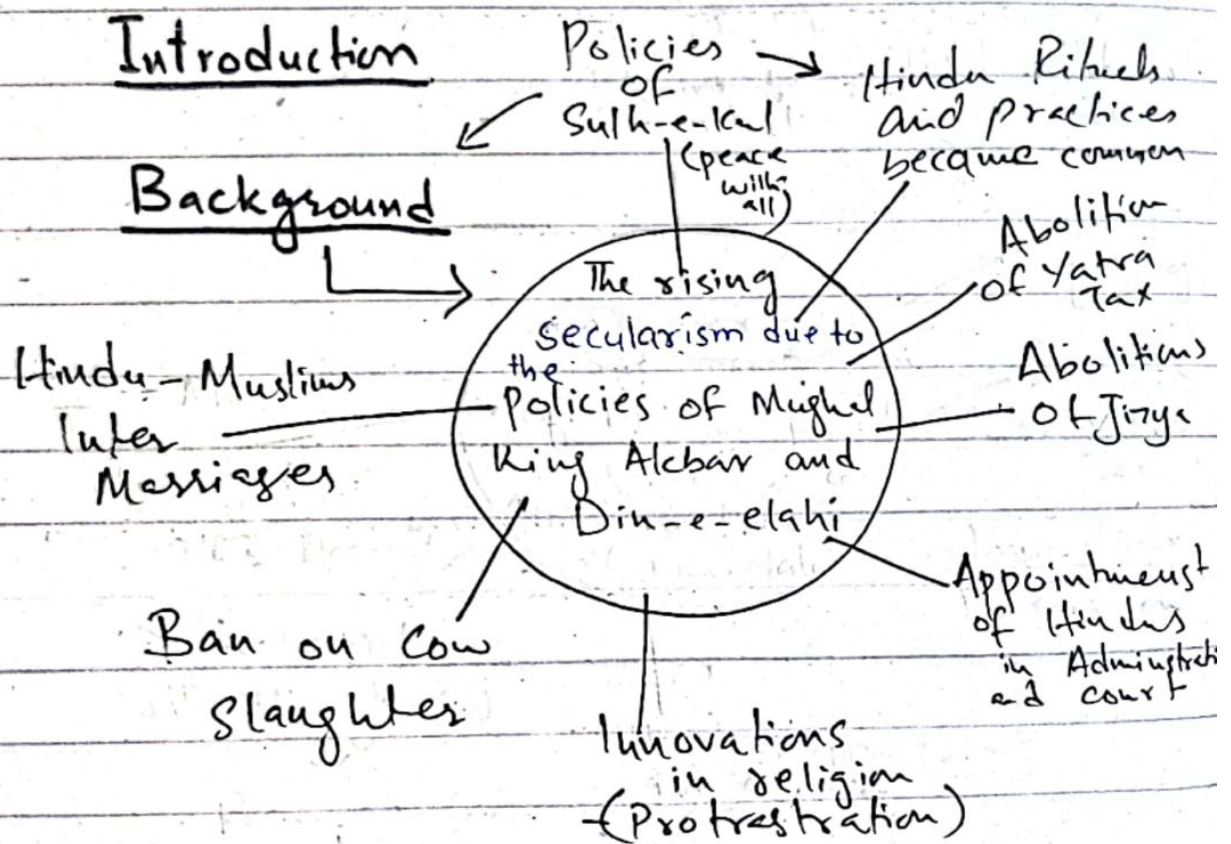


Q: How the reform movement of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi influenced the history of Muslim India?

Answer



Reforms of Sheikh A.S.:

- Letters to the ministers and high officials in the court against secularism and innovation with reference to Quran & Hadith.
- Impact on Jahangir & other Ministers in court
- Impact on Later Mughals
- Conclusion.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi - famous as Mujaddid - Alf - Sani (The reformer of the second millennium) came to reform the society of Muslim India in an age which was becoming secular. During the rule of Mughal king Akbar, a number of non-Islamic policies and rituals were introduced by and proclaimed by the king to ensure his political and religious interests which spoiled the true essence of Islam and expanded a number of evils, secular beliefs, distorting faith and dogmatism. Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi enlightened the Muslims of India and recovered their true faith by leading them back from un-orthodox and liberal religion to orthodox beliefs in accordance with Quran & Sunnah.

As the Mughal king Akbar introduced his Deen-i-elaahi for the Sulh-e-

kel (Religious tolerance) it effected the beliefs of Muslim India badly. He proclaimed many new things such as inter-marriages between Hindus and Muslims, ban on cow slaughter - the Kotwals were asked ~~to~~ not to slaughter a cow or camel or a horse etc. during ~~some~~ many a days of the month.

Besides, for the sake of Sulh-e-ikel he abolished Jizya and Yatoz Tax on Hindus and appointed Hindus

on high administration rankings such as Baghwan Singh and Raja Man Singh. Akbar also introduced / made innovations like prostration before

the king which was a homage to him by sabill acclaiming submission.

It was just as the Islamic ritual with a changed objective. ^{Moreover} A lot of

Hindu rituals and traditions became the part of Muslim Culture. Acc. to

a historian Akbar's Din-i-Elahi was just as a mixture of Zoroastrian,

Jainism, Hindu, Sikhs, ~~paris~~ and

Islamic theory of tauheed. Akbar amalgamated all the religious theories and practices in order to ensure the religious tolerance. This made the Muslim India rather ~~stagnant~~ secularism and a unorthodox Islam where nothing was according to true Islam and Sheriah.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi, acc. to a historians was very angry on the situation of Islam and Muslims in Muslim India, where the Hindus were preferred in comparison to ^{Muslims} Islamic values — ^{under Islamic rule} the masjids used to be abolished easily and the temples used to be made in place, or the cow slaughter was prohibited because of certain Hindu values — ^{months due to some} Sheikh set on a ~~good~~ mission to revive the Muslim Islam and true Islamic practices and preference of Islam. ^{in subcontinent} He wrote letters to the ministers and other high officials in the court to proclaim true Islamic principles acc. to Sheriah. To his letters to Sardar-i-Jahan & Khan-e-Jahan

he wrote that it is the duty of Islamic leaders ~~to~~ and Ulama to lead ~~to~~ tell the Muslims people about the right principles of Islam as per Sunnah and ~~the~~ Quran. And because they ^{serve} ~~were~~ as ~~high~~^{high} religious authority in the court, they must seek each opportunity to tell and explain the king about Quran and ~~the~~ Sun the teachings of Quran and Sunnah and the true beliefs of Islam.

The influence of his teachings was seen on Jahangir and other officials of the Mughal court. Acc. to Ferishta, a historian, he witnessed Jahangir offering his morning prayers, ~~he being~~ ~~was~~ ~~the~~ conscious about Islam ~~being~~ ^{as a} sovereign authority and concerned about the future of Islam.

Moreover, During Shykh's stay in the court, he found the opportunity to ~~tell~~ the teachings of Islam in his sessions to Jahangir and to other officials. Soon the influence changed the ~~to~~ worldly officials towards orthodox Islam.

As Jahangir was influenced by Shykh's devotion to Islam, Shykh was

given an audience emperor where he placed the following Demands

→ Prostration before the king should be abolished ;

→ The departments of Dadi and Ihtisch should be revived ; The Masjids in need to ~~removed~~ should be renovated and those abolished should be re-built .

→ The religious innovations should be ceased ; the permission of cow slaughter should be given .

The emperor granted the sheikh his demands ~~and~~ ^{uttering} a royal decree .

On the occasion of conquest of fortress of Kangra , the idols were destroyed , a cow slaughtered , the

Khurba read and other rites of Islam observed ~~under~~ ^{with} the presence of Sheikh . Acc. to historians .

The Masjids were full of people in Jahangir's rule , people ~~gave~~ ^{were} respect-
ed Duran and Sunnah - and observed
fasts and Eid .

The objective of Shykh to reform the society and the individual later carried on by his successors, and this impact was shown on later emperors. Shah Jahan - ~~the~~ was called "The Faith defending emperor" bcz of his efforts to retain true Islamic principles according to Shari'ah. He prohibited non-Islamic rituals and practices under a royal Decree. Under the rule of Aurangzeb Jizya was re-imposed in order to spread Islam and to put down the practice of infidelity. The Persian tradi festival Navroz and the music was banned in Mughal court & observed by Akbar ^{before}. This liberalism of the time of Akbar ~~was~~ came to an end from the lives of the people and as well as in the administration.

As Shykh A Sirhindis' efforts brought ~~for~~ political and religious reforms in ~~the~~ changed Indian society. ~~it gave a large place~~ ~~thus affecting the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ Muslim ~~the~~.

Shaykh's reform movement, including political and religious reforms, influenced greatly the history of Muslim India. His efforts to revive Islam from the darkness of Secularism, secularism and Liberalism are unforgettable. A ~~As~~ ^{as} ~~according to~~ Abdul Kalam Azad ~~to~~ holds only Mujaddid responsible for the reformation and revival of Islam during the Mughal period, his reflection on Muslim India ~~is~~ ^{is} un-removable.