

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

III

PAKISTAN AFFAIRS

QUESTION 2

Explain the services of Shah Wali Ullah and Sheikh Ahmed Sirhandi. How these reformers impacted the history. Discuss.

ANSWERS

Introduction:-

Shah Wali Ullah was born in 1703 was a pivotal figure in muslim history he took many reforms for muslims. He was a renowned muslim scholar, Jurist and social reformers from Delhi, Mughal India. He promoted rational interpretation of Quran and Hadith through Ijtihad. He emphasis on importance of social Justice and political awareness. His writing influenced numerous Islamic movements and thinkers in the subcontinent. He died on 1762.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was born in 1564. He was also known as Alf-i-Sani (Reformer of second millennium). A prominent Sufi scholar from Sirhind. Emphasized on inner purification and adherence to Quran and Sunnah. He influenced the Mughal Emperor Jahangir and shaped religious policies of Aurangzeb. His teaching had a lasting impact on South Asian Islam, inspiring future reforms movements. He died in 1624.

Religious Reforms

Both religious scholars took a lot of reforms to change the thoughts of people. Some of them are:

Revival of Islam:-

Both aimed to purify Islam from bid'ah (innovation) and revive its spiritual core. Sirhindi emphasized inner purification through "Mujahadat" (spiritual struggle) while Wali Ullah focus on rational understanding of Quran and Sunnah. This influenced movements like the Deobandi movement in the 19th century. And many reforms like this.



Emphasis on Sufism-

Recognizing the popularity of Sufism, both figures sought to reform it from within. Sirhindi emphasized on "Isq-e-Haqiq" (true love for God) over ostentatious practices. While Shah Wali Ullah advocated for integrating Sufism with Islamic law and ethical teaching. This impacted the development of Sufi orders like Naqshbandiyya and Chishtiyyan.

Social Reforms

Education &

Both emphasized the importance of education, advocating for universal access to knowledge. Shah Wali Ullah established the Madrasa Rahimiyya. While Sirhindi focused on reforming the existing madrasahs. This contributed to spread of Islamic education and intellectual discourse.

Women's Rights &

Recognizing the marginalized status of women, both advocated for their education and participation in religious life. Wali Ullah wrote treatises arguing for their rights to the



inherence and education, influencing future Muslim
Feminists.

Political advocacy:-

Both believed in active engagement with political realities. Sirhindi influenced Mughal Emperor Jahangir towards Islamic principles, while Shah Waliullah criticized the declining Mughal state and called for social justice. Their ideas later inspired movements like the one Khilafat movement.

Impact on Subcontinent

Thoughts of both these leaders left a great impact on the Muslims of subcontinent. It changed their perspective and view of looking upon things.

Renewal of Muslim Identity:-

Their reforms help consolidate a distinct Muslim identity in the subcontinent, offering a sense of unity and purpose amidst political turmoil.

Resistance to colonialism &

The emphasis on social justice and political awareness laid the groundwork for future anti-colonial movements, influencing leaders like Syed Ahmed Khan and Allama Iqbal. The latter leaders continued to walk on the foot steps once created by these two leaders.

Modern Islamic discourse &

Their writings on Jurisprudence, theology and social issues continued to be debated and interpreted, shaping contemporary Islamic discourse in the sub continent and beyond. The thoughts they have created were not left behind and other scholars continued to work on them.

Limitations &

While acknowledging their immense contribution it's important to also consider their limitation. Some critics point to their focus on orthodoxy and their view on gender, which might not resonate with all modern interpretations for Islam. They think their view was not broad enough to coordinate with modern world.



Conclusion

In conclusion Shah Wali Ullah and Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi stands as towering figure in the history of the subcontinent leaving an indelible mark on muslim intellectual and social life. While separated by nearly a century, their complementary efforts aimed towards a common goal: re-invigorating Islam and guiding the muslim through the period of political and social turbulence. Their impact can not be overstated. They ^{not} only renewed muslim identity during Mughal decline but also laid ground work for resistance against colonization and shaped the disclosure of modern Islam in the region.

QUESTION 6

The Constitution of 1973 - 50 years.

ANSWER:

Pakistan's recent constitution came into force on 14 August 1973. The 50th Constitution presents an anniversary of opportunity to reflect on the progress and challenges faced in achieving national integration, fostering a shared identity and strengthening democratic values.

National Integration

Successes	challenges	Lessons
It established a framework of unified Pakistani nation, recognizing diversity while promoting national unity through symbol.	Ethnic, linguistic and sectarian division persist hindering complete integr. uneven development across regions and disparities in access to resources	continued efforts are needed to address grievance of marginalized group, Promote inter provincial harmony and ensure equal distribution of resources.

National Identity

Successes	challenges	Lessons
The constitution provide a multi-faceted Pakistani identity. Encompasses Islam, democracy and religious culture.	The struggle to define and reconcile various aspects of Pakistani identity. Particularly the role of religion continues.	open and inclusive dialogue about national identity is important. Emphasizing shared values for diversity can bolster national identity.

Development of democratic values

Successes	challenges	Lesson
The constitution established a parliamentary democracy with the fundamental rights and freedom. The Judiciary has played a vital role in upholding constitutional principles.	The transition from military role to civilian government has been uneven with periods of instability and political interference. Corruption weak rule of law and intolerance for dissent remain challenges.	strengthening democratic institution, Promoting civic engagement and ensuring transparent and accountable governance are very essential for consolidating democracy.

Looking Forward

Pakistan can resolve remaining challenges

by:-

Promoting inclusive
dialogue

Strengthening
institutions and
upholding rule of
law.

Investing in education
and HDI.

Addressing
socio-economic
disparities

The road ahead holds both opportunities and obstacles. Embracing dialogue, inclusivity and a commitment to progress very essential in guiding Pakistan towards a better future where national integration, identity and democratic values become beacons of strength and unity.
