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2. Give an account of the life and services of Shah Waliullah. How did he save the Indian Muslim from political annihilation and religious degeneration

### 1. Introduction

Shah Waliullah was the first reformist appear during the period of Muslim decline. He was both alim and sufi, his mission was to reverse the decline of Muslims. His political and religious thoughts and actions significantly influenced the Muslims community during a period of decline. He wrote letters to Ahmad Shah Abdali, to help Muslim to restore their dominion. Moreover, he advocated for Islamic Governance system. he also promoted unity among Muslims to strengthen the political power. Beside, Shah Waliullah protected Muslims from religious degeneration, he translated Quran into Persian.



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This helped Muslims to understand divine Guid. Further, he revived ~~hadith~~ studies in India and ~~forbade~~ the adoption of Hindu rituals. His work was instrumental in reviving Islamic thoughts and uniting Muslims.

## 2. Early life and Services of Shah Waliullah

Shah Waliullah is regarded as one of the most influential Islamic scholars and reformers in South Asian history. He was born in 1703, in Dehli, India, in a very religious family. The ~~father~~ of Shah Waliullah, Shah Abder Rahim, was a prominent scholar and one of the founder of Rahimiya Madrasa. He memorized Quran at the age of 7 years. Further, in 1731, he traveled to Makkah and Madina to study under renowned

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Scholars like Sheikh Abu Tahir Al-Kurdi. Then he returned Delhi in 1732 and took charge of Rahimiya Madrasa. He enlightened the sense of a single Ummah in Muslim by promoting unity. Moreover, he helped in reviving true spirit of Islam.

### 3. His role in saving Muslims from political annihilation

Letter to Ahmad Shah Abdali 3-a

Advised Muslim rulers for just governance 3-b

Promoted unity among Muslim 3-c

Criticized degeneration of leadership 3-d

Emphasized role of Army and defense 3-e

Balanced role of political and sufi 3-f



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## Muslim Revivalist Movements

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- 3 (a) Shah Waliullah wrote a letter to remind Ahmad Shah Abdali of his duty to protect Muslim Ummah as a Muslim King

Shah Waliullah was the first Islamic scholar to figure out the cause of decline. He invited King Ahmad Shah Abdali, to liberate the Muslim Ummah from Marathas. The King intervened and defeated Marathas in third battle of Panipat, in 1761. This helped in safeguarding Muslims.

[A Concise History of Pakistan, M.R. Kazimi]

- 3 (b) Shah Waliullah advised Muslim rulers to govern with justice, as oppression and injustice weaken both State



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## and religion

Shah Waliullah emphasized that corruption, and injustice, and oppression weaken the both religion and state. He guided principles of reforms that were justice (Adl) tawazun, and balance. Further, he advocated for elimination of unnecessary taxes and uphold the Sharia based policies to attain and sustain political stability.

"Verily, the foundation of kingship is justice, and its collapse is oppression,"  
Shah Waliullah, Hujjat Allah al-Balagha

3 (c) Sah Waliullah promoted unity among Muslims to strengthen political power

Shah Waliullah advocated for unity among Muslims. His mission was to create a unite



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Indian Muslims and helps them in strengthening the political power. He encouraged reconciliation among Hanafi, Shafi, and other Sunni sects to ensue political power. His writings stressed Ummat Wahida (one united community) as the foundation of political strength.

"It is not appropriate for anyone to be so biased toward a specific Madhab or sect"

Sahab Waliullah, Hujjat Allah al-Baligha

3 (d) He highlighted the need to revive qualities of Khilafah-i-Rashida

Sahab Waliullah

identified the reason of political decline of Indian Muslims, and it was caused by decline in leadership, both rulers (Sultans) and Ulama (scholars). He encouraged Indian Muslims to revive



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the qualities of Khilafah-i-Rashida,  
to promote consultation (Shura), accountability  
and public services.

"It is objectionable for anyone to be  
a burden on society"

The Concise History of Pakistan M.R. Kazimi

3 (e) Shah Waliullah emphasized on  
maintaining strong army to protect  
Indian Muslims from external threats

He stressed the  
importance of maintaining a strong defense  
force to protect Muslims and lands of  
Muslims from external threats, such as  
Marathas, and Sikh. He called for  
Jihad fi Sabilillah under legitimate  
leadership.

"It is not difficult to defeat the  
Marathas if Envoys of Islam make a  
strong resolve,"

Siyasi Maktab-e-Shah Waliullah, Khalid Ahmad



3 (f) Shah Waliullah emphasized on balanced role and political authority. Sufi leaders should support ~~leaders~~ just rulers

He emphasized on supporting rulers ~~those~~ who ~~do~~ do justice. He encouraged Sufi leader to support the rulers of ~~Muslims~~ ~~India~~ and not to create parallel power centers. Moreover, he encouraged Sufi leaders to engage themselves in political matters and guide rulers about political realities that weakened Muslim Governance.

"The righteous (Sufi Shakhhs) must guide rulers to justice, not abandon them to corruption"

Al-Fawz Al-Kabir, Shah Waliullah

3 (g) Shah Waliullah laid intellectual foundation for Later Muslim revivalist movements. Deoband



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## Movement, and Khilafat Movement

The idea of Shah Waliullah influenced figure like Ahmad Shahab (Jihad Movement) and founders of the Deoband movement. Both of whom pursued religious and political reform. His vision of Muslim unity later indirectly inspired the later Khilafat and Pakistan Movement.

|| Two Nation Theory: Waliullah's emphasis on Muslim socio-political identity (Izalat al-Khafa) prefigured later arguments for Pakistan ||

The Sole Spokesman, Ayesha Jalal

## 4. The role of Shah Waliullah in revival of religion



Translation of the Quran in Persian 4-a

Revival of Hadith sciences 4-b

Reconciliation of Sunni School of thought 4-c

Combated Brahmin and Hindu rituals 4-d

Balanced Sufism with Sharia 4-e

Islamic social and economic reforms 4-f

Training of reformist scholars 4-g

4 (a) Shah Waliullah translated Holy Quran into Persian to understand the direct meaning of it

Shah waliullah translated Quran in Persian. It was the first Persian translation of the Quran in South Asia. It helped



Muslims in understanding divine message, and this brought Muslims closer to Islam.

"If the people are left without a translation, they will remain in darkness,"  
Muslim Revivalist Movements, Aziz Ahmad

#### 4 (b) Shah Waliullah encouraged Indian Muslim and Scholars to study hadith

Shah waliullah revived the spirit of Islam in muslim. He encouraged them on studying essential hadith text. such as Sahih Bukhari, Sahih Muslim and others. Further, along with these the books of fiqh to increase nearness with Islam.

"The Sahihayn are the foundation of Islam,"  
Hujjat Allah al-Baligha



4 (C) Shah Waliullah encouraged for unity among different ~~fidah's~~ (Hanafi, Shafi, Maliki, Hambali), with the help of ~~ijtihad~~

Shah Waliullah advocated for unity among different school of thoughts such as Hanafi, Shafi, Maliki, Hambali. He analyzed jurisprudential differences and urged mutual respect between schools, promoting ijtihad to main unity.

"According to him ijtihad is an exhaustive endeavours to understand the derivative principles of canon law,"

A Concise History of Pakistan, M.R. Kazimi

4 (d) Shah Waliullah forbade the adoption of Hindu customs and combated bidah

He stoped Indian



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Muslims from participating in diwali, like wasting money on fireworks on Shab-e-barat instead of worshipping Allah. He also condemned widespread rituals like worshipping graves, excessive Sufi rituals, and un-Islamic customs.

"Tawheed is not just believing in One Allah, but rejecting all intermediaries in worship,"

Hujjat Allah al-Balagha

4 (e) Shah Waliullah insisted on balancing the sufism and Sharia, he argued for Sufism guided by Sharia

Shah Waliullah was a Naqshbandi Sufi, but he insisted on balancing sufism and Sharia. He argued, practice sufism but with legal boundaries. He insisted on following Sharia. Sufism aligned with Sharia.



(f) Shah Waliullah insisted on social justice and condemned on economic exploitation

Shah Waliullah emphasized on social justice. Further, he also condemned the concentration of wealth in one class, it leads to wasteful spending. It causes deprivation at extreme level and disbalance the society.

"The Guiding principles of reform were adl and tawzan, justice and balance."

The Concise History of Pakistan, M.A. Kazimi

4 (g) Shah Waliullah trained various Scholars in Madrasah Rahimiyah to revive Islam

Through Madrasah Rahimiyah, Shah Waliullah trained various scholars to give the spirit of Islam. All the scholars continued



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revival of Islam through hadith, Quran and religious reforms. Shah Waliullah trained scholars such as Shah Abdul Aziz and Shah Rafiuddin.

"A scholar must weigh evidence, not parrot old books,"  
Tafhimat-e-Ilahiya, Shah Waliullah

## 5 Conclusion

To encapsulate, Shah Waliullah was Sufi and alim, and first reformist during the decline. Beside, he did many efforts to save Indian Muslim from political annihilation such as. he invited appealed Mir Ahmad Shah Abdali for helping Muslims and advised rulers to govern with justice. Also promoted unity among Muslims to achieve political power. Further, Shah Waliullah emphasized on maintaining a strong defence system. On the other hand, he also played a



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Vital role in reviving the Islam is  
such as he translated Quran in  
Persian and revived the studies of  
hadith. Moreover, he promoted unity among  
different schools of thoughts of Islam,  
and combated against rituals of Hindus  
and bidah.

good attempt!!!

but the answer is lengthy and will affect your time management.

so, shorten it a bit.