

Q Keeping in view the socio-political circumstances of the sub-continent. Discuss the role of Shaikh Ahmad Sarhindi (Mujadid Alf Thani) who revived the Islamic ideology and established Muslim identity in the Sub-continent? (20 marks)

ANSWER

INTRODUCTION: India the sub-continent was ruled by the Mughals who were Muslims at the time of Sarhindi's reform movement. Indian Muslims were heavily under the influence of Hindus who were in majority than them. The Muslim rulers were totally away from the true Islamic teachings. The royal court was also under the great influence of Hindus who enjoyed high status in the court. In these circumstances, An scholar and revivalist, Shaikh Ahmad Sarhindi realized the need of action against these adulterating activities and secure the true picture of Islam. He was born in 1564 on 26-June in the city named as

Sishind. He got early education from his father. He learnt Holy Quran, Tafseer, philosophy in his hometown. Then he went to join the Naqshbandia Salsda of Hazrat Baqi Billah. who once said about him that ...

"Shaikh is such a light which will illuminate the whole world."

SOCIO-POLITICAL

CIRCUMSTANCES (F)

THE SUB-CONTINENT:

Social Circumstances:

The Muslims and Hindus were close to each other and live together without creating the religious differences between them.

Belief on miracles: The Muslims were blindly impressed with miracles. They started following the Sufism without knowing anything.

Permission of Prohibited things. Islam does not allow drinking liquor and doing gambling but these were allowed by the court of Akbar The great to all. The drinking of alcohol and gambling became common in Muslims, which ultimately brought them away from Islam.

Political Circumstances:

Deen-e-Ilahi: Akbar The great called him as Dille-Ilahi and brought a new religion in the place of Islam and Hinduism to unite the people of empire and strengthen it. In his deen-e-Ilahi, cow slaughtering and azaan was banned. Further he ordered to prostrate before him in the court which is based on the concept of Wahadat-ul-Wajood.

The concept of Wahadat-ul-Wajood: It was given by Ibn-e-Arabi in different context but widely accepted in India. It claims that God

and creation are equal. God presents in its every creation. So prostrating before the emperor is not against the God and the emperor is as vicegerent of the God.

The concept of Sulh-e-kuli. This means "Peace for all". It was also introduced to reduce the differences between the two nations - Hindus and Muslims. In this Akbar established an Ibadat Khana in Royal court where peoples of both religions sit together.

The conditions of the Royal court: The royal court was heavily under the influence of Hindu Rajputs as they were relatives to the Akbar who married to many Rajput princesses. Further eating in Ramadan was allowed in the court. Liquor and gambling were also allowed in the court. Decisions were given solely on Akbar's wisdom sidelining the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

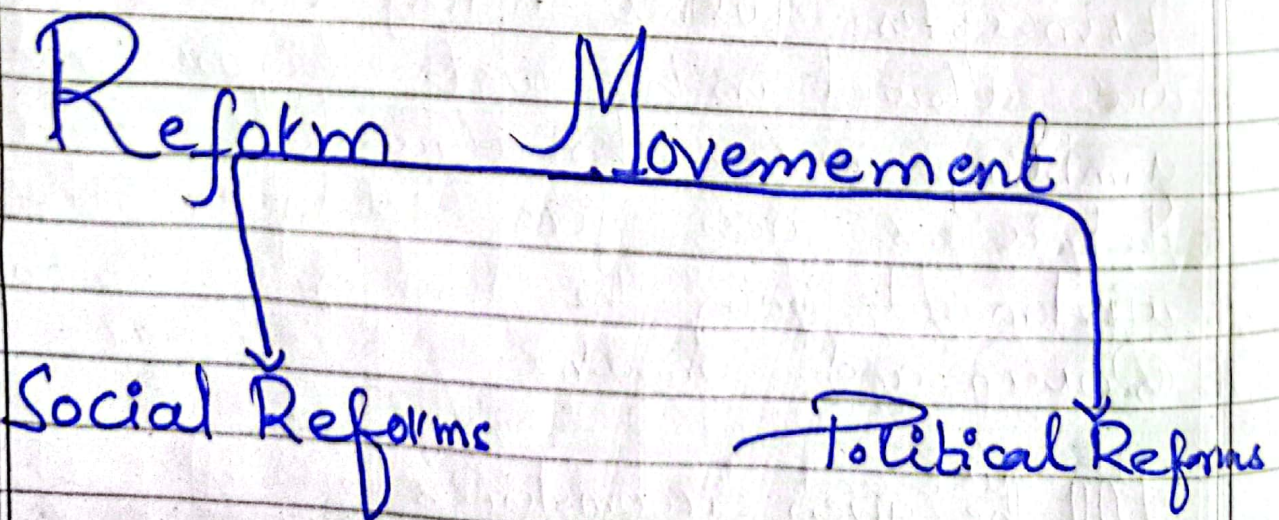
All the given circumstances of India showed the weakness of Islamic ideology and Muslims

identity. to which Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi named as

"The Age of Islamic poverty."

THE ROLE OF SHAIKH AHMAD SIRHINDI

Shaikh Ahmad was a well known scholar who revived the Islamic ideology in the sub-continent. He also raised the sense of Muslim identity and its protection in sub-continent. His actions to revive the Islamic ideology and Muslim identity is known as Reform Movement.



Social Reforms: Shaikh Ahmad started preaching of Islam in the subcontinent. He sent his disciples to various regions to spread true teachings of Islam.

Wahadat-ul-Shuhud: He in response of Wahdatul-Wajood gave the concept of Wahadatul-Shuhud, which says the creation and creator are two different entities and can never be mingled together, hence, prostrating before the emperor is wrong and prohibited in Islam.

Reforms in Sufism: He tried to reform sufism so that it could bring muslims closer to Allah Almighty instead of doing bid'ats.

Political Reforms: The reform movement did not rely only on the social reforms. He brought political reforms also as the major threat and adulteration was done from the Royal court and the emperor himself.

Writings to the Royal court and the Jurists: He wrote letters to the jurists of the Royal court and the emperor Jahangir in which he criticized the activities of the court and informed the staunch need of reforms in the court to revive Islam. His letters are known as Maktoobat-e-Imam Labhani.

Mujaddad Alf Thani in Imprisonment.

He in response to the writing was brought to the court where he denied prostrating before the emperor. on which he was sent to jail. But Mujaddid did not stop here, he preached Islam there also and converted many non-muslims into Islam or muslims. His increasing popularity influenced the emperor who not released him but gave him chance to serve in the court where he taught Islamic teachings to the people of the Royal court along with Emperor himself.

Books: He wrote books to revive Islam in its true and original shape. His books include ...

Isbat-ul-Nabuwat, The Islamic philosophy, Toheeh-e-Shuhoodi etc.

Consequences of The Reform

Movement:

Islam in its true picture. Muslim started following Islam in its original and pure shape. They started cow-slaughtering, deliver Azan and distant from the miracle beliefs.

Two-Nation Concept: The movement gave rise to two-nation concept of Muslims and Hindus. It became the foundation of Pakistan Movement and other reform movements for revival of Islamic ideology and Muslim identity.

CONCLUSION: Islam due to the tireless and great efforts of Shaikh Ahmad Rishindi revived in the sub-continent. Islam started spreading again in India due to disciples of Rishindi and political reforms of the Royal court. His movement paved the way for latter movements which ultimately gave rise to Pakistan Movement.