

"Pakistan Affairs"

Q: It was Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi
... of Muslim Nationalism. Explain.

Ans:

Introduction:

Whenever the revival of Islam comes under discussion, two prominent names come forward

(1) Shah Waliullah and

(2) Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi. (also known as

Mujaddid - Alf - Sani i.e. the reviver of 2nd millennium.

نہ کئی کو اپنی حقیقت، ہمیں یہ فنون بخش

جو روشنی ملی ہے، وہ ریاضوں سے ملی ہے۔

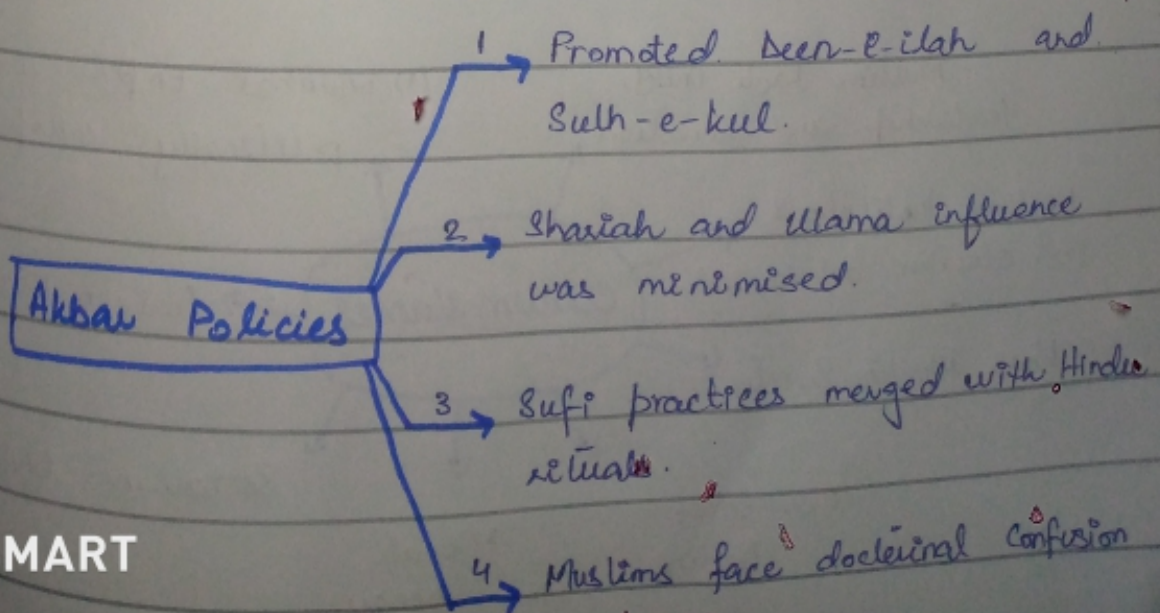
Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was the 16th century revivalist of Muslim Ideology and Nationalism while Shah Waliullah was the revivalist of 18th century. Both were eminent and enlightened scholars, philosophers, and ideologist. Although their time gap is almost of one century but both had played a significant role in the Muslim history no one could ever forget.

Historical Background:

Let's dive into the era of both the personalities to have better understanding.

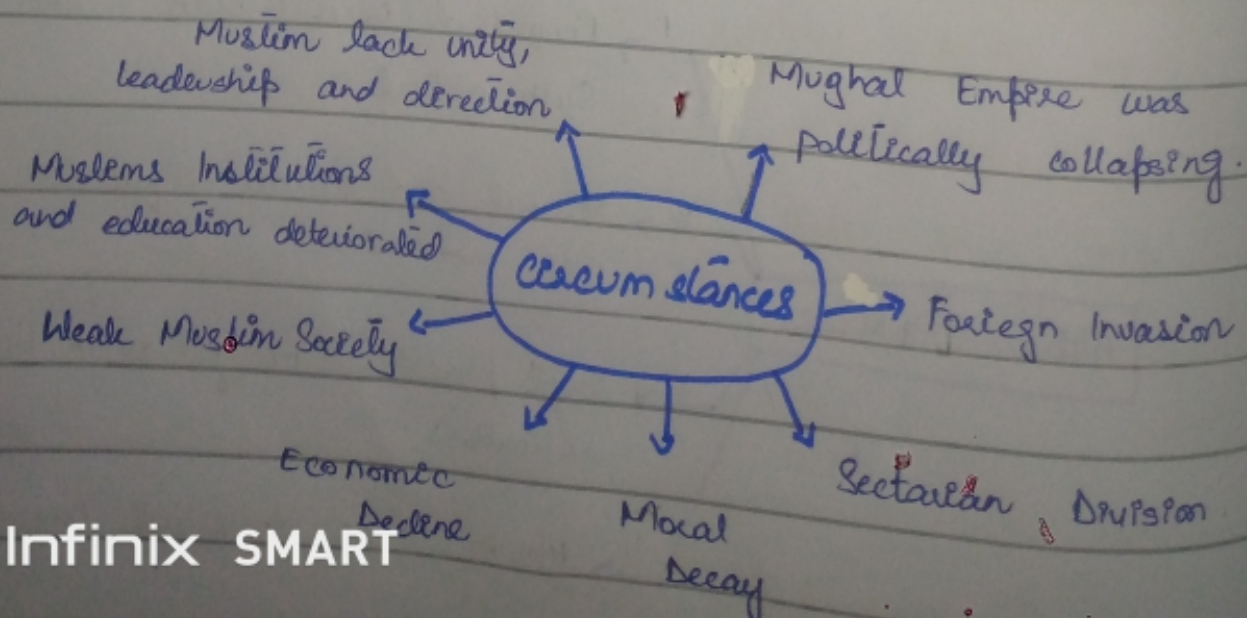
4) Era of Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi:

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was born on 1564. During his time the muslims were politically not strong. Foreign invasion were at peak. The issue got speed up when after the death of ruler, Akbar was throne. who was hardly of 12 or 13 years. A man with no experience how to govern the state, what strategies to be made and what policies to implement. Under his young age he took many worst decision that put muslims in the state of anomie. Some of his decisions were:



2) Era of Shah Wali-ullah:

Shah Waliullah was another profound Muslim ideologist widely known as Mujaddid Alf-e-Sani meaning revival of 2nd millennium. He was born in 1703, an era when the decline of Muslims was at peak. Politically and morally. While enjoying all the name and fame, all the luxuries of life, Muslim Mughal Empire started to decline. They were so busy in wrong doings, drugs, and alcohol addiction, parties and clubs, that they could hardly pay attention to the affairs of state. They were in illusion that their government and the luxuries of life will remain forever. The whole state started to collapse such as:



Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi:

Reviver of Islamic Orthodoxy.

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi also known as Mujaddid Alf Sani meaning Reviver of the second millennium, revived muslim spirit with his ideology. At the very moment when muslims lost their true Islamic identity and it was hard to separate shari'ah rules from other religious dogmas. Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi emerged as a reviver, to gather muslim ummah and to revive the teaching of Islam.

Rejection of Deen-e-Ilahi:

Sirhindi rejected the false belief created by Akbar through his preachings and maktubaat (letters). He gathered muslims on Tauheed and Sunnah.

Restoration of Shari'ah:

He guided muslims to govern the state with the laws prescribed by Shari'ah and by no other means.

3) Reform of Sufism:

He promoted the ideology of Wahdat-ul-Shahid and Wahdat-ul-Wajood, and purify sufism from self-made concepts.

4) Strengthening Muslim Identity:

With his teachings he awoken the muslim spirit. By remembering them about muslims true strength and value, he revived confidence in their souls. which laid foundation for later Muslim political consciousness.

Shah Waliullah.

Intellectual Reviver of Muslim Thoughts

During the 18th century, when Mughal Empire was declining politically and economically, Shah Waliullah emerged as a beam of hope and courage. With his ideology of Nationalism, he gathered muslim ummah under the flag of Islam.

1) Translating Quran into Persian language:

Since Quran is in Arabic language which is difficult to understand by other language people. He translated Quran into Persian language so that it would become easy for everyone to understand and to act accordingly.

2) Socio-Economic and Political Reforms.

With his preaching, he emphasized justice, distribution of wealth and other sharia laws in the state.

He proposed Islamic solutions of the problems.

3) Unification of Muslim sect:

He too, with his teachings, gathered Muslims under the flag of Islam. He strengthened them with unity and courage.

4) Educational and Scholarly Reform:

By translating Quranic language into Persian, it was easy to understand the Islamic teachings. He reformed religious curriculum and promoted ijtihad which was later continued by his sons and followers.

Conclusion:

Both Sheikh Ahmed Sirhendi and Shah Waliullah played a vital role in Islamic History. With their preachings, they revived Islamic 'shariah' and awakened the new muslim spirit with true beliefs and courage. Specially at the time when muslims were struggling between right and wrong.

یہ درویش حقیقت کا جہاں میں رہتا
اچھے پھر سے وہی شر تو جہاں نفسی