

# PART - II

Q.3

Ans:

Socio. Political condition of sub-continent during religious reformists era:

Akbar occupied the throne at 1566. From the beginning of his rule he desired to win the collaboration of Rajput chiefs. For this purpose, he married a number of Hindu and Rajput women. His Hindu wives mostly prevailed upon him and to please them Akbar gave enormous liberty to Hindu subjects. On the advice of Hindu courtiers Akbar promulgated his new religion Din-i-Ilahi.

The promulgation of Din-i-Ilahi was an ill-fated attempt of Akbar to combine the salient feature of

Islam with Hinduism.

Akbar said:

"Honour would  
be rendered to  
God, Peace would  
be given to the  
Peoples and security  
to the empire."

A descendant of the second caliph named Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was born on 1564 at Sirhind. He challenged the might of Akbar, to re-establish the glory of Islam which had been gravely threatened by the un-Islamic trends of Akbar. The situation became worse after the death of Aurangzeb in the 18<sup>th</sup> C. Mughal rulers were failed to withhold the supremacy of the Muslim rule. They were indulged in the luxurious life and forgot the Islamic principles. The time was ripe for the reformists to emerge to purge the Muslim society

of these trends: An era of re-generation emerge with the arrival of Shah-Wali Ullah, a great Muslim thinker and philosopher. The efforts of these reformists purify the religious and practice life of the Muslim of India.

## 1. Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi:

Sheikh Ahmad

Sirhindi also known as Mujadid Alf Sani was a great Muslim Saint and mystic of Naqshbandiya order.

When Sheikh Ahmed began his reformist movement, Muslim society was ridden with un-Islamic trends and practices. During these days Akbar ruled the sub-continent whose anti-Islamic outlooks had aggravated the social environments. Akbar had no learning towards Islamic tenets. The introduction of Deen-i-Ilahi was a great threat for the identity of

Muslims in the sub-continent.

## Sheikh's efforts to Purge Muslim Society of Atheist values:

Sheikh Ahmed undertook the job of purifying the Muslim society of un-Islamic trends in the hope for a separate Muslim identity. Sheikh Ahmed was greatly opposed to the atheism and openly denounced un-Islamic society. He stressed on the Muslims to revert to the pure Islam by giving up heretical customs and practices. He persuaded the Muslims to adopt simple habits in life in the light of Islam and Sunnah.

## Sheikh Ahmed's Letters:

Sheikh Ahmed adopted an effective method of persuasion by writing letters to the leading nobles of the royal court. His letters are known as

Muktubat-e-Imam. He reminding the nobles of their duty/duties towards Islam.

### Sheikh Ahmad Two-Nation State Concept:

Sheikh was a staunch advocate of the separateness of the Muslims as a nation. He laid great emphasis on the separate identity of the Muslims.

### Wahdat-ul-Wajud and Wahdat-ul-Shahid:

The philosophy of Wahdat-ul-Wajud was presented by some sufis of Akbar's time. They believed that there was no living difference between the Man and his Creator God. Sheikh Ahmad negate this philosophy and declared it as against Islam. He presented the philosophy of Wahdat-ul-Shahid which means that the Creator and creatures were two different and separate entities.

He is considered as the Pioneer of Muslim self-assertion by denouncing un-Islamic practices and promoting Two-Nation state.

## 2. Hazrat Shah Wali-ul-Ullah:

Hazrat Shah Wali Ullah is one of those great Personalities of Islam, who with his dedicated services had brought the Muslim society together on the stable foundations. He was born on 1703, four years before the death of Aurangzeb. After getting early education, he went to Arabia.

"During his stay at Makkah Shah Wali Ullah saw a vision in which Holy Prophet (S.A.W) blessed him with the tidings that he would be instrumental in the organization of a section of the Muslim society."

In these days Mughal Empire gradually began to collapse with

manifest signs of decadence.

## Religious Reformation:

During his stay at Hejaz, he received reports of unstable and chaotic conditions of the Muslims in the sub-continent.

He was advised to stay in Arabia but he refused and came back Delhi.

Shah wali ullah persuaded the Muslims to strictly follow the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). He introduced the basic tenets of Islam to the people. He introduced Tatbiq (integration) of the Muslim Society which was on the verge of destruction. He adopted a balanced approach towards understanding of religious matters.

He himself states, I was informed through Ilham that I would have to undertake this responsibility. The time has come when every injunction of

Sharia and the general instruction should be presented in the world in a rational manner."

## Political Services:

Apart from religious reformation, Shah Wali Ullah also provided Muslims with the political leadership. He came out with his great wisdom and foresight to create political awakening in the Muslim

The Mughal rulers were no more in a position to withhold the supremacy of the Islamic rule which was grandly jeopardized by the emergence of Sikhs, Marhattas and other non-Muslim forces. Shah wali Ullah came up to tackle this precarious situation. He looked towards Ahmad Shah Abdali. He came to Delhi and defeat Marhattas in the third Battle of Panipat in 1761.



Hujat

## Hujjat-ullah-al-Baligh:

Hujjat-ullah-al-Baligh is a famous work of Shah-Wali-Ullah. In this book Shah-Wali-Ullah discussed the socio-political and religious decay of Muslims.

### Conclusion:

Both these reformists got in touch with the rulers and impressed upon them to enforce Islamic laws. These figures are the most prominent personalities who were the great supporters of separate identity for Muslims of sub-continent. Shah Wali Ullah is regarded as the "founder of modern India" and Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was a widely read scholar and a magnetic rhetorician. They both adopted a liberal approach towards Islam so that more people would attract

towards Islam and perceives  
Islam and Muslims as a  
separate Nation among them.

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