

Q: 2

Critically analyze the influence of religious reformers in shaping Muslim Identity in United India. To what extent did the Aligarh Movement play an instrumental role in forming the political ideals of Muslims in 20th century? - - - -

Ans: 2

### I. Introduction:

The Muslims were moving away from the religious practices and teachings when the religious reformers came to the limelight. The Muslims had worst political, economic, and social conditions. Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, Shah Waliullah and Syed Ahmad Khan had a deep political, social, and economic impacts on the Muslims of that time that helped to reshape the Muslim identity in United India. Aligarh Movement was also the effort played by the Sir Syed Ahmad Khan that played an instrumental role in forming the political ideal of Muslims in 20th century. Moreover, there were also some other movements taking place after it, <sup>which</sup> were Deobandi movement and Nadwa movement.

## II - INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS REFORMERS IN SHAPING MUSLIM IDENTITY IN UNITED INDIA

The Three important Religious reformers have played a significant role in shaping the muslim identity in united India

### II-A SHEIKH AHMAD SIRHINDI

#### II-A(i) Conditions of Muslims at that time:

a - Akbar introduced Din-e-Ilahi, a new religion, that proved detrimental to the muslims as they forgot the Islamic teachings under the teachings of Quran and Sunnah.

b - Un-Islamic practices were common under the influence of Hindus

c - Authenticity of sharia was denied and jurisprudence was considered as only the real knowledge

d - The Ulemas at that time declared un-Islamic practices such as gambling, liquor, eating in Ramadan as haram

## II-A(iii) Services of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi

### II A(iii)(a)

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Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi sent a number of disciples to various parts of India to teach the real Islamic knowledge according to ~~under~~ the Quran and Sunnah. They also stressed the people to follow Sunnah.

### II A(iii)(b) Concept of Wahdat al-Shahud was

given

The concept of Wahdat ul Wajood was prevalent at that time that was described as that every being of the God in God itself. So, Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi denied that concept and gave the concept of Wahdat-ul-Wajood that holds that God and His creation are entirely separate.

### II A(iii)(c) Opposition of Din-e-Ilahi

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi also opposed the Din-e-Ilahi introduced by Mughal Emperor Akbar. He exposed its fallacy through forceful articles and predicted its dangerous effects for the future generation.

## II A ii) Rectification in Mysticism

Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi explained the fact that mysticism without Shariah is a misleading concept.

He told the difference between Wilayat and Nabuwat. He

corrected the different opinions between the sainthood and Nabuwat and tried to rectify the unIslamic principles in mysticism.

## II-A (iii), Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi and Two

Nation Theory:

At that time, there was a joint system of nationalism. Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi advocated the separateness and exclusiveness of the Muslims. He adopted a stern action towards Hindus. It shows that he was the pioneer of Two-Nation Theory.

## II-B Shah Waliullah

II B (i), Conditions of the Muslims

at Shah Waliullah's time

a- Ulemas were divided into sects. Islamic Injunctions were being challenged by the <sup>Sectarianism</sup> ~~Sectarianism~~.

b- Economic conditions of the Muslims were deteriorating day by day.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
C- Disintegration of Mughal Empire was taking

place due to the loot and plunder and fightings  
between Muslims, Sikhs and the Marathas.

## II Biii Services of Shah Waliullah

### II Biii(a) Translation of Holy Quran into Persian

Shah Waliullah translated the Quran into  
Persian so that Muslims will be able to learn the  
Quran and its teachings with more ease.

### II Biii(b) Political Services of Shah Waliullah

Shah Waliullah wrote a letter to Shah  
Abdali, King of Afghanistan to save the Muslims from the  
influence of Marathas. Marathas has become a great  
political power at that time, in the 18th century, and tried to  
take control over whole Delhi. So, with the help of  
Ahmad Shah Abdali, he was successful to defeat the  
Marathas and save the Muslims.

He ~~reorienting~~ reorienting the muslim society with the concept of basic social justice, removing social inequalities and balance the unequal distribution of wealth. He pinpointed the causes of chaos of muslim society in his book, *Hajjat-ul-Ilah-il-Baqiyah* that there must be no taxation heavily imposed on peasants and workers and there must be no concentration of wealth in few hands.

## II-C Syed Ahmad Shaheed

### II C-(i) Conditions of the Muslims

at that time

Punjab was under the rule of Sikhs and they were cruel to the muslims. They regard the muslims' culture, tradition and religion places unacceptably. So, Syed Ahmad Shaheed decided to launch Jihad against them because the muslim emperors were at that time were not ready to wage Jihad against them.

### II C (ii) Services of Syed Ahmad

Shaheed

~~that~~ Syed Ahmad Shaheed was successful in making:

a) Establishment of Islamic State

b) Reformation and purification of society from

un-Islamic practices

c) Restoration of Jihad and raise awareness of

Jihad among Muslims region

d) To free the Muslims of Punjab from the

clutches of Sikhs

### III - How did Aligarh Movement

remain successful in forming

POLITICAL IDEALS OF MUSLIMS

Aligarh Movement was basically an educational venture but it had deep political impacts. It was a movement launched by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and later it was carried by his juniors and colleagues.

#### III (i) Literary writings of Sir Syed

Ahmad Khan:

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's literary writings such as "The Cause of Indian Revolt" and "Loyal Mohammedans of India" etc were a remarkable writings that helped to remove the rift between the Muslims and British and later helped the Muslims to achieve their political rights

## II (ii) Save Urdu in Hindi-Urdu

### Controversy:

Hindi-Urdu controversy was emerged in that time. The Hindus demanded that Hindi should be their official language. On the other hand, the Muslims wanted to save their language, Urdu. That Hindi-Urdu controversy emerged the concept of Two-Nation Theory and enforced Sir Syed, who were staunch believers of Hindu-Muslim unity, to say that Hindus and Muslims are two nations and they can't live under the same roof.

## II (iii) Opposition of Congress

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was opposed to Congress and instructed Muslims to stay away from that because he knew that Congress was a Hindu dominated party and it will not protect the Muslims rights.

## II (iv) All Indian Educational Congress

became a launching pad of All Indian Muslim League.

All Indian Educational Congress was basically an educational institute. But there were



no political platform for the muslims. So, AIEC was become a platform to discuss the muslims political, and social problems. Later, the inauguration of All Indian - Muslim League was announced in ~~the~~ one of the conferences of AIEC.

### II - v Focus of Western education

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan had the view that the fundamental rights of the muslims could not be protected unless they get western education. So, he made different schools, colleges and organizations to disseminate the western education to muslims. Later, with the seeking of western education, the muslims were able to get the jobs in the government services and got their political rights as well.

### III - Difference Between Aligarh

and other movements:

Aligarh movement	Deoband movement
(a) Aligarh were reconciliatory in ideology	a- Deoband were confrontational in ideology
b Aligarh focused on socio-economic aspects	b- Deoband focused on religious-political aspects

c- Aligarh adopted English language

c- Deoband were opposed to English

d- Aligarh emphasized rational sciences

d- Deoband were against rational sciences and only focused on Islamic teachings

e- Aligarh movement tracked a conciliatory trajectory with the British

e- Deoband inculcated jihadi spirit and adopted a rebellious trajectory towards British

f- Aligarh aimed at producing skilled graduates and working officials

f- Deoband produced clergy, Ulama and debaters

g- Aligarh was pro-Nationalism and projected the spirit of Two-Nation Theory.

g- Deoband believed in Pan-Islamism

## Conclusion:

Muslims were getting far away from religious teachings and religious practices <sup>then</sup> when the religious reformed came as a blessing to re-introduce the Spirit of Islam. By their religious, political and social efforts, they remained successful in shaping the muslim identity in United India. However, there were also some movements taken place such as Aligarh movement, Deoband movement that helped in forming the political ideals of muslims in 20th century..

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