

Q.3

Reforms movement of Shah Wali Ullah has immense impacts on the political landscape of subcontinent. Discuss.

Introduction:

At the time of Shah Wali Ullah, Muslims' rule had weakened. Muslims had lost their own identity by amalgamating into the Hindu culture. However, Shah Wali Ullah raised nationalism in Muslims, and encountered the Hindu and Marhattas surge. His reforms had a great impact on the political landscape of subcontinent. Muslims came to know their strength and separate identity, which led to the creation of two nation theory. According to Freedland Abbott in his book *Islam and Pakistan*, "Shah Wali Ullah can best be described

a scholar reformer, but the effect of his efforts proved revolutionary."

Situation of the society:

Hindu reformists movements

Aloofness from Shias

Threat and dominance of Hindu culture

Threat of Christian Missionaries

Increasing threat of Mahdatis

Highly Muslims were economical weak and mostly working class.

Weak Muslim Rule

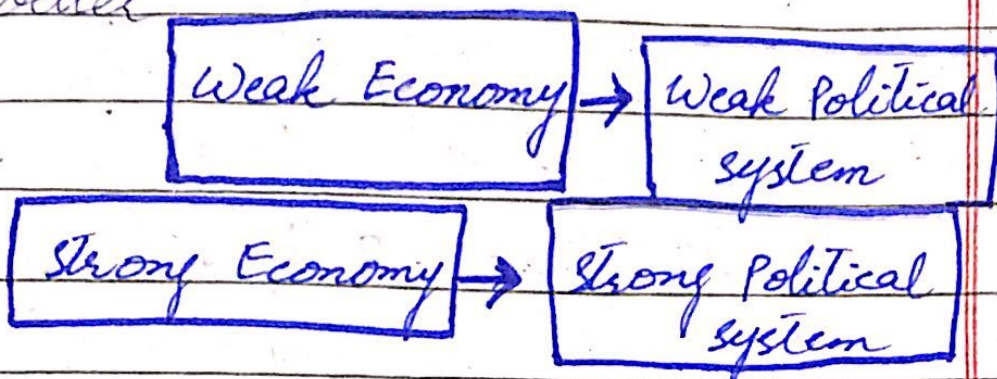
His contributions towards reformation of Political system

a) He wrote many books to bring reforms in political system:
He wrote many books to address the political problems prevalent in the subcontinent. For example, in Hujjatullah -al- Baligha, he discuss the causes of political decline of Muslim Ummah.

b) Sent letters to ^{political} rulers:
He sent many letters to political leaders of Muslim Ummah to bring reforms in political system. For example, he wrote letters to Mughal rulers and emperors. He advised to leave their corrupt practices, and not to give 'jajis' to mansabdars who were not loyal to the state.

c) He proposed by economic reforms to strengthen the Muslim rule:

No nation can lead if it is economical poor. He tried to bring reforms in economy so that the political system would get better.



Reforms:

- i) Right over the resources
- ii) No discrimination on natural resources
- iii) Right to have limited ownership
- iv) Circulation of wealth.

d) Efforts for Muslim unity:

He acknowledged that until Muslim would be not unite, it is difficult to bring political

reforms. Political chaos is the fate of every nation which is divided into many sects and identities. Quran also advises to be united in order to rule the world.

"Hold the rope of Allah tightly, and do not be divided". (Al-Quran)

He also wrote books to unite different sects.

Implications of his reform movements on the political landscape

a) Weakening the power surge of Rajput and Marhattas:

Shah Wali Ullah had weakened the power surge of Rajputs. Aurangzeb was politically shrewd and won over some Rajput sardars like Mirza Raja and ruler of Jodhpur on his side and made Mirza

Raja his army chief. However, Aurangzeb's rule resulted in separation rather than integration because of Shah Wali Ullah. He also weakened the power of Marhatae, who were serious threat to Muslims. He invited Ahmad Shah Abdali to come and teach Marhatae a lesson.

b) Gave Muslims their lost identity on the ground of religion:

Muslims came to know that Islam gave them their separate identity. They were united on one cause to raise their voices against oppression. Muslims left identifying themselves on different sects. Shah Wali Ullah intigated in Muslims that Islam is the complete code of life and Muslims should not be divided on religious ground.

As Allama Iqbal said,

"Nations are based with religion; not with territories. So, we are separate nation because we have our own ideology"

c) Rise of Muslim nationalism:

In the subcontinent, Hindus were promoting their culture and values. Muslims were adopting their culture. Ghosh Wali Ullah gave them the sense of nationalism, and promoted that Muslims are a distinct nation. Due to his efforts Muslims separated themselves from Hindu culture and ideology. As Allama Iqbal said,

"Despite living together for more than one thousand years, Hindus and Muslims have

their own individual ideology.
So, the only solution to political conflict in India is to have separate independent parliament for each nation".

d) Rise of Muslim leaders:

d) Foundation of two nation theory:

Based on his ideology, Muslims convinced British rulers that they ~~have had~~ were separate nation. Political movements

found the foundation and their future struggle. Based on these struggles, we became independent from Hindu dominant culture and British raj.

c) Birth of great leaders who had promoted his ideology:

Many great leaders came who had promoted his ideology.

Muslims established their own political forum, All India Muslim League, which continued its struggle to made. British realize that they were separate nation

Sir Sayyad Ahmad Khan

Coined two nation theory

Allama Iqbal

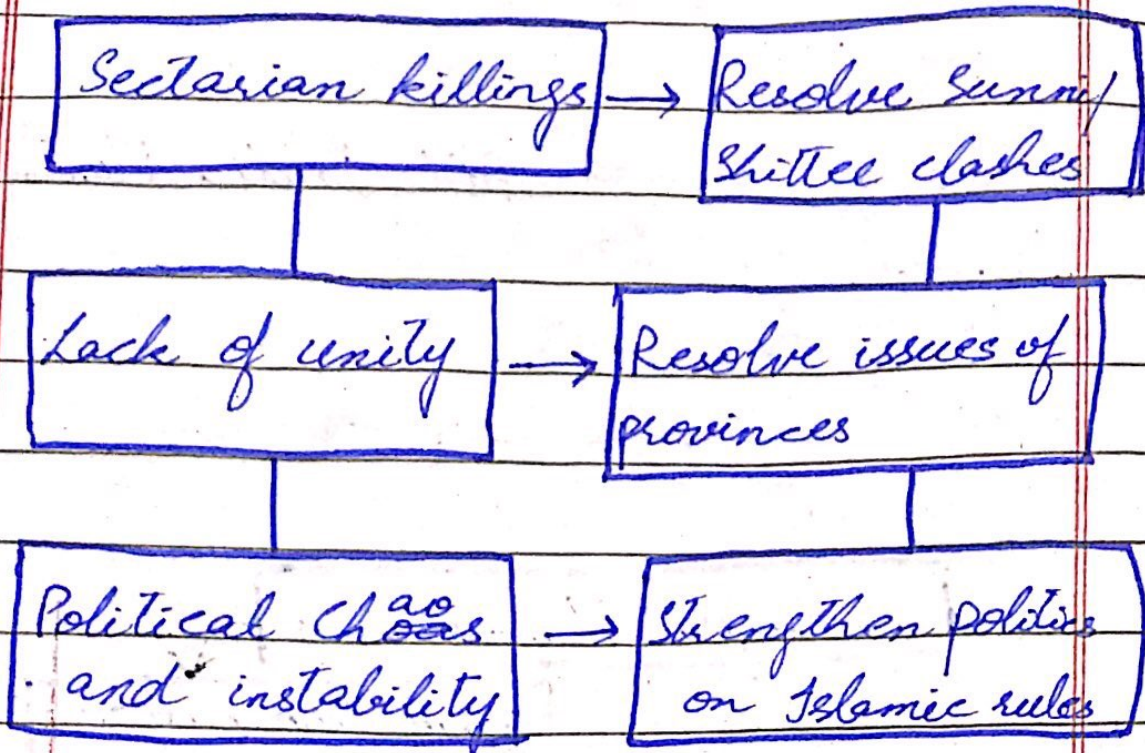
Proposed separate homeland

Quaid-e-Azam

Made reality of separate homeland for Muslims

Critical Analysis

⇒ Present Challenges and Their way forward:



Conclusion

Shah Wali Ullah spent his life in struggle to unite Muslims in the light of Islamic teachings. This unity of Muslims give them their pathway to struggle for separate homeland. Ultimately, Muslims get their homeland because of his great struggles and because the great

leaders who came to propagate
his ideas