

Question: CSS 2016

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

Answer:Life of Shah Waliullah:

Shah Waliullah, also known as Qutb-al-Din Ahmad, was born on February 21, 1703 in India. Shah Wali-ullah came from a religious family and received education from his father, Shah Abdul Rahim, at Madrasa-i-Rahimiyah. He completed his education in Saudi Arabia. During the 18th century, Islam in the Sub-continent faced many challenges. The conflicts between different sects and lack of understanding of the Holy Quran, raised concerns that religious disintegration could accompany political collapse. However, during this critical period, the reformist efforts of Shah Waliullah led to a remarkable revival of Islamic ~~and~~ thought and unity.

He decided to promote Islamic values among Muslims and present Islam in a ~~re~~ rational manner in India. Shah Waliullah's work cover a wide range of topics including economics, politics, social issues, metaphysics, and theology. His contributions represent an early and significant effort to reassess the entire Islamic system with a scientific and objective approach.

### Prevalent Religious, Political, and Economical Conditions of Indian Muslims

Mughal rulers ~~was~~ were not doing a good job. Muslims were mistreated by Sikhs, Jats, and Marathas. The division between Shia and Sunni Muslims was growing which made the nation more fragmented.

Religiously, the fundamental teachings of Islam were being questioned. The religious leaders were relying too much on reason, which had a negative impact on the general public. Economical conditions were also getting worse as the kingdom was not stable, it became weak and open to attacks from different groups who wanted power. The rich people were living

extravagant lives, jagirdari system was being followed, and the high taxes were all destroying the country's economy.

### Services of Shah Waliullah:

Shah Waliullah worked on educational, political, and economic levels, helping to save Indian Muslims from political collapse and moral or religious decay.

### Educational and Religious Services:

- Shah Waliullah translated the Holy Quran into Persian.
- Respond to the questions raised by Christian Missionaries.
- His sons, Shah Rafi-ud-Din and Shah Abdul Qadir translated the Holy Quran into Urdu.
- In his famous work called "Aqad-al-Jaiyad-fi-Ahkam-al-Ijtihad wa-al-Taqlid," he encouraged the use of Ijtihad instead of blindly following others (Taqlid).

~~Shah Waliullah~~

### Some Notable Publications of Shah Waliullah:

- Al ~~fauz~~ Fauz al Kabir
- Muqadima Fe Tarjumatul Quran.
- Hujjat ul balaghah.
- Shahrah al Mustafa.
- Shahrah al Musawa.
- Insaf - e - Biyan Fe Sabab - Ul - Ikhtilaf.
- Aqd-ul - Tayad Fe Ghkam ul - G'ihad ul Talqid.
- Tafhemat G'ahi.

### Political services of Shah Waliullah:

- Shah Wali-ullah took steps to counter the threats from Marathas.
- Prepared Najid-ullah and Shuja-ud-Daulah for a religious war called Jihad.
- Shah Waliullah also wrote a letter to Ahmed Shah Abdali asking for his help in protecting Muslims from the Marathas's oppressive actions.
- Ahmed Shah Abdali decisively defeated the Marathas in The Third Battle of Panipat.
- Muslim Renaissance Movement initiated by Shah Wali-Ullah paved the way for future freedom movements in The Indo - Pakistan region.

## Economic Services of Shah Waliullah:

- Shah Wali-Ullah focused his teachings on reshaping Muslim society by emphasizing the importance of farmers, reducing social inequalities, and addressing the unfair distribution of wealth.
- In his book "Hujjat-ullah-il-Balighah", he identified the reasons behind the problems and divisions in Muslim society.
  - Putting too much strain on the public treasury by giving salaries and benefits to individuals who don't contribute to the well-being of the state.
  - Imposing high taxes on farmers, merchants, and workers, which led to widespread tax avoidance.
- Shah Wali-Ullah believed that a country can only thrive if taxes are fair and not too burdensome.

## Shah Waliullah's Four Basic Principles of Economics

- Shah Waliullah talked about four basic ideas in economics: producing wealth, using wealth, sharing wealth, and exchanging wealth.

## Principles:

- 1) The first principle is that the resources of a specific area should belong to the people living there. In an economic system that values equality, no single person or specific group should have exclusive control over the resources. Shah Wali-Ullah quoted Hadrat Abu Bakkar Siddique, saying that equality in economics is better than favouring one group over another.
  - 2) The second principle is that everyone has the right to own things according to their abilities. This means that not everyone should have the same clothes, food, and houses because people have different capabilities.
  - 3) The third principle is that any practice that concentrate wealth in the hands of a few should not be allowed. The system work against such practices.
  - 4) The fourth principle is that a balance should be maintained in these factors so that society as a whole can develop.
- Shah Wali-Ullah emphasized the need to create a new system based on the above principles,

which would replace the ~~outward~~ outdated system and ensure the development of society as a whole.

### Shah Wali-Ullah Saved Indian Muslims from Political Annihilation and Religious Degeneration:

#### 1) Revival of Islamic Spirit:

By reviving the true teachings of Islam, he saved Muslims from religious degeneration and moral decline. His notable writings including several books brought religious awareness and reform in the community. He translated the Quran into Persian, making it accessible to the common people. He urged Muslims to follow the Quran and Sunnah rather than blindly imitating sects. He also emphasized unity among Muslims and the importance of education and justice in government.

#### 2) Political Revival:

As political weakness in India was destroying the Muslim identity, Shah Waliullah appealed to Ahmad Shah Abdali to invade India and defeat the Marathas, who were becoming a major threat. Soon Abdali's victory in the Third Battle of Panipat

(1764) temporarily checked Marathas power and saved the Muslims from political extinction.

### 3) Socio-Economic Awareness:

Shah Waliullah, in his book "Hujjatullah - il - Balighah" wrote about social justice and economic fairness, highlighting the need to eliminate exploitation and oppression. His ideas inspired later reformers such as Syed Ahmad Shaheed and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, who continued his mission in different ways. By providing four basic principles of economics, he ~~emphasized on~~ promoted fair distribution of wealth to reduce inequality, encouraged earning through halal means and discouraged luxury and wastefulness. These principles helped strengthened the Muslim's economy, unity, and moral discipline during their decline.

### Conclusion:

Shah Waliullah saved Indian Muslims from political annihilation by urging unity and seeking help to restore Muslim power, and from religious degeneration by purifying Islamic teachings, promoting education, and reviving moral values.