

Question

1) The effort for renaissance made by Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi in the sub-continent

Answer

INTRODUCTION

Efforts were made for the revival of muslim identity, culture, knowledge and political rights after the decline of the Mughal Empire and during British Colonial rule. Multiple reformists contributed in the revival of islamic teachings and muslim identity; one of them reformist, Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi contributed through his books, movement and letters to ruler to revive the real islamic values.

Background

→ After the war of independence 1857 muslims were targeted by Britishers and deprived of jobs, education and

power.

- Britishers blamed Muslims for the 1857 rebellion.
- Muslims were not allowed in politics, gain education and got high rank jobs.
- Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi realized the need for the revival of Muslim identity and started struggle for Islam and Muslim Nation.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi (1564-1624)

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was born in east Punjab in 1564. He was a religious scholar, Sufi and reformist. He was honored with the title of Mujaddid Al-Sani. He brought religious and spiritual revival which later on inspired the educational and political reformists like Shah Waliullah, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and institutions include Deoband, Aligarh and Nadwatul Ulama.

Condition at the time of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi

→ Effects of Deen-i-illahi

Deen-i-illahi was a new concept introduced by Mughal emperor Akbar. He established this concept to unite Hindu and Muslim, however, it was destroying the true teachings of Islam. This new concept was influencing the teachings of Quran and Sunnah. Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi contradicted the idea of Deen-i-illahi and taught Muslims the real Islamic teachings.

→ Decay of Muslim Society

- Muslims were facing multiple problems like arrival of new Islamic teachings made by orthodox Sufi and mystic beliefs.
- Wide spread belief of Karmat (Miracles) which was the Hindu concept was adopted by Muslims.
- Jizya was removed on Non-Muslims.
- Ban on cow slaughter.

- Inter-marriages b/w hindu and Muslims
- High offices were being occupied by Hindus
- Muslims rely on sufi's and scholars instead on Quran and Sunnah.

→ Doctrine of Wahdat ul Wajood

The new concept was established named as Wahdat ul Wajood.

The orthodox sufis created a concept of ontological monism means Wahdat ul Wajood, which means there is no difference between Creator (Allah) and human, both are equal and same thing.

Steps taken by Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi

→ Letters to Rulers

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi wrote letters to muslim rulers, in which he mentioned about the real situation of the muslim in sub-continent and told the true and real teachings of

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of Islam. He wrote the difference
b/w hindu and muslim culture and
they both are separate Nations.

→ Wahdat-ul-Shuhud

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi wrote
the answer of wahdat-ul-wajood.
He told muslims about Wahdat-ul-
shuhud which means phenomenological
monism that include, Creator and
creation is both opposite things and
the creator is not same as human.
He taught people about the real
and true teaching of islam.

→ Emphasized on following Shariah and Sunnah

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi explained
muslims about the true religion
taught by our holy Prophet Muhammad
(P.b.u.h). He told the rulers to
make laws according to Islamic
Sharia and ^{took} help guideline from
Sunnah

- Asked Muslims to follow rituals (Prayers, Fasting and Zakat)
- Follow Quran and Sunnah
- Remove Hindu from Muslim teaching
- Reimpose Jizya
- Revival of Muslim identity, knowledge and culture.

→ Campaign for reimposing Jizya

He started Campaign to reimpose Jizya system. To maintain the contradiction Jizya system is very important. Imposing Jizya was a part of Mughal Rule and Muslim Kingdom.

→ Literary Work

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi wrote multiple books for the revival of Islamic teachings and restore Muslim identity.

Impact of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi in the sub-continent

- Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi religious reforms and movement had a huge impact on muslim community. He played a significant role in reviving the true islamic teachings and restore muslim identity. He separated hindu teachings from muslim religion and told muslims to rely on Quran and Sunnah. After the decline of mughal empire and during british colonial rule, he was a person who played a pivotal role to revive muslim rule and inspired future reformers.

Conclusion

Sheikh Ahmed sirhindhi played a pivotal role in efforts for renaissance in the sub-continent. He brought back real islamic teaching and contributed in economical, social