

Keeping in view the socio-political  
circumstances of sub continent,  
discuss the role of Shaikh Ahmed  
Sarhindi who revived Islamic  
ideology and established Muslim  
Identity?

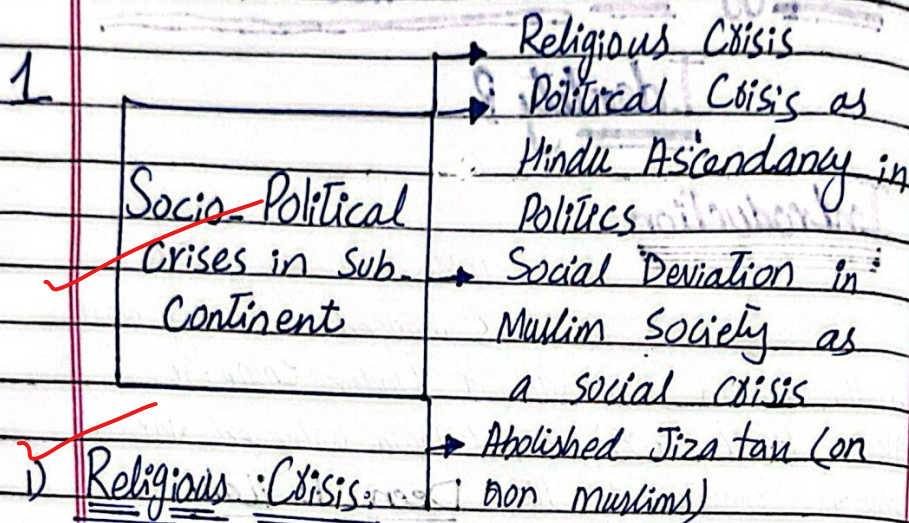
Introduction

Late 16th and early 17th centuries marked a turning point in the Indian subcontinent. Under Emperor Akbar (1556-1605), Mughal India witnessed various religious experiments like Deen E ilahi, a concept presented by Akbar for equality of Christianity, Jews, Islam, and Zoroastrianism and Sul-i-Kul (Universal Peace), which attempted to blur the lines between Islam and other faiths. Hindu elites gained political influence and non-Islamic customs penetrated Muslim society. A critical juncture, Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi emerged as a reviver of second millennium, Mujaddid Alif Sani as a reformer, and revived the Islamic ideology, safeguarded the muslim's identity and laid the foundation for preservation of Islam in South Asia. His era was (1564-1624).



# Socio Political Circumstances Of the sub-continent

The era of Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi was turning point in Mughal India. The socio political environment was highly disturbed due to Akbar's policies. Following crisis were facing being faced in sub continent under Akbar's Rule.



## 1) Religious Crisis:

Religious misinterpretation started with the concept of Deen E Ilahi (1582) as Akbar's mughal empire introduced a new faith that undermined the purity of Islam and weakened its distinctiveness. Another major concept of Sulh-i-Kul (Universal Peace) was empowered by Akbar which promoted little harmony but practically sidelined the superiority of Islam by equating all religions. He also reduced the authority of Ulama and Qazi's, shifting the religious authority to his court.



He established Interfaith Dialogue (Ibadat Khana) (1575), to discuss theology with muslims, Christians and Zoroastrians.

He abolished Jizya tax from non-Muslims.

He introduced postulation concept for political motive and personal authority.

### Hindu Ascendancy in Politics

✓ Akbar promoted Hindu's power and brought Hindu Rajputs and Brahmins into the highest offices of state. like Raja man Singh, Todar Mal and Birbal.

✓ Muslims nobles and scholars lost influence in administration and policy making.

✓ Hindu cultural dominance encouraged as hindu customs, rituals and festivals got official recognition, overshadowing the Islamic values.

### Social Deviation in Muslim Society

✓ With syncretism's rise, muslims adopted Hindu rituals such as idol related practices, astrology and celebration of non-Islamic festivals.

✓ Spread of innovation as bidat flourished. Shariah Laws were neglected and new practices weakened the Islamic way of life.

✓ Courts and governance became less dependent on Quran and Sunnah.



## → Political weakness and Threats

- Majority of Hindu's gained influence over muslim minority that has created a political imbalance in society.
- There was lack of good leadership and there was no leader there can protect islamic values in sub-continent that was threat to Islam.
- These religious, political and Hindu demands structural insecurities demanded for revivalary leader who can restore the islamic values and muslim's identity. The role was fulfilled by Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi.

## Reforms of Shaikh Ahmed

### 1) → Religious Reforms

- The foremost goal of Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi was to restore the purity of Islamic doctrines. So firstly He opposed the concept of Akbar's Din-e-Ilahi and presented the concept of Wahadat-ul Shahood in response to the ~~the~~ Akbar's concept of Wahadat-ul Ujood. He stated

To Consider Ram and Rehman as one is Stupidity, because the Creator can not be one with its Creation

(Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi)



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He condemned Wahadat ul Wajood and his Wahadat ul Shahood concept is the unity of witnessing. According to him, the creator has created the human that are mere witness of his ~~creations~~. He wanted to ensure strict monotheism.

He strengthened the Ulama's and Qazi's making them central to guiding society. He also prohibited Muslims to follow rituals of Hindus and condemned non-Islamic rituals as prostitution.

## Social and Intellectual Reforms

→ He emphasized on Islam as complete code of life and strengthened the Quran and Sunnah's implementation.

→ He was great intellectual and educational revival. His work in education involves ~~different~~ writings

### Literary Contribution

- Toheed E Shahood ✓
- Isbat-ul-Nabuwat ✓
- Risal E Nabuwat ✓
- Need and importance of Prophethood ✓
- Maktubat E ✓
- Imam E Rabbi ✓
- Islamic Philosophy ✓

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→ He wrote letters to elites of sub-continent and aware~~d~~ them about what ~~are~~ being done with them. He believe the rural people could not be effective audience of his message so he decided to influence elite class rulers who were main players.

His reforms revitalized Muslim society intellectually and morally, ensuring the cultural survival.

### 3 Political Reforms

Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi influenced Mughal Politics indirectly through his writings and disciples.

He advised Mughal nobels to resist un-Islamic influences at court and uphold Islamic laws.

He urged officials through his correspondence to promote justice and protect Islamic values.

→ Jahangir, the son of Akbar imprisoned him because of his confrontation, which elevated his status



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as a fearless reformer of the  
faith.

His teaching influenced the later  
Mughal policies. Grandson of Akbar,  
Aurangzeb Alamgir revived Islamic  
orthodoxy, restricted Hindu policies  
and re-enforced Shariah that reflecting  
the vision of Shaikh Ahmed  
Sirhindi.

### Establishment of Muslim Ideology

Most enduring contribution of Shaikh  
Ahmed Sirhindi was reassertion of  
Muslim identity in Indian sub-continent.

He proved Islamic as a complete code  
of life by distinct it from other  
religions. He prepared the intellectual  
groundwork that centuries later became  
the TWO NATION THEORY inspiring  
the movement of Pakistan.

### Conclusion

Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi was more than  
Sufi reformer - He was guardian of



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Muslim Ideology in a critical era of  
Mughal history. His role in subcontinent  
was momental when the risk of dilution  
of ~~religious~~ values was threat under the  
Akbar's experiments. He revived the Quran's  
Sunat teachings, spirit of Shariah and  
purified Islamic thoughts. He ultimately  
shaped ~~Ideology's~~ base for movement of  
Pakistan. He rightly known as Mujadid  
Alif Sami because he ensured that the  
Islam remained not a religion but a  
complete civilization and identity for the  
muslims of subcontinent.

SATISFACTORY ANSWER IS WELL COMPOSED  
BUT SEEMS LIKE YOU TOOK ALOT OF TIME TO WRITE THIS  
ANSWER  
MANAGE THE TIME ACCORDINGLY OVER ALL CONTENT IS  
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