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Part-II

Q.2. Basically educational in character, the Aligarh Movement was - - -

Introduction

The Hindus and Muslims of the Indian Subcontinent fought a war of Independence against their British occupiers in 1857. However, the Muslims were blamed for initiating the war as they had previously held power in the Subcontinent for centuries. The British made sure to make the Muslims pay a price for starting the war which left the Muslim population in the Subcontinent in a need for social and economic reforms. It was Sir Syed Ahmad Khan who took up the task of reforming the Muslim society through his Aligarh Movement. The main focus of the Aligarh Movement was to facilitate and persuade the Muslims to attain education but it also developed a political character later on and awakened the Muslims to their distinct identity.

Situation in the Subcontinent after the War of Independence

The War of Independence ended in a British victory over the

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Hindus and Muslims of the Subcontinent. It brought an end to the Mughal rule in the Subcontinent and paved the way for the British to formally start their rule over it. Muslims and Hindus developed a sense of resentment towards the British. The Hindus, however, continued to work alongside their British occupiers while the Muslims refrained from it. The Muslims stopped going to state schools and receiving modern education as an act of defiance. It was Sir Syed Ahmad Khan who felt the need to push Muslims to get education and participate in state life.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: the forerunner of Aligarh Movement

During a time when even being a Muslim was crime enough to call upon oneself the white wrath, it was Sir Syed Ahmad Khan who stood up for reforming the Muslim society through education. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan began by setting up schools and colleges for the Muslims. He felt that by not getting modern education, the Muslims would be left far behind and the Hindus would wield power alongside the British.

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The Aligarh Movement: educational characteristics

The main objective of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's Aligarh Movement was convincing the Muslims to gain modern knowledge. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan began the movement by setting up the Anglo Oriental school in Aligarh which became Anglo Oriental College in 1875. A number of schools were set up for the Muslims under the movement. The Scientific Society was established in 1864 which focused on translating books into both Urdu and English which were relevant for the Muslims.

Political contribution of the Aligarh Movement

Despite being an educational movement in letter and spirit, the Aligarh Movement ended up contributing significantly to shaping the political character of the Muslim Society.

All India Mohammadan Educational Conference as a political platform

The All India Mohammadan Educational Conference (AIMEC) was initiated in 1886. These annual conferences became political platforms for the

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Muslims to come together and find collective solutions for the problems faced by the Muslims. Muslims from all over the subcontinent used to attend these conferences which was an important factor in uniting the Muslims. Many resolutions in favor of the Pakistan Movement were passed from this platform.

Developing in the Muslims a Sense of Separate Identity

The Aligarh Movement played an important part in developing a sense of separate identity in the Muslims. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, over the years, came to realize that the Hindus and the Muslims were two separate entities. By establishing educational institutes exclusively for the Muslim population, the Aligarh movement helped develop the separate Muslim identity in the subcontinent.

Preserving the Urdu language which was an integral part of the Pakistan Movement

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Sir Syed Ahmad Khan experienced and witnessed the Hindi-Urdu controversy in Banaras in 1867. After this controversy,

Sir Syed was convinced of the Muslims of the Subcontinent as being separate from the Hindus. The Scientific Society and educational institutions under the Aligarh movement played an important role in preserving the Urdu language through publications of books in Urdu and imparting ~~to~~ knowledge in the Urdu language. The Urdu language became an important pillar of the Two Nation Theory (TNT).

Instructing the Muslims to refrain from Political activities

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan instructed the Muslims to refrain from participating in political activities. Sir Syed believed that the primary focus of the Muslims should be on education which would strengthen their position in the Subcontinent. This had far reaching effects on political developments in the Subcontinent after the war of independence.

Muslims told to not ~~to~~ join the Indian National Congress

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan strictly instructed the Muslims to not join the Indian National Congress (INC). Sir Syed called the INC a 'misnamed

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Congress' because he believed that there was no such thing as a single nation in India. Muslims, eventually, had to establish their own political party to promote their cause which was an important part of the Pakistan Movement.

Conclusion

The Aligarh Movement was initiated by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan solely for the purpose of improving the educational makeup of the Muslim society in the subcontinent. The movement, however, played a crucial role in shaping and dictating the political developments in the subcontinent regarding the Muslims. The Aligarh Movement ~~that~~ made it possible for the Muslims to develop and preserve their separate identity which became the basis of demanding a separate homeland for the Muslims in the subcontinent. It preserved the Urdu language and provided political platform for the Muslims in the form of AIMCC. Muslims developed a sense of unity under the Aligarh Movement. Therefore, despite being educational in its character, the Aligarh movement contributed significantly to political development in the subcontinent.

Q No 3. There is an "unbridgeable gulf" between Hinduism -----

Introduction

Al Beruni, in 1001, wrote that the Hindus and Muslims in the Subcontinent had developed this peculiar characteristic whereby the two entities, despite living together for centuries, ran parallel to each other like two streams flowing parallel to each other, touching sometimes but never mixing together. The history of the Indian Subcontinent is that of resilience and preservation where two entities i.e. the Hindus and Muslims preserved their respective identities and resisted against being influenced by each other. This rift between the Hindus and Muslims is not closing but rather widening with the passage of time as seen in the case of India and Pakistan.

The History of the Indian Subcontinent regarding Hindus and Muslims

Muslims began their rule in the Indian Subcontinent in late 12th century which lasted upto 1857. The Hindus developed a

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deep sense of resentment towards the Muslims considering the occupiers. After the war of Independence in 1857, the British rulers reigned over the India Subcontinent. Under the British rule, Hindus and Muslims developed on two very different and separate lines. Muslims realized that they would not be able to survive in a joint state with the Hindus and therefore demanded a separate homeland for themselves.

Rifts between the Hindus and the Muslims in 20th Century

The period between the war of Independence (1857) and the establishment of India and Pakistan was marked by political polarization. The Hindus and Muslims became overly sceptic and distrustful of each other. The Muslims were in a constant struggle to preserve their identity and culture whereas the Indians were striving for dominance. This scenario played out most significantly with the establishment of Congress Ministries in 1937 when the Hindus did everything they could to humiliate and subjugate the Muslim population under their power and authority.

Establishment of India and Pakistan in 1947

Division of the Indian subcontinent into two separate nations for the Hindus and the Muslims gave political recognition to the two being distinct and separate from each other. The resentment of the other remains alive till this day where formal diplomatic relations are cut off between the two. India and Pakistan have fought three wars over the Kashmir issue which is still not resolved.

Establishment of India and Pakistan has widened the gap between the Hindus and Muslims.

Current Situation in India and Pakistan

In both India and Pakistan, there are serious violations of the rights of the minorities. Hindu nationalism in India and religious extremism in Pakistan are rife. The gulf between the Hindus and Muslims is nowhere near closing.

Hindu Nationalism in India

India, especially under its current Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is promoting Hindu Nationalism which

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targets minorities and forces forcefully assimilates them. Muslims in India are in a constant state of insecurity.

The United States' Commission on Religious Freedom 2022 report accused India of committing, "systemic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom". The current fascist regime in India has also intensified its grip over the Muslims of Kashmir. which is a major bone of contention between the Hindus of India and the Muslims of Pakistan.

Religious extremism in Pakistan

Religious extremism in Pakistan is on the rise. Muslims in Pakistan have a very negative view of Hindus. Hindu minorities in India are often mistreated. forced conversions are on the rise especially in Sindh province. In its 2023 report, the United States Commission on Religious Freedom designated 15 countries as countries of Particular Concern (CPC) of which India and Pakistan are both a part.

The plight of the Kashmiris

One of the major reason why Hindus and Muslims are at daggers drawn over the issue of

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Kashmir. Kashmir is a Muslim majority area divided into territories occupied ~~illegally~~ illegally by India and under Pakistani administration. The fight over Kashmir has become a fight between the Hindus and Muslims. Peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue is important if the ^{gap} ~~bridge~~ between the Hindus and Muslims is to be bridged.

Conclusion

Hindus and Muslims have lived in close proximity to each other for centuries and continue to do so but there is a widening gap ~~po~~ between the two. History has not played in favor of Hindu-Muslim unity which plagues the current situation. Hindu majority in India and the Muslim majority in Pakistan are intolerant of their Muslim and Hindu minorities respectively. Hindus and Muslims should work on their shared history and values for closing the gap between Hindus and the Muslims which often ends up in violation of the rights of minorities.

Q. 4. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a way for win-win -

Introduction

The Chinese president Xi Jinping announced China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) formerly known as the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative in 2013. The BRI is a long chain of sea ^{lines} routes and land routes connecting China with Europe and the Middle East. The BRI is touted by the Chinese as a win-win cooperation for the developing countries but is viewed with skepticism by the United States (US) and the west. It is a major infrastructure development project which would facilitate trade globally. It promises collective development for all the participating countries and for the world as a whole.

An overview of the Belt and Road Initiative

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is the largest infrastructure development project undertaken by China. The US calls it the "Chinese Marshall Plan". It outlines major investments in developing countries around which

would earn them dividends. It is a series of land routes and sea lanes connecting China to markets in the middle east and in Eastern and Central Europe, facilitating trade globally.

China's Malacca Dilemma

China is excessively dependent on the Strait of Malacca for its trade with the outside world. The Malacca Strait is heavily militarized by the US. China wants to develop an alternative route for its trade to secure its position in case of an embargo by the US. The BRI project has this as a central objective for its development.

Investments in Developing Countries under BRI

China promises major investments in developing countries like Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and ~~Africa~~ those in South East Asia. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the BRI, outlines an investment of 62 billion dollars by the Chinese in Pakistan. Other such initiatives are underway in many other countries.

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CPEC : a flagship project of BRI

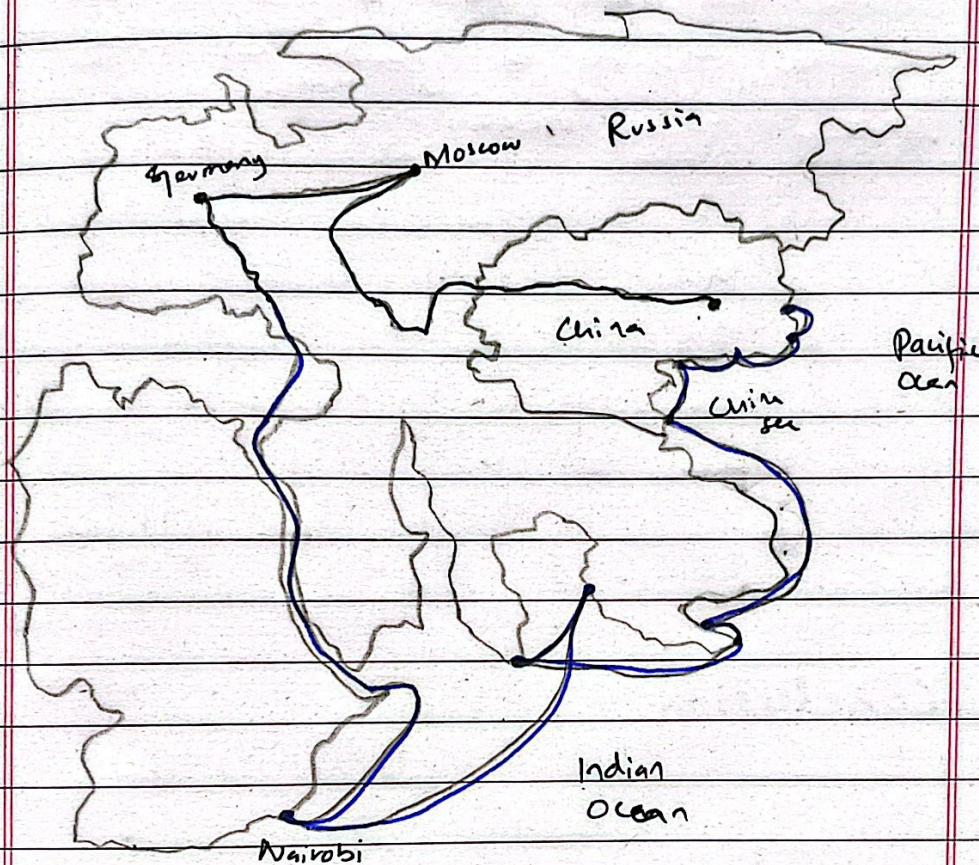
The CPEC project was launched in Pakistan in 2013 by China. So far, Pakistan has received 25.4 billion dollars under the project which has entered its second phase. CPEC gives access to China to the warm waters of the Arabian Sea. The Gawadar and Karachi ports provide the shortest route to the Persian Gulf, through which China imports much of its hydrocarbons. CPEC allows Pakistan to enjoy the benefits of being an important transit spot along with infrastructure development throughout the country under CPEC.

Components of the BRI

The BRI can be divided into two major components: the sea lines and the land routes. The land route connects China through the Central Asian Republics to Moscow and then to countries as far as Germany. The sea line connects China to the Middle East and African continent. The sea line passes through the South and East China Seas into the Indian Ocean and at last to the Atlantic Ocean. The

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Sea and Land routes are complementary to each other.



The Belt and Road Initiative

Economic Development under BRI

China has been trying to convince the western world of its benign future. It promises collective growth to all cooperating and participating nations. Employment generation, technological cooperation, industrial and agricultural innovation are touted as integral focal

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Points of China under BRI with regards to participating nations.

A Shift from Geopolitics to Geoeconomics

The BRI investment program is a part of China's major macro Chinese Global Civilization Initiative. It aims to transform the current global scenario through win-win cooperation. The BRI project gives participating nations an opportunity to shift from ~~geopolitics~~ to geopolitics to geoeconomics by shifting the spotlight to economic development.

Conclusion

The BRI launched by Chinese government in 2013 is a macro level infrastructure development project which engulfs the Asian, African and European continent. It promises economic uplift of all the participating countries whereby China would invest billions of dollars in individual countries. The BRI has two complementary components i.e. a land route and a sea lane. The west is apprehensive of Chinese ambitions while China accuses it of collective development under the project.

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Q.S. Write a comprehensive growth of Population - - - -

Introduction

Pakistan is the 5th most populous country in the world. If a country succeeds in achieving human development, its population becomes an asset instead of being a liability for the state. Pakistan's population is growing rapidly but the state has so far failed to invest in its human capital. The current rate of population growth is having serious implications for socio-economic development in the country.

Population Growth in Pakistan

Pakistan is one of the top 10 fastest growing countries. According to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) State of World's Population Report (2023), with more than 240 million people, Pakistan is among 8 countries that will account for half of all projected growth in global population by 2050.

Some of the major causes behind population growth in Pakistan

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Pakistan is facing a threat posed to it by its ~~uncontrollable~~ uncontrolled population growth. According to the 2023 National Census, Pakistan is home to more than 241.5 million people, showing a growth of 1.98 percent from 2022.

A lack of use of Family Planning Practices

Family planning practices through modern methods like the use of contraceptives is considered taboo in Pakistan. People still resort to outdated methods even if they do consider family planning.

Religious Disposition of the People

People in Pakistan are resistant to population control policies due to their religious disposition. They consider such measures as equivalent to meddling in the affairs of God. In 1961, President Ayub introduced family laws which had to be torn down due to strong opposition from the clergy.

Early Marriages

Early marriages are

rampant in Pakistan. Except in Sindh where the legal age for marriage is 18, girls as young as 16 are officially allowed to get married. According to the United Nations Children's Fund, over 18 percent of women in Pakistan are married by before the age of 18 which increases their reproductive age.

~~That~~ Illiteracy in Pakistan

Education is an important factor for facilitating population control. The literacy rate in Pakistan is 62.8 percent as per the Economic Survey of Pakistan (2022-2023) which is one of the lowest in the region. This accounts for why Pakistan is facing a population explosion.

Impacts of over Population on Human Development

Pakistan scores very low on Human development indices owing to its huge population. The United Nation's Human Development Index ranks Pakistan at 161st place out of the total 192 countries with an HDI score of 0.54, in

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2022.

Conclusion.