

Question

Discuss in detail the social, religious and political roles of the Deoband movement in the Indian subcontinent. How did it influence Muslim society and contribute to anti-colonial efforts during British rule?

Answer

INTRODUCTION

Deoband movement was one of the most significant Islamic revivalist movement in the sub-continent. It emerged in 19th Century as the religious, educationalist and political response to the decline of Muslim power and rising influence of British rule, after the war of independence (1857).

Background

- > War of independence 1857 ended very badly. The Britishers believed that Muslims had started the rebellion and they were the reason of rebellion. They started treating Muslims badly and deprived education, political and job facilities.
- > The Muslim scholars believed that the decline of Muslim rule was

due to moral and religious decline

- unislamic innovation (Bid'ah) added in islamic teachings.

Objectives of Deoband

- The revival of islamic teachings
- Formation of Madarsa, to promote islamic education
- Oppose western culture, education and missionary efforts
- Non-violent rejection of British rule through promoting urdu instead of English, formation of Jamiat ul-ulema-i-hind, political awareness to muslims.
- Promote brotherhood and unity among muslim ummah

Religious Movement

Formation of Deoband Movement

→ Deoband movement was formed in 1866 in UP (Uttar Pradesh) in India.

→ The founder members were

- Molana Muhammad Qasim Nanavtani
- Molana Rashid Ahmed

Revival of islamic teachings

Deoband was formed to revive islamic teachings which was replaced by unislamic innovation bidah and belief of karmat and superstition.

→ Formation of Madarssas

Seminars were conducted to taught islamic teachings and produce Mulla. The Muslims were indulged in Modern education, so taught them to adopt islamic teachings instead of modern and english education.

→ Fatwa and literature

Deoband scholars used fatwa's to guide muslims of india. They translated Quran and islamic teachings in urdu so it will be accessible for all masses.

Social Reforms

Moral reform of muslim society

Deoband institutions and scholars worked on moral discipline, ethical development and psychological development. Promote simplicity, Modesty and character building.

→ Promote urdu language

Deoband institution promote urdu language instead of English language during British rule. They did literary work and translation for the development and protection of urdu language.

→ Oppose Western Culture

Deoband movement rejected the western ideas, culture and language. They started efforts to reject English language, Christians missionary efforts, British colonial rule.

Political reforms

→ Formation of Jamiat Uleema-i-Hind

A Platform for Muslim to present themselves. An official Political Platform to express their ideas and oppose British rule.

- They advocated the concept of Nationalism and rejected Muslim separatism, creation of Pakistan
- Supported Indian National Congress and opposed Muslim League.

→ Oppose British Colonial Rule

They rejected British rule and started promoting their own ideas, Islamic identity, Islamic thoughts and Urdu language. Providing awareness of Political system to Muslims to participate in system and influence British rule. Using fatwas to declared British rule unjust.

Impact of Deoband Movement

- Revival of Islamic teaching
- Formation of Madrasahs
- Promotion and Protection of Urdu language
- Weaken the British rule and declared it unjust rule among Muslims
- Promoted Sunni Hanafi Jurisprudence, which is still in Pakistan, India & Bangladesh
- Muslims got Political awareness, as they used fatwas to brought Muslim towards Political influence for their rights.
- Decline of Modern and Scientific education

in Indian sub-continent.

Criticism on Deoband Movement

- Only Promoted Religious education, ignored Modern and Scientific Knowledge
- Only formed Madassas and religious institution, rather than Modern and Scientific Education Institution
- Promoted Indian Nationalism, rejected separatism
- less focus on education, job opportunities for Muslims
- Never talked about women rights and education

Conclusion

Deoband Movement was not just a religious revival; it was a socio-political resistance against ~~Austrian~~ British rule. It reshaped Muslim society through education, Islamic teachings and political awareness.

“Deoband was not just a madrasah; it was a movement of Muslim revival and survival under the shadow of colonialism”