

Q. The Aligarh movement was a pure educational venture but it had deep impacts on Indian politics. Discuss

ANS INTRODUCTION

After the war of independence, 1857, Muslims came under the wrath of British. No stone was left unturned to keep Muslims away from state ^{affairs}. This was because British considered Muslims sole responsible for the war. The shared history of conflicts between Christians and Muslims was also a cause of British wrath. Furthermore, British snatched the rule from Muslims. Therefore, to undermine Muslims, they had a discriminatory behavior towards Muslims. Muslims were devoid from the elite jobs. The only jobs open for Muslims were either peon or sweeper. Muslims on other hand were reluctant to get modern education and considered modernity as a threat to their religion and cultural

values.

In this critical time, Sir Syed came forward to rescue Muslims. He started an educational movement - Aligarh. Though initially Aligarh was a pure educational movement but it deeply impacted the politics of sub-continent in ~~later~~ earlier decades of 20th century.

EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Aligarh movement tried to ~~end~~ provide Muslims the modern education so that they may become able to regain their lost status. For this purpose two schools in Muzadabadabad and Ghazipur were opened. Similarly M.A.O school in 1874 and M.A.O college in 1876 were opened, which later gained the status of a Aligarh university. Aligarh university provided the modern education to Muslims and enabled them to survive the British wrath.

POLITICAL IMPACTS OF ALI-GARH MOVEMENT

Though initially Sir Syed Ahmad Khan stressed on aloofness from politics in his trinity policy, yet the movement had great impact on political developments took place in first half of twenty first century.

1- ALIGARH SHARPENED THE POLITICAL ACCUMEN OF MUSLIMS

Aligarh, through the provision of modern education, was able to increase the political accumen of muslims. Hence they survived the British wrath and Hindis conspiracies.

2- ALIGARH - AS A DIPLOMATIC PLATFORM

Aligarh movement proved to be a diplomatic platform as ^{some of} the staff members ~~was~~ were British. So it provide opportunity to convey the muslim

point of view. For example, the vice head of Aligarh University played a vital role in Shimla delegation.

4- ALIGARH IN DECREASING TENSION BETWEEN BRITISH AND MUSLIM

Aligarh played a pivotal role in reducing the tension between British and Muslims. For example, the Scientific Society and other Aligarh platforms prepared literary work to let British know their point of view.

"The causes of Indian revolt - 1857 is one of such examples.

5- Aligarh and Women in politics

Aligarh had a women wing which played a pivotal role in politics of sub-continent later on.

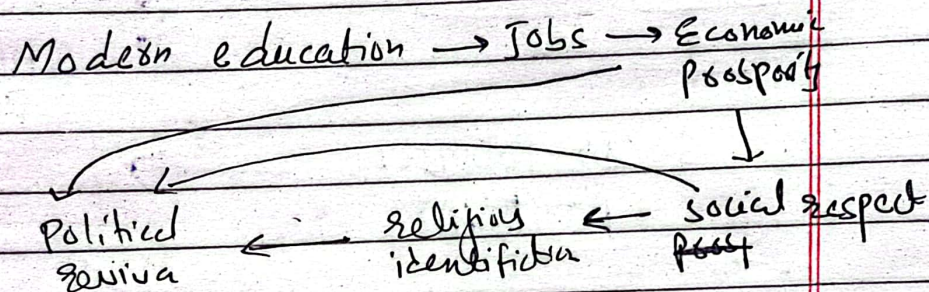
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6- Aligarh and Socio-political Revival of Muslims.

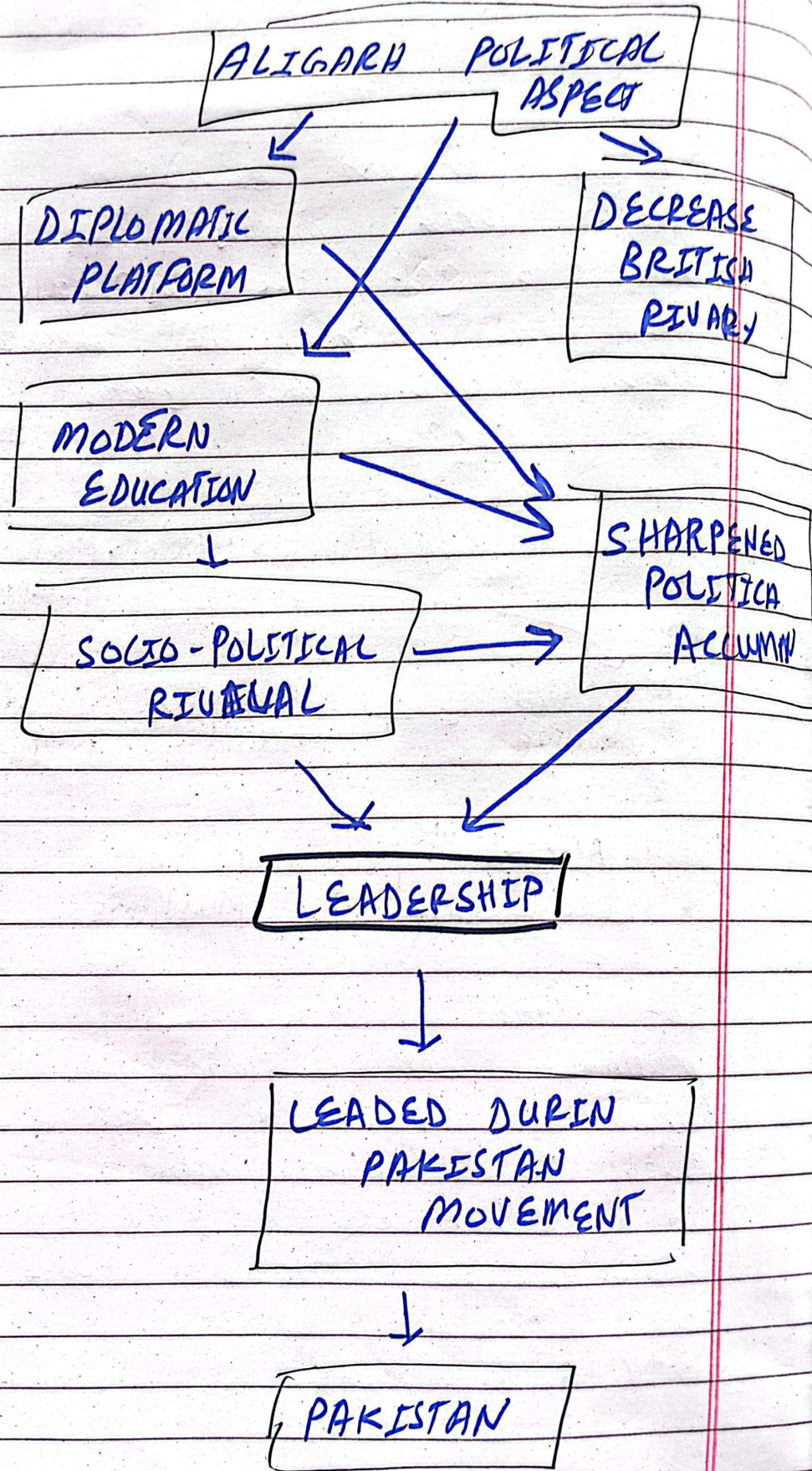
Aligarh provided modern education, through which muslims were able to get the respectable jobs and hence it improved their socio-political status and respect.



7- Aligarh ^{AND} PROVISION OF Leadership to Muslims

Last but not the least, Aligarh equipped muslims with leaderships, which played a vital role in muslim identity in subcontinent. The leadership leaded the muslims toward a separate homeland during pakisten movement.

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CONCLUSION

Aligarh movement, by virtue of modern education, provided a ground for socio-political revival of Muslims in sub continent. It provided the charismatic leadership which played a key role and led Pakistan in Pakistan movement.

