

Q. How the reforms of Sheikh AHMED Sirhindi influenced the history of Muslim India?

Outline:

1. Who was Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi?
2. Need for reforms: Pseudo-religious state
3. Reforms:
 - a. Overturning integration of religion.
 - b. Putting an end to biddat/innovation.
 - c. Re-imposing jizya
 - d. Prohibiting intermarriages
 - e. ^{Stopping} Undue favours to Hindus
 - f. Two Nation Theory.
 - g. Teaching resilience against the wrong.

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, born in village of Sindh named Sirhindi in 1564, was a renowned reformist of Islam in India. He grew up in King Akbar's reign of Mughal empire which was known for its controversial policies. Before explaining the reforms of Sirhindi, it is important to see why the grand Mughal empire needed reformation.

~~Need of refo~~

Need for Reformation in India:

More than

7 centuries ago, Islam was introduced in Subcontinent India. Islam became so widespread that the native Hindus became just a minority.

It only happened in the era of Mughal empire Akbar - the great that the India became a pseudo-Islamic state.

Following ^{are} ~~are~~ the major fallacies in muslim empire of mughals in India:

- ① Akbar created a new religion called Din-e-Ilahi
- ② He, in order to make his empire secular, built temples and funded Hindu fine arts
- ③ Not only did he give freedom to non-Muslims, but also prohibited Muslim religious practices.
- ④ He promoted intermarriages between Hindu and Muslims.

Although Akbar's reforms benefitted non Muslims, it created an entirely pseudo-religious Muslim empire that lacked the essence of Islamic Shariah.

SHEIKH Sirhindī's Reforms & their Impact:

① Overturning integration of Religion:

Sirhindī saw the integration and amalgamation of different religions in India. Akbar, in order to please Hindus and Rajputs, allowed intermarriages with Muslims. Sirhindī objected and after years of struggle finally overturned this custom in India.

② Eradicating innovations/bidat

Akbar and his son Jahangir brought innovation and self-created practices. These were:

a. Prostration before King:

These Mughal emperors asked their subjects to prostrate before them in reverence.

Sirhindī called it "Kufr" and awakened the Muslims. He

quoted following verse of Quran in his sermons.

"And whosoever fabricates what is against Islam shall be rejected"

"I have perfected my religion by completed my favour upon you." Quran (5:3)

b. Prioritizing Shaikh over Sufism

Sufism, a term from Sufi meaning wool, means to cover oneself with cloth and disconnect oneself from the worldly affairs.

Sufism or mysticism was a fabricated concept of pseudo-scholars. Sirhindi highlighted in his sermons that Sufist practices are "bid'at" / innovation. Muslims should be taught.

the teachings of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) and Quran which is the right guidance for Muslims.

Iqbal rightly said about him:

He is the guardian of estate of millah:
Whom Allah awakened at night.

② Wahdatul Shuhud over
Wahdatul Kujud.

Wahdatul Kujub or

Oneness of appearance was practiced by Muslims in India. Sirhindi called it illogical and bidat because it blinds a Muslim to everything except God. It pushes a Muslim to believe that only a Sufi is a perfect Muslim.

In contrast to this, he introduced Wahdat-ul Shuhud which makes a man aware of existence of the universe and follow the teachings of.

↳ Stopping undue favours to Hindus:

Mughal emperors spent a handsome part of the economy to build temples, promoting Hinduism and other religions,

funding Hindu performing arts

Not only this, he also ~~stopped~~ ^{lifted} the ban on cow-slaughter imposed by Akbar.

↳ Two-Nation Theory:

Sirhindi marked a distinction between Muslims and Hindus and asked Muslims not to corrupt themselves by following other religion practices. Sirhindi said in his sermon:

"If Muslims want to live as nation, they will have to leave shirk and bid'at. Otherwise, Muslims shall be destroyed like Buddhist lost their identity to Hindus."

4 Teaching resilience against the Wrong:

The biggest revolution Sirhindi brought to Muslims was to teach them to stand against the evil. He himself refused to prostrate before Jahangir. He spent 2 years in jail until the day when the emperor Jahangir admitted his wrong and apologized.

"The one who didn't bow his head before Jahangir
Whose warm breath led heat to freedom"

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