

Pakistan Affairs

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Question no: 2

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Introduction:

Shah Waliullah and Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi were prominent Islamic scholars and reformers who lived in the Indian Subcontinent during different periods, and their contributions had a significant impact on the history of the region.

SHAH WALIULLAH

→ Background and Education:

Shah Waliullah was born in Delhi and came from a family of scholars. He received a comprehensive education in Islamic studies, including jurisprudence, theology and Sufism.

→ Reformist Vision:

Shah Waliullah was deeply concerned about the decline of Muslim political thought and intellectual influence in India during his time. He aimed to revive and strengthen Islamic principles, both in his personal conduct and in the political and social spheres.

→ Translation of Quran:

One of his significant contributions was the translation of the Quran from Arabic into Persian, making the religious text accessible to a broader audience. This played a crucial role in spreading Islamic knowledge among the masses.

→ Promotion of Unity:

Shah Waliullah emphasized the importance of unity among Muslims and advocated for collaboration between different Islamic sects to strengthen Muslim community.

→ Moral and Social reforms.

He called for moral and social reforms, encouraging Muslims to adhere to the ethical teachings of Islam in their daily lives.

SHEIKH AHMED SIRHINDI

→ Background and education:

He is also known as "Mujaddid Alf Sani". He was born in Indian city of Sirhind. He belonged to the Naqshbandi Sufi order and received spiritual training from his father and other prominent Sufi scholars.

→ Defender of Orthodoxy:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi is known for his staunch defense of orthodox Islamic beliefs, particularly against the unification of Hindu and Islamic elements that was emerging during the Mughal era.

→ Mujaddid (Renewer):

He saw himself as a Mujaddid i.e. the Renewer of Islam for the 17th century. He sought to purify and strengthen Islamic practices, combatting what he perceived as deviations from orthodox beliefs.

→ Critique of Akbar's policies:

He criticized the religious practices of the Mughal emperor Akbar for

promoting religious syncretism and sought a return to stricter adherence to Islamic principles.

→ Influence on later movements:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi's ideas influenced various Islamic movements and his emphasis on the purity of Islamic practices continued to shape the theological landscape of the subcontinent.

IMPACT ON THE HISTORY OF THE SUBCONTINENT

The impact of Shah Waliullah and Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi on the history of the Indian subcontinent extends beyond their immediate lifetimes and has had lasting effects on religious, social, and political developments.

- **Preservation of Islamic Identity:**

Both reformers emphasized the preservation of Islamic identity in the face of cultural and religious challenges. They sought to maintain the distinctiveness of Islamic practices in the diverse context of the Indian subcontinent.

- **Influence on Islamic thought:**
The ideas propagated by Shah Waliullah and Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi became foundational for later Islamic scholars and movements in the subcontinent.
- **Resistance to Syncretism:**
Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi's strong stance against syncretism and the blending of Hindu and Islamic elements influenced the trajectory of religious syncretism in the Mughal Empire. His resistance to such trends contributed to the preservation of distinct religious identities.
- **Impact on Islamic Sufi Traditions:**
Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi's association with Naqshbandi Sufi order and his role as a Mujaddid (renewer) influenced the development of Sufi traditions in the subcontinent. His emphasis on the inner dimensions of Islamic practice shaped the approach of many Sufi orders.
- **Inspiration for revivalist movements:**
Both of them served as sources of inspiration for later revivalist movements in the 19th and 20th centuries. Movements such as Deoband and Bareilly schools of thought drew on the ideas and principles

Laid down by these reformers

- Contribution to Islamic Educational reforms: Shah Waliullah's efforts to make Islamic knowledge accessible through the translation of Quran into Persian contributed to the spread of Education. This focus on education had long-term implications for the intellectual development of Muslim communities in the subcontinent.

CONCLUSION

The impact of Shah Waliullah and Sheikh Ahmed Sirhadi on the history of the Indian subcontinent is multi-faceted and profound. They worked towards the preservation, revitalization and promotion of Islamic principles and values.

QUESTION NO: 03

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Pakistan Resolution 1940 as Magna Carta of Pakistan Movement:

The Lahore Resolution of 1940, commonly known as the Pakistan Resolution is often regarded as the "Magna Carta of the Pakistan Movement" due to its pivotal role in shaping the ideological and political foundations of the future state of Pakistan.

This resolution was a watershed moment in the history of British India, specifically for the Muslims who sought to secure their rights and establish a separate homeland. Addressing the concerns of the Muslim minority, the Lahore Resolution was adopted during the annual session of the All-India Muslim League in Lahore on 23rd March, 1940.

Following are the significant features of the Pakistan Resolution due to which it gained title of Magna Carta of Pakistan

movement.

→ Context and Historical Significance,

The resolution emerged against the backdrop of heightened political consciousness and the demand for constitutional reforms in British India.

Muslims, apprehensive about their status and representation in a potentially independent India, sought a political solution that would safeguard their interests.

→ Demand for a Separate State:

The Pakistan Resolution unequivocally called for the creation of an independent Muslim state, comprising regions where Muslims were in majority. It expressed the Muslim League's determination to establish a sovereign state for the Muslims in the Indian subcontinent.

→ Expression of Muslim Unity & Identity:

The resolution highlighted the distinct identity of the Muslims in India, emphasizing their religious, cultural and social differences. It stated that Muslims are a separate nation with their own rights, interests and traditions.

→ Significance of Lahore Session:

The Lahore session of 1940 is considered to be a landmark event in the Pakistan Movement. The fact that this resolution was passed during a crucial session in Lahore, a city with historical significance adds to the symbolic importance.

→ Unity of Purpose:

The resolution reflected the unity of purpose among the Muslim leadership as it was supported by leaders such as Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Liaquat Ali Khan and others. This unity laid the foundation for a cohesive movement towards the establishment of Pakistan.

→ Basis on subsequent actions:

The Lahore resolution served as the basis of subsequent political and constitutional developments. It guided the Muslim League's demands during the negotiations leading to the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

→ Influence on constitutional framework:

The ideas enshrined in the Pakistan Resolution influenced the constitutional

framework of Pakistan. The concept of a separate nationhood for Muslims became foundational for the subsequent constitutions of Pakistan.

→ Recognition of Muslim Rights:

By asserting the Muslims' right to their own state, the resolution aimed to safeguard their political, economic and social rights which were perceived to be under threat in a united India where Hindus were a majority.

→ Catalyst for the Pakistan Movement:

Lahore Resolution served as a catalyst for the Pakistan movement, providing a clear and formal articulation of the Muslim League's goal of a separate state. It mobilized support and energized the Muslim community towards achieving this objective.

→ Commemoration of Pakistan Day:

23rd March on which the Lahore Resolution was passed is celebrated as 'Pakistan Day' every year. It commemorates the adoption of the resolution and serves as a reminder of the historic moment that paved the way for the creation of Pakistan.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Pakistan Resolution of 1940 is termed as the Magna Carta of Pakistan Movement because it encapsulates the essence of the demand for a separate Muslim state, articulates the unique identity of Muslims in the subcontinent and serves as a foundational document that guided subsequent developments leading to the creation of Pakistan in 1947.

QUESTION NO: 05

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Introduction:

The increasing population in Pakistan is a ticking time bomb that is eventually going to explode causing yet more havoc in the country if not catered to immediately.

An optimistic view suggests that the population of any country is deemed an asset in the promotion of its development.

However, for this to stand true, there needs to be considerable amount of investment in Human Resource Development and sufficient income generating opportunities to reap the benefits of demographic growth. Unfortunately, this is not the case in Pakistan, due to absence of both these things.

“If we do not take charge of our population size, then nature will do it for us”

This statement can be more clearly understood in light of the Malthusian Trap theory, named after the British economist Thomas Robert Malthus who proposed a pessimistic view of population growth and its relation to resources.

→ The Malthusian Trap:

According to this model, the population doubles and keeps on increasing geometrically at a much faster pace than the production of food which grows linearly at a slower pace.

Malthus identified “checks” on population. i.e. three factors to keep in check the balance between the population and the resources.



When in societies, population growth outpaces the increase in resources, societies fall into a Malthusian trap. When this happens, the three factors mentioned above i.e. famine, disease or war would control human population that exceeded the Earth's carrying capacity.

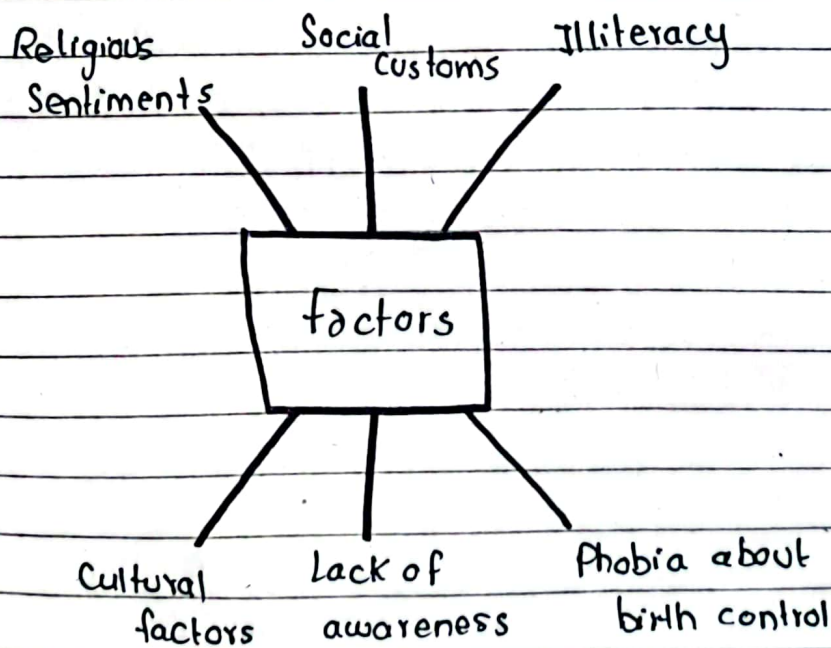
This is exactly what can happen in Pakistan if the nature takes charge of our population crisis and enter us into an even greater catastrophe which may end countless lives through a natural disaster in order to balance the population size with the limited available resources.

Situation in Pakistan:

According to the Seventh census report by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the population of Pakistan lies around 241.49 million with a growth rate of 2.55%.

This is an alarming situation as such demographic expansion poses a serious threat to the availability of resources and sustainable economic growth.

There are multiple - economic, social and political - factors responsible for this over-growing population.



The birth rate and overall fertility rate are the highest in Pakistan among all Asian countries, which is also a signal for concern.

The demographic history shows that at the partition of the subcontinent, Pakistan combined with Bangladesh (former East Pakistan) ranked 13 among the most populous countries in the world.

Surprisingly, it is now the **fifth** most populous country in the world according to a recent population survey conducted by the World Bank.

↳ Challenges proposed by increasing population:

• Education:

Pakistan has an estimated 22.8 million children aged 5-16 who are out of school and this is the second highest number in the world. This shows the social and economical implications of population growth and incapability of government to provide basic services to its population. This uneducated youth becomes a burden on economy instead of an asset for the country.

• Environmental challenges:

The environmental challenges proposed by the increasing population are immense. Pakistan hosts the largest number of glaciers in the world and

is facing rapid depletion of natural resources. The floods in 2022 caused 16 billion dollar loss according to WB.

It led to damage to public infrastructure, agriculture and displacement of millions of people in Balochistan, KP, and Gilgit Baltistan. Pakistan being a developing country however does not have the resources to cope with such disasters

• Economic crisis:

Pakistan is also facing unemployment and income inequality where the youth struggles to secure jobs in the labour market leading to a brain drain and propelling the country into an economic crisis.

Measures to address this problem

• Family Planning Programs:

Even though Pakistan faces the taboo regarding family planning due to ~~are~~ religious orthodox reasons. There is a dire need to conduct awareness campaigns to promote benefits of family planning and to educate communities about available options.

So strengthening and expanding family planning programs are essential to provide accessible and affordable contraceptive.

- **Education and empowerment**

Invest in education especially for women as higher education levels are often associated with low fertility rates.

Empowerment of women can also be achieved through economic opportunities as financially independent women often make more informed family planning decisions.

- **Media Campaigns:**

Utilize mass media for public awareness campaigns incorporating TV, radio and social media to reach a wider audience. Highlight success stories and positive outcomes of responsible family planning practices.

- **Community Engagement:**

Involve religious leaders and community influencers to disseminate information and dispel misconceptions about family planning. Moreover community based programs can be held to raise awareness about the challenges of

overpopulation and benefits of family planning.

• Economic Incentives:

The government can introduce economic incentives for smaller families such as tax benefits or subsidies for families adhering to family planning measures.

• Research and Data Analysis:

Invest in research and data analysis to understand demographic trends and identify regions or communities with high population growth rates.

Conclusion:

A combination of policy measures, community engagement and awareness campaigns can contribute to achieving a balance between population growth rate and available resources in Pakistan before nature tries to take matters in its own hand. The sustainable future of Pakistan hinges on its ability to address the problem of population growth or else it will be stuck in the vicious cycle of poverty, economic crisis and social instability.

QUESTION NO: 07.

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Introduction:

Pakistan's government mandated the departure of hundreds of thousands of undocumented migrants and refugees primarily Afghans either voluntarily or by force. Citing a surge in violent attacks, Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti highlighted that a significant portion of suicide bombings in 2023 were perpetrated by Afghan nationals.

Absence of regional consensus based approach:

The absence of regional consensus based approach between Afghanistan and Pakistan indeed poses significant challenges and has the potential to lead to instability and heightened levels of violence in the region.

Several factors contribution to this situation :-

Security Dilemma:

The absence of shared security framework allows for a security dilemma where both the countries view each other's action with suspicion, leading to an arms race and a potential increase in military tensions.

→ Proxy conflicts:

External actors may exploit the lack of regional consensus to pursue their interests through proxy groups.

This can further destabilize the region as external involvement can perpetuate local conflicts.

→ Insufficient counter terrorism cooperation:

Terrorism in Pakistan remains a significant threat and without joint counter terrorism efforts, militant groups may continue to find refuge in border areas, leading to continued violence and security challenges.

• Economic Disruptions:

A lack of regional consensus can impede economic cooperation, hindering the development of joint infrastructure projects, trade

agreements and economic integration. Economic stagnation can contribute to social unrest and political instability.

→ **Border Disputes and Nationalism:**

Unresolved border disputes and nationalist sentiments can become flashpoint for conflict. Lack of consensus on territorial matters may contribute to escalations leading to violence.

→ **Political instability and poor governance** without regional collaboration, efforts to stabilize political institutions and ensure good governance may be hampered. Political instability can create an environment ripe for exploitation by TTP groups.

→ **Social Unrest:**

Economic challenges combined with political and security uncertainties can lead to social unrest.

Unaddressed grievances may result in protests, demonstrations and other forms of civil unrest.

→ Diminished regional influence:

Both Afghanistan and Pakistan may find it challenging to assert influence in international forums, potentially limiting their ability to address global challenges collaboratively.

→ Radicalization and Extremism:

The absence of joint efforts to counter radicalization and extremist ideologies allows these elements to persist, potentially leading to the recruitment of disenfranchised individuals and fostering an environment conducive to violence.

Conclusion:

Addressing these challenges requires not only bilateral cooperation but also a broader commitment to regional stability. Establishing a regional consensus based approach requires diplomatic effort, conflict resolution mechanisms and a shared vision for regional cooperation. The consequences of persistent discord are far reaching, affecting not only Pakistan and Afghanistan but also the broader geopolitical landscape of South Asia.