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Pakistan Affairs

(Part-II)

Q#2: Explain the services of Shah Wali Ullah and Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi. How these reformers impacted the history of subcontinent? Discuss.

Introduction:

In the midst of Muslim period of decline, there emerged two towering personalities namely Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi (1564-1624) and Shah Wali Ullah (1703-1762). Both these figures brought numerous reforms and rendered great services for the cause of Islam and Muslims in the subcontinent. It was the time of a great upheaval as Islam as a religion was losing its distinct character due to the secular policies of Akbar and later Muslim identity was in danger due to rise of non-Muslim powers in India. The impacts of these two reformers and of their services are long-lasting on the history of subcontinent in general and Muslims in particular.

1. Services of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi

Following are the services of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi:

1.1: Opposition to Bhakti Movement:

Bhakti Movement was a pseudo sufi version of Hinduism. It began in the mid 16th century with an aim to reorganise Hindu religion. However, its activities were mainly cultural which penetrated into the separate culture of Muslims. Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi opposed such activities vehemently.

1.2: Opposition to Akbar's Secular Policies:

The Mughan emperor Jalal ud-Din Akbar adopted secular policies and alienated Islamic concept of state and sovereignty. Because in Islam, sovereignty belongs to Allah Almighty, and king or emperor is bound to act within the principles of Islamic Law and Sharia. Thus, Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi rejected Akbar's secularism on grounds of religion. Because in Islam, state and religion cannot be separated, because if done that then there will be tyranny.

1-3: Opposition to Akbar's Din-i-Ilahi

Emperor Akbar was introducing new changes into his administration as well as religion. For example, Akbar formed a religious cult called "Din-i-Ilahi" that was the collection of different good principles of other religions in India. This religious cult was famous around the personality of emperor and his immediate deputies and courtiers. It was a blasphemous act to introduce new innovations to Islam, that is a complete code of life. Thus, Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi rejected this innovation of Akbar.

1-4: Opposition to Ban on Jizya and Cow Slaughter:

Akbar put a ban on Jizya and cow slaughter in India to appease his Hindu subjects and general public. Jizya is a religious tax imposed on non-Muslims in a Muslim state for protection and cow slaughter was another Islamic duty, especially on Eid-ul-Adha.

These acts emboldened Hindus but infuriated the Muslims, because these were un-Islamic.

in nature. Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi opposed such acts vigorously.

7.5: Rejection of building of Temples in Mughal Court, and Muslim estates

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi rejected and opposed Akbar's attempt to construct a Hindu temple in Mughal court for the worship of Hindu deities by his Hindu courtiers and wives. Furthermore, Akbar's policy to pay for the construction of Hindu temples by a Muslim government too was opposed by Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi, because a Islamic state is not allowed to do that. Moreover, this act was opposed because Hindu temples were being built by demolishing Mosques.

7.6: Advocated Removal of Hindus and other non-Muslims from Mughal Court:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi advocated removal of Hindu ministers, diwans, and servants from Mughal courts because it would have weakened Islam and emboldened Hinduism or non-Muslims. Already, Muslims and Hindus had started inter-mixing and inter-dining, but Sheikh Ahmed opposed all that because it could have

resulted in the inter-religious marriages and weakening of a separate Muslim identity.

2- Services of Shah Waliullah (1703-1762):

Following are given the services of Shah Waliullah:

2.1: Educational Services of Shah Waliullah:

Shah Waliullah was the first person in Subcontinent to translate the Holy Quran into Persian language, because it was the language of the Court of emperors. Furthermore, Shah Waliullah taught Muslims Islamic thought and research about the Golden Principles of Islam at Rahimiya Madrasah.

2.2: Reconciliation between Muslims' sects to end sectarianism:

At the time of Shah Waliullah the Mughal government was in a state of perpetual decline, which impacted the psyche of Muslims who had taken refuge in conformism and sectarianism. Shah Waliullah tried to reconcile between Shias and Sunnis as well as the subsects of

Sunni Muslims through his writings. He penned down "Izalat ul Ikhtla' wal Khilafatal ul Khuffa" that reconciled the differences of Sunnis and Shias. Furthermore, he wrote "Hussatul ul Balasighat" which is considered his magnum-opus, it tried to show the golden principles of Islam have the ability to solve the problems of mankind across the religious divide, he tried to convince the people that Islam is a universal religion and it is for all of the humanity.

2.3. Stressed the Importance of Ijtihad over Taqlid:

Shah Waliullah believed that Muslims are in decline because of their alienation from religion. He stressed that Islam is a complete code of life, that has the ability to solve all the problems of mankind. However, he advocated that Ijtihad is more important than taqlid. Ijtihad implies that religion should be interpreted according to the time and space as conditions demand but taqlid means taking things as they are and

believing without reason.

2.4: Stressed on the Elimination of Social Evils from Society:

Shah Waliullah was a witness to the declining power of Muslims in subcontinent. It resulted in many social evils within the society. Shah Waliullah also struggled for social reform through the golden principles of Islamic thought. For example, the economic system of Islam stresses on the adoption of egalitarian economic policies and fair circulation of wealth. Therefore, Shah Waliullah convinced the Muslims of subcontinent that their salvation lies in Islamic principles and Islam.

2.5: Invitation to Ahmed Shah Abdali to Invade India to restore Islamic Empire:

In the midst of rising Marhatta power in South India, that had restricted the Mughal rule only near Delhi, which infuriated Shah Waliullah. As a result, he wrote letter to Afghan ruler Ahmed Shah Abdali to ask him to invade Subcontinent, crush Marhatta power and reestablish Islamic rule.

in subcontinent. Resultantly, Abdali invaded subcontinent in 1761 and defeated Marhattas at the 2nd Battle of Panipat. However, he did not establish government in Delhi and returned back to Kandahar to look after his kingdom.

3- Legacy and Impact of these Reformers on the History of subcontinent:

3.1: Jizya and Cow Slaughter were allowed:

Due to the efforts of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi the ban on Jizya and cow slaughter was lifted after the death of Akbar.

3.2: Muslim Identity and Culture were Preserved:

After the death of Akbar his son Jehangir became emperor and he imprisoned Sheikh Ahmed for two years. However, the dreams of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi materialized when Aurangzeb became emperor in 1659. Aurangzeb's policies towards Islam are considered ideal, the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore is one example of his ^{positive} attitude towards Islam.

3.3: Two-Nation Theory Paved the way for Pakistan Movement.

The joint efforts of two reformers namely Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi and Shah Waliullah

gave practical shape to two-nation theory as Muslims became clear in both thought and action that Hindus and Muslims are separate nations; and they cannot live together. Therefore, two-nation theory paved the way for Pakistan Movement and emergence of Pakistan in 1947.

Conclusion:

Both Shaikh Ahmed Raza Khan and Shah Waliullah rendered great services to Islam in subcontinent. The impacts of these two reformers still reverberate till this day. Their joint efforts saved Islam's thought and separate identity of Muslims which provided a roadmap to two nation theory, that ultimately became the ideology of Pakistan Movement and later Pakistan.

Q#3: Pakistan Resolution of 1940 is termed as the Magna Carta of Pakistan Movement. Elucidate.

Introduction:

Pakistan Resolution of 1940 is regarded as the Magna Carta of Pakistan because it provided a roadmap and future

course of ~~action~~ action to the Muslims of British India. The unveiling of Pakistan Resolution served two purposes, first it provided a future course of action to the All India Muslim League (AIML), and secondly it convinced the British government and Hindus that Pakistan is an inevitable reality that no amount of force or repression could convince the Indian Muslims to backtrack from this demand.

1. Lahore Resolution 1940 :

The Muslim nationalism had reached to its highest peak when the All India Muslim League presented its historic Lahore Resolution on 23rd March, 1940 at Minto Park (later the Quater Iqbal Park), of Lahore. On 21st March, 1940 the Working Committee drafted a resolution. On 22nd March the Commission under Working Committee presented the resolution. Next day, on 23rd March, the resolution was moved by Molvi Fazl-i-Haq of Bengal. for approval. It was seconded by Sir Zafarullah Khan, Ch Khalique Zaman, Nawab Ismail Khan and others.

2. Salient Features of the Lahore Resolution

Q.1: Text of the Resolution:

¶ No future constitutional plan would be workable in this country or acceptable to the Muslims unless it is designed on the following principles, namely, the geographically contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should be so constituted with territorial readjustments as may be necessary. The areas in which the Muslims are in majority as in the Northwestern and Eastern Zones of India should be grouped together in independent states, in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign...

Adequate and mandatory safeguards should be provided in the constitution for minorities for the protection of their religious, cultural, political, economic, administrative, and other rights...→

- Lahore Resolution (1940).

Q.2: Emphasis on the Separate Identity of Muslims:

The Lahore Resolution recognized that Hindus and Muslims are two separate nations with their own religious, cultural, political, economic,

civilizational, and administrative aspirations.

2.3: Demand for a Separate Homeland for Muslims :

As per the text of the Resolution, it clearly put forth the demand for a separate homeland for Muslims on the basis of their separate identity, religion, and aspirations. According to eminent historian K.K. Aziz,

"... The march of history had made a nation of a community. No longer did they eat out their hearts in sullen impotence, trusting in the beneficence of the British and or the goodwill of Hindus. To the Congress claim that India was a nation-state, that it was neither plural nor multicultural but multinational, the Muslims responded by presenting a broad new idea of a separate Muslim nationalism."

— K.K. Aziz; *The Making of Pakistan*

2.4: Emphasis on the Unity Among Muslims.

The resolution played a key role in bringing Muslims from diverse social, cultural, ethnic, and economic backgrounds under the leadership of All India Muslim League (AIML) and Quaid-i-Azam in their demand for Muslim united Pakistan.

2.5: Recognition of Minority Rights in the Constitution:

The text of the resolution recognized the importance of protection of the rights of minorities in the future Constitution. The resolution was unambiguous and clear that no compromise shall be tolerated on the question of the rights of minorities, and their social, religious, cultural, economic, and political aspirations.

3- The Reaction of British on Lahore Resolution

The British reaction to the Lahore Resolution was a mixed bag of worry and concern about the empire. Initially, the British dismissed any thought about Lahore Resolution. However, as the World War II came and a new wave of Indian nationalism on the side and Muslim nationalism on the other came to haunt the British, some efforts were made ^{to secure} such as the Cabinet Mission Plan to retain the Indian unity that was considered the jewel of British crown.

4- The Reaction of Hindus and Congress:

The Hindus and Congress leaders like Sardar Patel (Vallabhbhai) and Mahatma Gandhi were initially sarcastic and later became skeptic. The

Hindu newspapers sarcastically painted Lahore Resolution as 'Pakistan Resolution'.

However, with the failure of Cabinet Mission Plan, the Hindus and Congress became cynical about Pakistan; and left no stone unturned to refrain Indian unity to form Akhand Bharat.

Conclusion:

The Lahore Resolution was passed on 29th March, 1940 in the historic Minto Park of Lahore. A minaret was later constructed in remembrance of this historic day, which is known as the Minar-i-Pakistan. The resolution is generally considered to be the Magna Carta of Pakistan as it put forth the demand of a separate Muslims' homeland.

It provided the League under Quaid's leadership to organize, unite people and rally behind Quaid to achieve Pakistan. This dream materialised finally on 14th August, 1947.



Q#5. If we do not take charge of our population size, then nature will do it for us. Explain this phenomenon in the context of Pakistan. Also suggest measures to address it.

Introduction :

The population size, growth rate, and its composition play an important role in the social and economic development of any country. The demographic statistics of a country help draft plans, frameworks for economic policies and for judging growth rate and development. According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan, at present Pakistan is the 5th most populated country, with a growth rate of 2%, which is fairly high when compared to other South Asian countries. However, the population size and growth can become a problem too if it does not have adequate resources and policy plans to provide for that population, it becomes a recipe for disaster. Pakistan too is facing this issue that has myriads of effects ranging from resource constraints, to provision of services and social as well as political.

1. The Causes of Population Growth

Following are the causes of population growth in Pakistan.

1.1: High Fertility Rates and Low Mortality Rates

With the advancement in science and

modernisation of healthcare in Palestine, the average fertility rates has increased exponentially. On the other hand, the mortality rates has declined and average life expectancy rate has increased from 40 years to above 69 years.

2.2: Cultural Beliefs Limit Access to Family Planning:

Islam is a progressive and modern religion; unlike other religions, Islam has permitted of family planning. However, cultural beliefs limit access to family planning, despite it being granted under the Muslim Family Laws (1962).

2.3: Poverty Stricken Households consider More Children as a way of Social Mobility:

The households living in absolute or relative poverty or below the poverty line are more prone to have more male children. As male children are considered as a mean of social mobility, Resultantly these children are put to work in their adolescence and they get trapped in that throughout their lives. Thus, this cycle goes on unabated.

2. Impacts of high population growth rate on Pakistan:

Following are the impacts of high population growth on Pakistan:

2.1. Theory of Malthusian Trap and Pakistan:

A English economist Thomas Malthus, in his, 'An Essay on the Principle of Population', argued that without the practice of 'moral restraint' on population, the population tends to increase at a greater rate than its means of subsistence. As a result the population checks of famine and epidemics. Pakistan's population too is increasing at a greater rate than its ^{current} means of subsistence. According to the current statistics, the population size of Pakistan is 242.5 million but the GDP size is 340.04 billion, and poverty rate is 39.8% that means more than 60 million people are living in poverty.

2.2: Urbanization and Environmental Degradation:

With the increase in population, the demand of resources and housing too

would increase, therefore villages and small towns would become overcrowded. The general tendency would be towards urbanisation, more housing and real-estate projects to meet that demand. However, this will lead to environmental degradation, already, Pakistan is facing the extent of climate change. If this goes on then Pakistan will become more exposed to climate induced catastrophes, as land required to guard against climate change would be urbanized.

2.3: Decline in Agriculture and Food Insecurity.

As more and more agricultural land is being used for urbanisation, and real-estate to meet the demand of housing, Pakistan will become food-scarce country. At present agriculture contributes more than 22.5% to the agriculture, however, in future this may go down.

2.4: Unemployment and Dependency Burden.

Due to strain on resources, the unemployment rate would increase and so will the dependency ratio. Thus, more and more people would depend on a single or ~~less~~ no

means of earning. The gullible teens would turn to crime to be able to put food on the table.

2.5. Constraints in the Provision of Public Services:

As economic strain would increase due to population growth and unemployment, as a result of this, the government may face difficulties in the provision of public services like education and healthcare. More and more people will be laid off from public sector jobs due to austerity measures.

3- Ways in which Pakistan can avoid this bleak future?

3.1- Prioritizing Family Planning with the help of Islamic Scholars:

The government should prioritize family planning measures with the help of Islamic scholars. This will serve two purposes avoid the state from conservative quarters and limit population growth according to the required level.

3.2: Investing in Education of Females:

The government needs to ensure

female literacy by investing in this area. A educated female will become economically independent, would contribute to national economy, and would know about the negative repercussions of over population.

3.3: Utilizing SIFC to bring Investment in diverse sectors:

Pakistan has the potential to become a middle power state due to its rich resources. However, these resources remain untapped due to misplaced priorities and political instability. The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) can be utilized to bring investment (Foreign Direct Investment FDI) in diverse fields like agriculture, energy sector, natural resources and IT. This will generate more jobs and revenue for government; to formulate and create policy actions to deal with over-population.

Conclution: Population growth and over-population are two sides of the same coin like a double edged sword. If urgent actions are not taken then as given in the statement, the nation will do either in the form of climate change, epidemic or famines. However, given the

potential of Pakistan and resilience of its population it is too hasty to draw any conclusion. Pakistan and its citizens have a bright future ahead provided that urgent measures are taken to nip the evil in the bud.

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Q#7: In the absence of a regional consensus based approach between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the region's future may be characterized by instability and heightened levels of violence. Critically evaluate.

Introduction:

The absence of a regional consensus based approach between Pakistan and Afghanistan coupled with the internal Afghan conflicts, political instability, presence of various armed non-state actors, and recent flare-up issues of security between two neighbours can push the region into perpetual instability and heightened levels of violence. Therefore, the issues needs to be solved peacefully and diplomatically, however, in case of violence Pakistan has the ability to respond against

kinetic measures with more force.

1. Issues between Afghanistan and Pakistan:

1.1: The Durand Line Dispute and Issue of Transgressing:

Durand Line remains one of the biggest eyesores in Pak-Afghan relations. The issue dates back to 1893 during the Second Anglo Afghan War, when Afghanistan serves as a buffer between Russia and British India in their conflict called the Great Game. Durand Line agreement was signed between King Abdul Rehman and Secretary Sir Mortimer Durand. The two subsequent treaties called the **Treaty of Gandamak** and **Treaty of Rawalpindi** reaffirmed the status of Durand line as international border. However, since the Pushtoonist movement of **Sayyid Iqbal** at the behest of Afghanistan, the issue along with transgressing remains a hurdle in the relationship of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

1.2: The Issue of Cross-Border Terrorism and TTP Militants:

Since the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban

formed a government in Kabul. After 2011, Operation Red-ul-Farooq the T.T.P militants and their second and first tier leadership moved into Afghanistan. The Afghan Taliban promised during Doha Accords that Afghan land will not be used against Pakistan for terrorist activities. However, according to the report of Global Conflict Tracker, the cases of terrorism have increased from marginal ones to over 400. The Taliban leadership in Kandahar and government in Kabul have fell short of the hopes by violating their promises. Pakistan has made several ~~time~~ demands regarding taking action or handing over them to it; however, Taliban government continues to fail in stopping the cross-border terrorism against Pakistan.

1-8: Afghan Refugee Crisis

The government of Pakistan has decided to send back unregistered Afghan refugees living in the country since 2001, and before. The total number of unregistered Afghan refugees is around 1.4 million. This issue is legitimate right of Pakistan, however, the Afghan government is coming hard on Pakistan over refugee issue.

2.4: Issue of Smuggling to Afghanistan:

According to the government of Pakistan, the unregistered Afghans in Pakistan are involved in many criminal activities, such as smuggling of wheat, sugar, hard foreign currency and other commodities. These refugees (unregistered) are alleged to have been involved in terrorist activities in the country.

Q. How - can these issues impact regional security and stability?

2.1: Divergent Security Interests can Escalate the Conflict:

At present both Pakistan and Afghanistan have divergent security interests in the region. Especially in frame of the influence of different militant groups. Divergent security interests become clear when Taliban are skeptic of taking actions against TTP and its offshoots. However, the divergence of interests can escalate the conflict, as happened in October Torkham border military clashes. The Taliban's failure to bring terrorist groups to justice is raising many eyebrows in Islamabad, thus it can trigger to a conflict.

2.2: Disengagement can provide space to proxy-conflict:

A diplomatic disengagement between Kabul and Islamabad can provide the potential space to proxy-conflict over the issue of non-state actors residing in Afghanistan. The Afghan Taliban's reluctance to take action against TTP militants can be a part of its regional strategy for dominance.

2.3: Conflict can disrupt economic integration in the region

Afghanistan is Pakistan's gateway to Central Asian markets and mineral resources. Similarly, Afghanistan being a landlocked state depends on Pakistan for its maritime trade. The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran (TAPI) gas pipeline can be affected due to conflict. Furthermore, conflict between two states would undermine the efforts for economic integration in region.

2.4: Pakistan can lose its strategic depth in Afghanistan vis a vis to India:

Afghanistan has historically served as a strategic buffer to British India.

Similarly, after Pakistan came into being, Afghanistan is the strategic depth of Pakistan. In case of a conflict with Afghan Taliban, Pakistan can lose its strategic depth vis a vis to India, as the old adage goes, "enemy of my enemy is my friend." Thus, Indian presence in Afghanistan will heighten security risks for Pakistan as it will have to deploy its forces on two fronts against a single enemy, India.

Conclusion:

Since the 2021 American withdrawal from Afghanistan and subsequent fall of Kabul to Taliban, Pakistan has repeatedly encouraged Kabul to take action against TTP militants. However, Kabul has been playing host to militants. The terrorist attacks have scaled up since Taliban takeover. Thus, it is natural to assume, things are not good in bilateral relationship. Therefore, in the absence of any regional consensus building mechanism, the issues if escalated can result in heightened violence in the region.