

How the Reform movement of Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi influenced the history of Muslim India?

Introduction:

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was born in 1564 in Sirhindi, India.

He also known as "Mujaddad Alif Sani" which literally means "reviver of Islam during the second millennium". He played a vital role in reviving and reaffirming Islam in India during the rule of Emperor Akbar. SM Ikram said about Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi that

The most forceful and original thinker in India, before Shah-Waliullah and Allama Iqbal.

At the age of 36, Sheikh Ahmad went to Delhi and joined the Naqshbandiya Silsilah under guidance of khawja Bagi Billah. Khawja Bagi Billah predicted that

Sheikh Ahmed would be a guiding light for the entire world.

Condition OF India during His time or Akbar's Era:

During the Akbar's era the condition of Muslims of India became very worse.

→ Akbar started to married with Hindus

Ladies for peace and political benefits.

As a result, a number of Hindu customs and practices had become the part of the state.

→ Akbar waived Jaziya which was implemented on Non-Muslims.

→ In his era, Hindus was in the court, worshiping places, and they started to rebuild the construction of Hindu temples.

→ Scholars had deviated from the core teaching of Islam. For example, Some scholars declared alcohol and gambling permissible, and eating during Ramdan was allowed.

→ Ban on cow slaughter.

Akbar's policies strengthened the Hindus and weakened the Muslims.

→ One of the biggest things that happened, Akbar proclaimed "**Din-i-Illahi**" a new religion or divine faith. In order to find a middle ground between Hinduism and Islam, Akbar proclaimed "Din-i-Illahi" in 1581. Sheikh Ahmed Siahundi strongly opposed this idea.

Sheikh Ahmed Siahundi referred to this era as

"The age of Islamic Poverty"

He emphasizing on the urgent need of a reformer who could guide the emperor and the Muslim society as a whole.

Sheikh's Reforms:

After Akbar passed away and Jahangir became the new ruler, Sheikh Ahmed Siahundi emerged as a reformer aiming to eliminate the practices and beliefs that were not in the line of Islam.

Methodology:

- He writes letters to the nobles in Jahangir's court, many of whom had served in Akbar's court as well.
- He used sermons and write books to guide the people.

As a result, Sheikh was summoned to Jahangir's court and asked to bow down. However, he refused, saying that bowing down to anyone other than Allah was against the preaching of Islam. This refusal angered Jahangir, he imprisoned Sheikh Ahmed for two years.

Preaching of Islam during Imprisonment:

He continued preaching of Islam during the imprisonment. Due to his efforts thousands Non-Muslims accepted Islam. Jahangir was under the influence of his Islamic writings released him and offered huge gifts to him.

He demand following before the audience of Emperor:

- Sajidab before the emperor should be abolished.

→ Reimposing Jaziya and cow slaughter.

→ Hindus to be expelled from the court and removed from important positions.

→ Muslim shouldn't inter-mingle, inter-dine and intermarry with Hindus.

Influence of Sheikh Ahmed's

Reform Movement:

use more specific and self explanatory headings.....

Religious Influence:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi opposed

the philosophy of Bhakti movement,

Din-i-Illahi and Suh-i-Kulh that was

against the Islamic teaching. He said

that

To consider Ram and Rehman
one is stupidity because creator cannot
be one with its creation.

He gave the concept of Wahdat-
ul-Shahood and declared that God

and man are two separate entities

and man has always been subservient

to God. He opposed the concept
of Wahdat-ul-Wajood.

→ These efforts of Sheikh Ahmed Sishindi caused for the revival of Islam in India. Aurangzab Alamgir established the Muslim Society in his rule according to the teachings of Sheikh Ahmed Sishindi.

→ Several madrasas and educational institutions were established to encourage Islamic learning in sub-continent.

→ His reforms purified the religious and practical life of muslims.

attempt these parts by giving subheadings; not points.....

Political Influence:

Sheikh Ahmed Sishindi gave the Two-Nation theory he said that Hindu and Muslim are different people. Muslim ruler should distance themselves from Hindus. If they not do this Muslim rule would be end. → These influenced on the muslim ruler. Jahangir and Aurangzab, and also this is for upcoming muslims rulers.

→ On the basis of this theory Muslim got their own homeland Pakistan.

Social Influence:

His reform also influenced

the Muslims for social activities.

→ He prohibited the Muslims to not intermarry with Hindus because this is not fruitfull for society and also for Muslim rules.

→ He gave freedom to follow Islamic rituals and traditions. He also tried to spread the Islam in society.

This guide the Muslims to spread the Islam in society where they lived.

work on the structure of the answer.....

Conclusion:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi played a significant role in reviving of Islam in India. Sheikh openly discussed the social, political and religious matters by adopting true Islamic values. He helped Muslims have a distinctive identity from Hindus. He gave concept of Two-Nation theory, on which Muslims successfully secured a separate home land, Pakistan.