

how did he save the Indian
Muslims from political
annihilation and religious degeneration?

SHAH WALIULLAH

INTRODUCTION:

Shah Waliullah was a great saint, scholar and revivalist whose services had brought the Muslim society together on stable foundation. During 18th century, after the death of Aurangzeb, the situation of the Muslims was continuously declining to the extent that they started fear for their survival and identity. Mughal Empire had fallen into the hands of incompetent rulers. There were significant tensions between Sunni and Shia Muslims, ignorance of Islamic principles, burden of taxation and political fragmentation. Consequently, Era of Muslim regeneration began with the emergence of Shah Waliullah. He provided various religious, political, economic and social services to reform Muslim society. He continued the work of Mujadid Alif Sani and struggled for religious and socio-political survival for Muslims.

^ He was Mujaddid of 18th century, whose vision helped Muslim identity in India from extinction

(Ayesha Jalal - Struggle For Pakistan).

1) LIFE AND SERVICES OF SHAH WALIULLAH

Early life and Education:

The child who called himself a genius grew up in an academic family in Phulal, Muzaffarnagar. He was lucky enough to study with his father, Hujjat ibn Abdur Rahim, who was a well known scholar and one of the main founders of the Rahimiyyah Madrasa. He also took part in the legal Waqf compilations and co-wrote the well-known legal collection Fatawa-i-Alamgiri.

LITERARY AND INTELLECTUAL SERVICES &

His most enduring service was his prolific literary output, which provided a new intellectual foundation for Indian Muslims.

Translation of the Quran:

He remains the first to elegantly translate the Holy Quran into Persia, a language held by the eminent and scholarly class in the realm of India, to internationalise Islam. It made the divine message accessible to the masses, breaking the monopoly of the clergy and fostering a direct connection with the scripture.

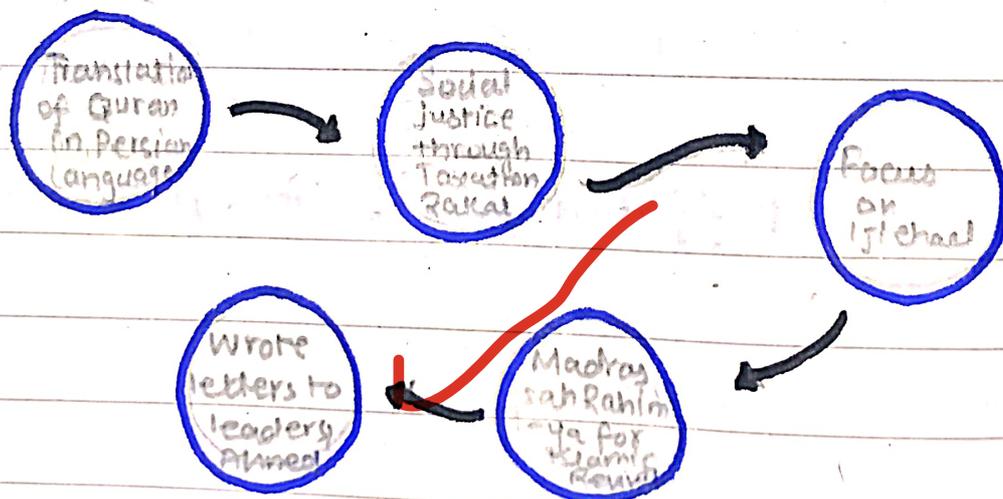
Comprehensive writings:

He authored over 50 books on various Islamic sciences. The Conclusive Argument of God, the **Hujjatullah al Baligha**, is in addition to the **Izalat al Khafa**, which represents a pattern of reconstructive thought in Islam.

Contributions For Intellectual Re-orientation

With Marathas ascendancy and religious decay along with social inequality poisoning the whole society, Shah Wali Ullah tried to give antidote through his religious, political and social services. He also observed that without purifying thoughts of every individual of Islam, the revival of Muslim empire is not possible.

Shah Wali Ullah's Efforts to Consolidate the Muslim Rule Paving the Way Towards Revival of Islam and Political Uplift of Muslims:



Shah Waliullah provided his political, religious, social, economic services for socio-political and religious uplift of Muslims.

Encouraged the use of Islamic Practices

Date: _____

Promoted the Concept of Jihad

Emphasized the importance of Ijtihad

Created a balance between different Muslim sects

a) RELIGIOUS SERVICES OF SHAH WALIULLAH

(i) Translation of Holy Quran:

His efforts to translate the Quran into Persian made Islamic teachings accessible to common people. Iqbal Rabbani writes, "Shah Wali Ullah laid the foundation for Islamic revival in India by reconnecting the Muslims with true spirit of Islam."

(ii) Revival of Hadith & Fiqh:

He believed that Fiqh should not contradict authentic Hadith and worked to harmonise the two. He encouraged scholars to integrate traditional juristic reasoning with foundational texts.

Date: _____
(iii) Bridging Sectarianism :

He removed misunderstandings between Shia and Sunnis, provided a spiritual basis for national solidarity and harmony.

He wrote **Izalat-e-Khulfa** and **Khilafat-e-Khulafa**.

(iv) Necessity of Ijtihad

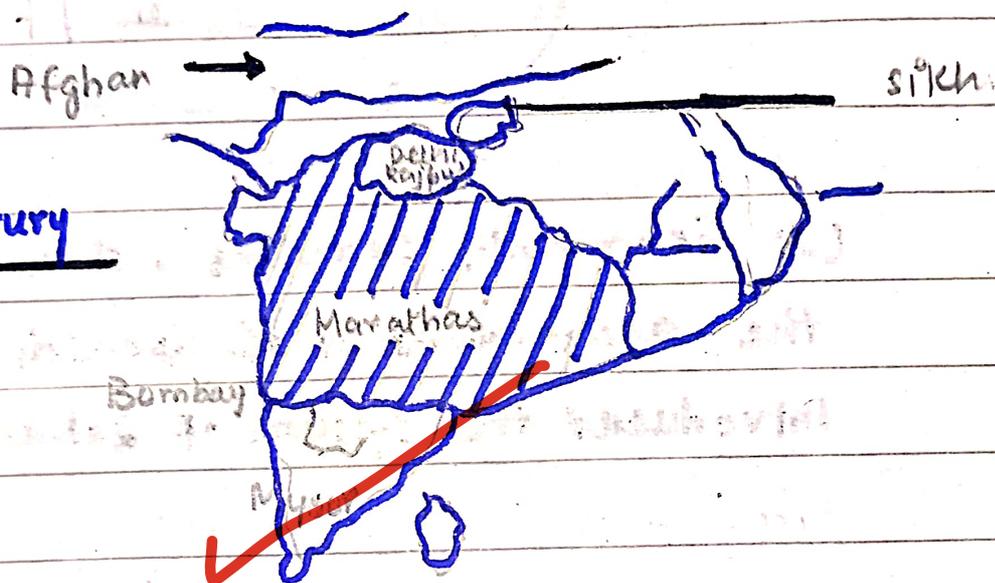
He addressed the necessity of Ijtihad in Islamic world. He noticed that rigid taqleed led to stagnation within Muslim community. In his book **al-Musafha**, he said,

"Ijtihad is an obligatory (Fard'ayn) duty in every age"

(b) Political Contributions of Shah Waliullah for Political Awakening of the Muslims of India, called Ahmed Shah Abdali to counter Sikh & Marathas:

Sikh and Marhataas wanted to crush the Muslim rule forever. Shah Wali Ullah wrote letters to leading nobles, particularly Ahmed Shah Abdali and informed them of critical situation. In 1761, Ahmed Shah Abdali came to India and defeated Maratha Confederacy at the third battle of Panipat.

India in 18th Century



"Shah Wali Ullah acted as the ideological architect of Muslim political thought in India"

(The making of Pakistan by K.K.A 212)

(c) Literary Contribution - wrote many books to eradicate sectarianism and promote Uthad:

Shah Wali Ullah wrote different books to reconcile Shia and Sunnis

Hujjatullah al-Balighah

→ Famous work.

of Shah Waliullah in which he discussed the reasons of social and religious decay.

Al Inshaf fi-Bayan:

to create a balance between four schools of thoughts.

Izalat al-Khafa

It was written to remove misunderstanding between Shia & Sunni

(d) Economic Services - discouraged the accumulation of wealth and introduced the system of Zakat:

Stressed for Adl and Tauzgun for fair wages and honest trade. It discouraged accumulation of wealth and promoted system of Zakat.

Zakat is crucial tool for achieving social justice and preventing economic hardships and exploitation

(Shah Waliullah)

(e) Social Services - struggled against prevalent innovations (Bid'at in Islam)

Worked to get rid of inter-religion marriage practices.

Shah Waliullah eradicated Bid'at

and encouraged social justice, and basic Islamic values. A sound society with reduced social inequalities was established.

Ensured Renaissance of Islam and Muslim Society:

Shah Waliullah's legacy was profound. He not only translated Quran and wrote books but also inspired the Muslim scholars through his spiritual, ideological, and religious teachings which later helped Muslims during war of independence, and led them to drive Pakistan movement.

Movements

Connection

Syed Ahmed Barelvi

Call for Jihad and protected Muslims against

Deoband Movement

Adopted anti-bidah stance and religious education model.

Aligarh Movement

Modernist drew Waliullah's idea of uplifting education among Muslims.

discuss the 2nd part of the answer separately as impacts of the services.....

Conclusion:

Shah Waliullah realized that true revival must not begin with the sword but with the mind and soul. It is not wrong to say that he made unforgettable efforts to protect Muslim's survival. His guidance, not limited to the religious field, proved very beneficial as he saved them from the brunt of Marathas. In addition his idea of the understanding of the Holy Quran gave a new life to the belief of Indian Muslims, who used to blindly follow the statements made by Ulama. He urged them to only accept a thing after verifying from the Holy Quran. In short, the God-gifted wisdom of Shah Waliullah reduced the chances of Muslim's destruction to a great extent.