping in View the Sociopolitical Circumstances of Subcontinent, discuss the role of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, who revived the Islamic ideology and established the muslim identity in Subcontinent.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi the reviver of islam during 2nd millennium (Mujadid Alf Sani) began his reform Movement when muslim Society was ridden by the anti islamic policies and trends of Mughal emperors.

Sociopolitical Circumstances

Akbar's anti islamic outlook had compromised the Supremacy of islam and muslim's identity in Subcontinent.

Akbar was crowned in 1556 and for strengthening the mughal empire he promoted the Hinduism by marrying the Hindu Rajput ladies by

1) **matrimonial allainces.**

He elevated the hindus and

Rajput on high government assignment due to which they were openly indulged in government affairs

Akbar promulgated his new religion "Din-e-illahi" by combining the salient feature of Islam and other religions in subcontinent especially Hinduism, so that a homogenous fusion of Hindu and Muslim subjects can be achieved.

The theme of Din-e-illahi was the introduction of anti-Islamic policies which included the worship of Sun, fire and artificial light. In 1564 Jizya and Pilgrimage tax were abolished. Azan call for Namaz was forbidden. Cow slaughter was prohibited.

The masjids were used to be as warehouse. Akbar ordered no children will be named as Muhammed. He also patronaged the classical Indian art like painting, music, and dancing to please his Hindu subjects.

2)

The Ulama and theologian ceased to refer to the Quran and Hadith in their Summons, and considered Jurisprudence as the Holy religious knowledge. By which the religious spirit diminished and gave rise to Juristic view of Islam.

He promulgated the Policy of Sulah-i-Kul (Universal Tolerance) and bestowed honours on leader with visible leanings toward Hinduism.

He purposed the philosophy of "Wahdat-ul-Wajud" That advocate that there is no difference between man and his Creator God. They also believed that every particle of Universe represent the Presence of God and, therefore the worship of Creature amounted the worship of God.

The immediate result of the propagation of these anti Islamic policies was the loss of muslim political hegemony in Subcontinent.

3)

The hindus were elevated to the equal

status and their social position was greatly enhanced while the muslims identity and Supremacy of islam was totally compromised.

Role of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi:-

In these Sociopolitical position of muslim of Subcontinent, the Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was the most powerful personality and was the only individual who opposed the akbar and thereby invited his wrath.

Two nation theory:

Sheikh Ahmad worked hard to keep ^{alive} the national and religious identity of muslims. He laid great emphasis on separate identity of muslims and adopted a very strong attitude against the hindus. Sheikh Ahmad strictly believed in two nation theory. He was in favour of maintaining the difference between Hindus and Muslims. He wanted Jizya and pig ^{image} tax to be reimposed.

4)

Fallacy of Din-e-illahi by Sheikh Ahmad:-

To restore the supremacy of Islam he adopted an effective method of Persuasion by writing letters to the nobles of royal court, he also used the Commandment of Sharia in his Summons and Preaching.

Sheikh Ahmad exposed the fallacy of Din-e-illahi and laboured to anticipate the influence of this devilish creed. He urged the muslim to Order their lives according to the principles of islam. He guided the muslims to revert ^{to} the purer islam by giving up the heretical customs and Practices.

Ittibat-i-Sunnah

Sheikh ahmad asked the muslim to emphasize on ittibate Sunnah and follow the Quran and Hadith in their daily life. He declared that mysticism without Sharia is mislead.

5)

Sheikh Ahmad Persuaded the muslims to adopt simple habits in life (of) in light of Sunnah. He explained the importance of Namaz and utility of fasting for a muslim.

Wahdat ul Shahud:

In order to oppose the Akbar's philosophy of wahdat ul wajud that was an anti islamic. Sheikh Ahmad purposed the philosophy of wahdat ul shahud that narrated the creator and creatures were ^{two} different and separate things.

Result of efforts of Sheikh ahmad:-

Sheikh ahmad till the last breath of his life continued with the promotion of islam. His movement for the cause of islam gave the new life to the muslims and is regarded as the call Back to Muhammad. He explained the difference between islam and hinduism.

6)

He considerably persuaded the Jehangir to alter his religious view and renounce his father's religious policies.

Jehangir was impressed by Sheikh Ahmad's preaching, ordered Khutaba to be recited and Cow Slaughter to be carried out as required by Islamic principles. Jehangir also agreed to the construction of a big mosque on the advice of Sheikh Ahmad.

After living three years with the emperor Jehangir, he sought permission to leave for Sirhind. He passed away on December 10, 1626 and was buried in Sirhind.

Conclusion:

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi laboured to restore the supremacy of Islam and identity of Muslims in Subcontinent in the 2nd Millennium. He is considered as the pioneer of Muslim self-

7)

8)

-assertion by denouncing the un-
islamic practices.