

Question #1:

The Aligarh movement had political objective... nationalism in sub-continent. Discuss.

I. Introduction:

The war of independence 1857 was the major reason of disclosure of Aligarh movement. Since muslims lost the war, they had to face agony, torture and acts of genocide. **W.W. Hunter** described the sadistic and gloomy picture of muslims to the House of Commons by comparing it to the life of a single Bengali family. Muslims' political decline, economic setback and cultural loss forced Sir Syed Ahmed Khan to step ahead and work for the betterment of muslims. Consequently, the Aligarh movement ^{helped to} improved the conditions of muslims by growing them intellectually, psychologically, educationally in order to seek their hidden goal i.e. political empowerment.

II. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and the Idea Behind Aligarh Movement:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was born in 1817 with family associations to mughal court. He gained Islamic teachings as well as the ~~world~~ education on modern science, medicine and maths. At the time of war of independence, he was appointed as Suba-us-Sudur and had clearly seen/witnessed the situation of muslims. During his visit to England, he deeply observed the education system of Cambridge-Oxford and realized the role of modern education in the awakening of muslims of India. Therefore, he adopted a strategic as well as pragmatic policy by ^{using} ~~linking~~ education as a mean to achieve the goal of political rise of muslims.

III. The Dual Character of Aligarh Movement: Education in Form, Politics in Purpose

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan launched

a reform movement which is commonly termed as Aligarh movement. He believed that the political strength of muslims is impossible without educational and economic growth. He made this strategic choice to regain the ~~p~~ lost political glory of muslims in a better way. For this purpose he urged muslims to become loyal to Britishers and on his own behalf wrote

the magazine **The Causes of Indian Revolt (1857)** to bridge the gap between muslims and Britishers by explaining their ^{other side,} grievances and criticizing the barbaric british policies. Hence, the blend of cooperation and criticism was the foundation of Aligarh movement.

Steps towards Political Development of Muslims.

1. Institutional Development

2. Conferences Held

3. Organizations formed

4. Ideological Development

5. Aloofness from Indian National Congress (INC)

#1: Institutional Development To Support Muslim Revival:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan created institutions to help muslim revive -

The main institutions were:

1864

Scientific Society

1866

Aligarh Muslim Gazette

1875-1877

Muhammadan Anglo Oriental School → College (MAO)

(1) Scientific Society: Founded in 1864 with the aim to translate scientific books of (maths, science, ^{political,} ^{western} Engineering) into the education system into the local language of muslim to help them improve relations with Britishers.

(2) Aligarh Muslim Gazette: A newspaper founded in 1866 to explain muslims' view to British and ^{to} make muslims aware of Western ideas. ^{It was} Another way of bridging the gap.

(3) Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College (MAO) (1877):

MAO college's syllabus was based on the Oxford's education system with a mix of modern concepts and Islamic teachings. Its residential facility and debating society helped

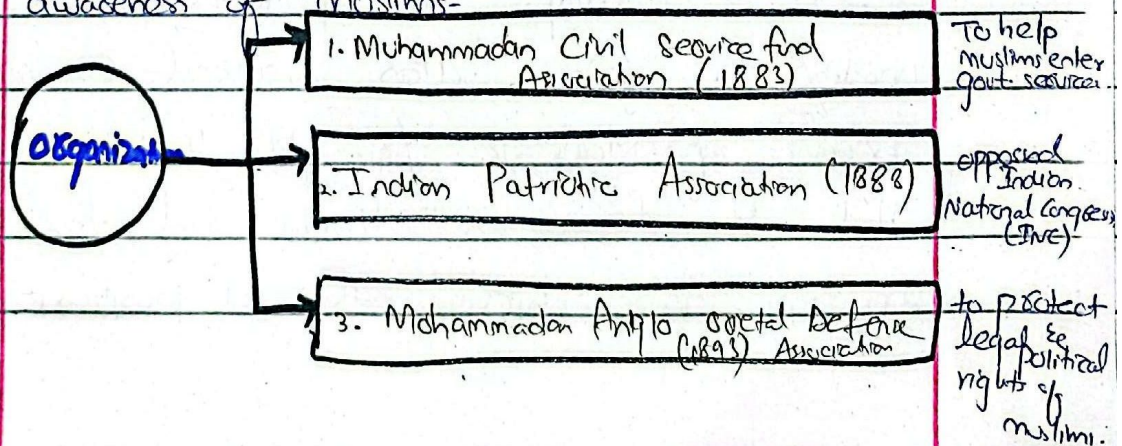
students grow and formed 'Aligarh man' with modern ideas.

#2: Formation of All India Muhammadan Educational Conference:

All India Muhammadan Educational Conference was formed in 1886. It became a first national platform for muslims. As, conferences were held in different areas of subcontinent including Lahore, Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay. It helped in creating political unity among muslims as claimed by Abul Kalam Azad in his words "Aligarh is the training ground for muslims."

#3: Growth of Muslims through Political Organizations:

Several political organizations were developed for the political and legal awareness of muslims-



#4: Role of Two-Nation Theory in Muslims Ideological Deve:

During 1867, the Hindi-Urdu controversy arrived in India. Before that, Sir Syed considered muslims and Indian Hindus as the eyes of a horse. However, the controversy convinced him that they muslims are separate from hindus. He believed the existence of two nations in sub-continent with separate religions, culture, language and traditions. Sir Syed opposed majoritarian democracy by using analogy of dice game - where one player has four dice and other has one dice - leading to expressing the disadvantaged positions of muslims and building the ideology of a separate nation.

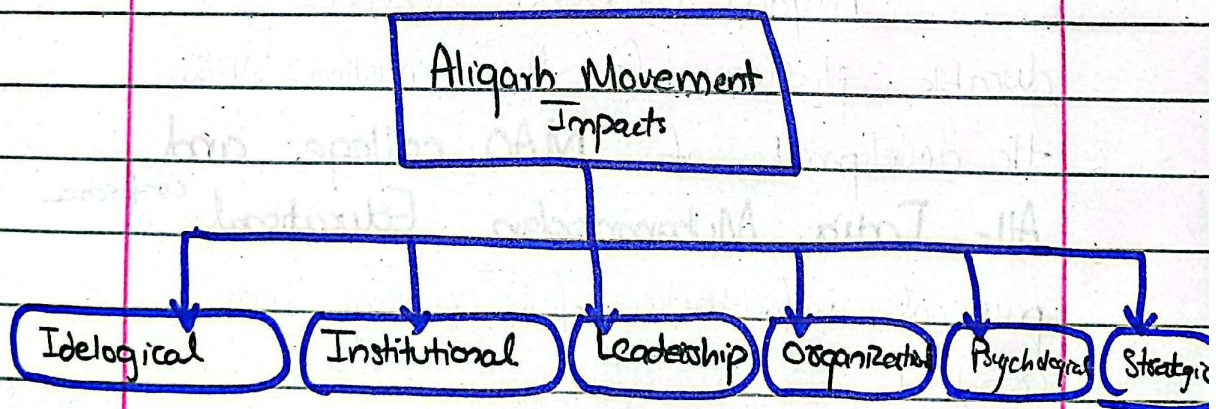
#5: Aloofness from Indian National Congress:

Finally, Sir Syed forbade muslims to join Indian National Congress because of strategic foresight. He believed that it focuses on Hindu and for muslims, to achieve their a position,

they need educational development as well as preparedness for competitive politics. His idea corresponds with Badarudin Tayabji that India couldn't form a single nation due to deep social and religious divisions.

IV. The Aligarh Movement and its Far-Reaching Impacts on Muslim Nationalism:

Aligarh movement had far-reaching and deep impacts on the muslim nationalism in sub-continent. It created a complete framework that helped in the creation of Pakistan movement.



#1: Ideological Impacts with the Foundation of Two Nation Theory:

The rise of two nation

theory was a major development in the ideology of muslims. When Babu Shiv Prasad demanded the replacement of urdu with hindi, Sir Syed viewed it as a threat to muslims culture. Later, he wrote a letter in 1870 to Mohsin-ul-Mulk warning that replacing urdu with hindi will permanently capture the muslims. Moreover, Sir Syed supported the philosophy of J.S. Mill that representative democracy requires unity which is absent in India.

#2: Institutional Impact by the Formation of Muslim Political Infrastructure:

Aligarh movement created first durable platform for the muslims. With the development of MAO college and All-India Muhammadan Educational ^{conference}, a political infrastructure for muslims was created.

(i) MAO College (1877):

Educational institutional where students from different areas lived together and shared ideas forming muslim nationalism.

cii) All India Muhammedan Educational Conference (1886).

It was an unofficial parliament of muslim as it trained muslim leadership and oratory (confessed by Abul Kalam Azad).

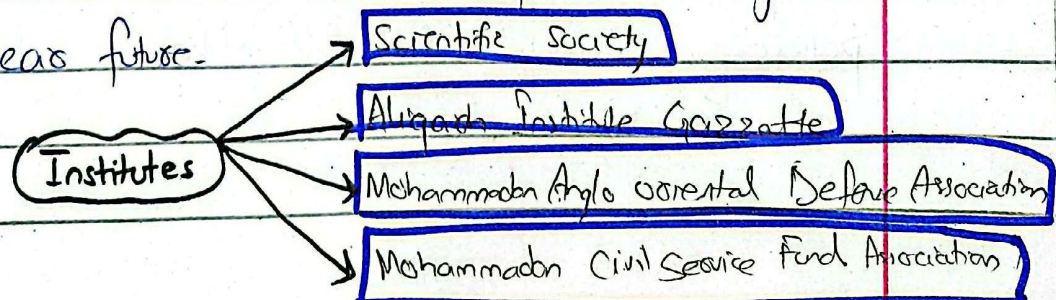
Sessions were held in different areas, led to nationwide muslim network.

#3: Creation of Modern Muslim Leadership:

The MAO college produced 'Aligarh Man' who had western ideas combined with Islamic teachings - Liaquat Ali Khan, Khwaja Nazimud-din, Maulana Shaukat Ali were the leaders shaped by Aligarh movement.

#4: Formation of Muslim Political Organizations:

Sir Syed helped muslims to have an organized and disciplined political activity - Different institutions provided methods to muslims to advocate for their rights in near future.



#5: Rise of Muslim from Defeat to Conscious Professional Class:

After the war of Independence 1857, muslims were psychologically defeated and weak. The rise of Aligarh movement helped them build self-confidence and national awareness. With education, their psychology allowed them systematic planning for the organization of muslim league which later led to the Pakistan movement.

#6: Definition of Political Strategy of Muslims:

Sir Syed's teachings helped muslims to establish principles which focus more on pragmatism rather than passion, separate representation over joint electorate and preparation before action. This pragmatic approach later helped muslim leaders to form such policies which favoured the creation of Pakistan.

V.

Critical Analysis:

Aligarh movement had deep impacts on the muslim nationalism. Since it saved muslims from a total decline by introducing modern education. Using that education as a tool, it ~~left~~^{left} the ideological and strategic impacts on the muslims. Muslims were given a political direction with the introduction of self-confidence, western concepts blended with islamic teachings and pragmatic ways to tackle a situation especially the Britishers. However, it also had certain limitations. The movement was criticized for being too westernized and led to creation of Dar-ul-Uloom Deoband. Moreover, the loyalist approach to British was also criticized. Hence therefore, the movement had ~~both~~ positive aspects ~~as well as~~^{as well as} with certain limitations due to the conservative mindset of people at that time.

VI.

Conclusion:

The Alligarh movement played a major role in the formation of muslim nationalism. It provided ideology, institutions, leadership, organization, empowered muslim masses, and political strategy to the muslims. Earlier, the movement was aimed to give rights to muslims in the united India-Hawee, with the certain advantages of muslim nationalism was created to make a logical demand for Pakistan. The role of Sir Syed stands as a critical of muslim nationalism and looks to the Pakistan.