

Q.3

1- Introduction:

Muslims were involved into different non-Islamic acts like gambling, plundering and spreading disintegration among Mughal Empire. Ulama were divided into different sects and Political instability had made the Kingdom vulnerable. As a result, many power seekers aroused and challenged the authority. Therefore, revivalism of Muslims was of utmost importance, and Shah Waliullah's strategic services had converted the adamant into ~~the~~ his adherents especially his services on political grounds.

2- Who was Shah Waliullah?

Originally, Qutb al-Din Ahmad gained the popularity known as Shah Waliullah. He was born in 1703 at Moza Phalat near Delhi. He was educated at Madrasa-i-Rahimiyah by his father Shah Abdul Rahim. Later, he went to Saudi Arabia for higher education.

At that time, Muslims in India were divided into different sects as Hanfi, Shia and Sunni. He decided to launch a campaign to popularize Islamic values among the Muslims and started working towards the achievement of these goals.

### 3- Prevalent Condition of the Time:

#### A) Political Condition:

At that time, loot and plunder, feuds and fighting had spread everywhere. Disintegration of Mughal Empire had set in. For instance, when Aurangzeb died, Shah Waliullah was about four years old and during his life, he saw almost ten rulers ascend the thrones. This showed incompetency of the Mughals. As a result, Muslims were suffering at the hands of Sikhs, Jats and Marhattas. Finally the Shia-Sunni split was widening day-by-day, disintegrating an already divided nation.

## B) Religious Condition:

Ulema were divided into sect. Basic Islamic instructions were being challenged. Scepticism and rationalism had overshadowed the tradition.

## c) Economic Condition:

Political instability had made the kingdom vulnerable, therefore, different power seekers arose and challenged the authority of the state. Hence, kingdom's resources were being drained at a rapid pace. Resultantly, economic conditions of the country were deteriorating day-by-day.

Moreover, luxurious life style of the rich, jagirdari system and heavy taxes, were all eroding the economic base of the country.

## 4- Services of Shah Waliullah:

Particularly on Political Landscapes

In the middle of the 18th century, Mashaitas had become a great political power.

2)

The were threatening to occupy the crown of Delhi. At this critical point, Shah Waliullah prepared Najidullah, (Rohillah chief) and Shuja-ud-Daulah (Nawab of Oudh) for Jihad. Moreover, he wrote a letter to Ahmad Shah Abdali, King of Afghanistan, requesting him to save the Muslims from Marathas. Consequently, in the third battle of Panipat, Ahmad Shah Abdali inflicted a crushing defeat on the Marathas. In short the Muslim Renaissance Movement launched by Shah Waliullah was the forerunner of all the future freedom movement of Indo-Pakistan.

#### 5- Other Services of Shah Waliullah:

##### A) Educational and Religious Services:

He did Persian Translation of the Holy Quran to answer questions of Christian Missionaries in 1738.

Later on, his Sons Shah Rafiq Din and Shah Abdul Qadir translated the Holy Quran in Urdu. Shah Waliullah trained students in different branches

of Islamic knowledge. He recommended the application of Ijtihad against blind Taqlid in his famous work *Ar-Radd-al-Jaiyad-Fi-Ahkam-al-Ijtihad-Wa-al-Taqlid*. In his time, Shias and Sunnis were aggressively hostile to each other and their rivalry was damaging the Muslim unity. He wrote *Izalat-al-Akhifa* and *Khilafat-al-Khulafa* in order to remove misunderstandings between Shias and Sunnis.

### B) Economic Services:

Shah Waliullah directed his teachings towards reorienting the Muslim society with the concept of basic social justice, removing social inequalities, and balancing the unjust distribution of wealth. According to Shah Waliullah, a state can prosper only if there were light and reasonable taxes.

### 6- Effects of Services on the Subcontinent:

Shah Waliullah rendered great

1. Services, which covered political,  
2. Social, religious and economical  
3. aspects. He tried to remove  
4. the difference of Muslims from  
5. within, while he intelligently  
6. addressed the looming threats  
7. through his letters and publications.  
8. He was responsible for awakening  
9. the community to maintain its  
10. purity. Even after his death in  
11. 18 1762, his sons and adherents  
12. carried on his work. Many  
13. future Islamic leaders and thinkers  
14. were inspired by his example.

## 7. Conclusion:

To conclude, Shah Waliullah was the one great leader who initiated the Muslim Renaissance Movement when the Muslims were involved in vicious activities that were against Islamic values. The service of Shah Waliullah towards the Muslims of subcontinent paved their way and brought them back to life from darkness.