

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

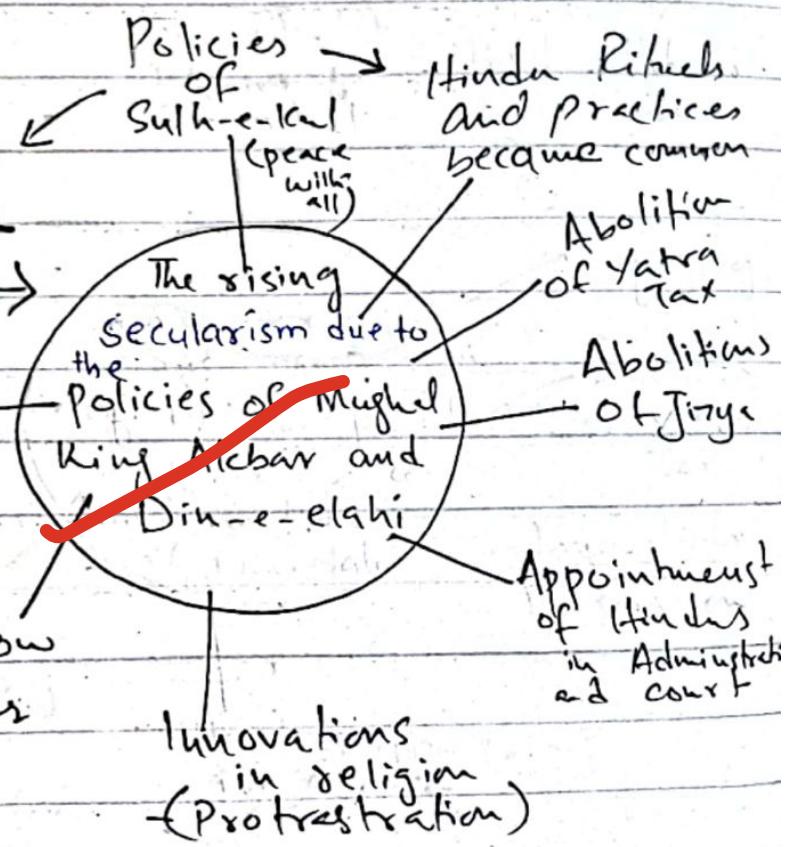
### Answer

#### Introduction

#### Background

Hindu-Muslims  
Inter  
Marriages

Ban on Cow  
Slaughter



#### Movement Reforms of Sheikh A.-S.:

- Sent 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.

no need for a detailed outline for a 20 marks answer.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi - famous as Mujaddid - Aif - 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 <sup>eg</sup> 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 unorthodox and liberal religion to orthodox beliefs in accordance with Deen-e-Sunnah.

attempt by giving headings and subheadings.

As the Mughal king Akbar introduced his Deen-i-ekahi for Suh-e-

the

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 so many days of the month.

Besides, for the sake of Sulh-e-kul he abolished Jizya and Yatiz 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 subtil acclaiming submission. It was just as the Islamic ritual with a changed objective. A lot of Hindu rituals and traditions became the part of Muslim Culture. Acc. to a historian Akbar's Din-i-akbari was just as a mixture of Zoroastrian, Jainism, Hindu, Sikh, Persian and

islamic theory of tauheed- Akbar amalgamated all the religious theories and practices in order to ensure the religious tolerance. This marked the Muslim India rather than secularism and a unorthodox Islam where nothing was according to true Islam and Sheriah.

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, acc. to historians was very angry on the situation of Islam and Muslims in Muslim India, where the Hindus were preferred in comparison to Islamic values - the masjids used to at a abolished easily and the temples used to be made in place, or the cow slaughter was prohibited bcz of certain Hindu values - Sheikh set a good mission to revive the Muslim Islam and true Islamic practices and preference of Islam. He wrote letters to the ministers and other high officials in the court to proclaim true Islamic principles acc. to Sheriah. In his letters to Sardar-i-Jahan & Khan-e-Jahan

he wrote that it is the duty of Islamic leaders to and Ulama to lead and tell the Muslims people about the right principles of Islam as per Sunnah and the Quran. And because they were <sup>several</sup> ~~high~~ religious authority in the court, they must seek each opportunity to tell and explain the king about Quran and 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 Ferrey, a historian, he witnessed Jahangir offering his morning prayers, he was the conscious about Islam. ~~was~~ 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 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 Ihtisab should be revived ; The Masjids in need to renovation 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~~ a royal decree. On the occasion of conquest of fortress of Kangra, the idols were destroyed, a cow slaughtered, the Khanda read and other rites of Islam observed ~~with~~ the presence of Sheik. Acc. to historians.

The Masjids were full of people in Jahangir's rule, people <sup>used to</sup> respect Quran and Sunnah and observed fasts and Eid.

The objective of Shah Jahan to reform the society and the individual later carried on by his successors, and this impact was <sup>the</sup> ~~shined~~ on later emperors. Shah Jahan - ~~the~~ was called "The faith defending emperor" <sup>the</sup> ~~for~~ of his efforts to retain true Islamic principles according to Shariati. 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 traditional festival Navroz and the music was banned in Mughal court <sup>before</sup> & observed by Akbar. This liberalism of the time of Akbar <sup>before</sup> came to an end from the time of the people and as well as in the administration.

As Shah Jahan's efforts brought some political and religious reforms in Indian society, it <sup>it got over a large place</sup> ~~thus affecting the~~ <sup>thus</sup> ~~thus~~ <sup>thus</sup> Muslim rule.

Shykh'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. ~~As according to~~ Abdul Kalam Azad ~~is~~ holds only Mujaddid responsible for the reformation and revival of Islam during the Mughal period, his reflection on Muslim India ~~is~~ is un-removable.

add more arguments in this part.

work on the structure of the answer. use headings and subheadings.

improve the references and the headings part