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Q No 1

ROLE OF REFORMERS IN THE REVIVAL OF MUSLIM IDENTITY IN SUBCONTINENT

INTRODUCTION:

Whenever a new social and political system replaces or dominates an existing social system, an amalgamated social system often results. Before the arrival of Muslims into the subcontinent there existed a social system having centuries old roots. This system was dominated by the social and political system of Islam. With the pace of time, the actual social, cultural, religious and political ideas of Muslims got corrupted by the old system, it posed a serious threat to the separate identity of Muslims in subcontinent. At was this time when the great reformer Mujaddid Alif Sani observed this erosion of Muslim identity and took effective steps for the revival of Muslim identity. Over the time, dynamics shifted from a strong Muslim rule to fading Muslim

In subcontinent Muslims once again faced the threat of identity and strong hold in subcontinent. This time Shah Wali Ullah observed the gradual decline and endeavored to protect the unique identity of Muslims in India.

"Mujadid Alif Sani for the first time reflected upon the fact that there are two different nations in subcontinent, both completely different" K.K. AZIZ

ROLE OF MUJADID ALIF SANI

The actual name of Mujadid Alif Sani was Sheikh Ahmad Raza Khan. He is known as Mujadid Alif Sani, which means reformer of the century, because of his unflinching efforts in the revival of Muslim identity. Following are the features of his era which made him think upon the need of revival of Muslim identity.

ILL EFFECTS OF DIN-E-ILAH

Akbar introduced his own din, din-e-Ilahi, which was a mixture of Islam and Hinduism, he adopted, according to him, the good features from both these religions and introduced his own din. This corrupted not only the common people but to a great extent religious scholars as well. Different Islamic rituals were considered as the actual rituals of Islam. They got involved in Islamic practices. Akbar corrupted Islam to the

extent that he evaded the basic quranic principles.

The idea of zilī subhānī

All the mughal kings used to call themselves as "zilī subhānī" meaning "shadow of God" instead of subjects of God. They asserted themselves as the direct representatives of God.

Abolishment of Jazia

Akbar abolished jazia from non-muslims. He considered it a discrimination against his subjects.

Integration of Non-Muslims

Akbar not only married non-muslim women but also commissioned non-muslim general and bureaucrats in his court. This led to the imposition of hindu ideologies in most of the empire affairs. It was a direct threat to the ~~idea~~ identity of Muslims.

STEPS TAKEN BY SAS TO PROTECT THE FADING IDENTITY OF MUSLIMS

- 1) REFUSED TO PROSTRAY TO AKBAR AND TRIED TO SHOW HIM ACTUAL RELIGION.

SAH did his best to convince Akbar to abandon his false ideology. As he was the king, people follow him, so if he abandoned him rest of the people will

abandon it. Akbar refused to do so, & instead sent him to jail for two years when he refused to prostrate to him.

LETTERS TO EMINENT FIGURES

He wrote letters to eminent figures in which he explained the actual identity of Muslims. He asked them to abandon the impure version of Islam.

LETTERS TO FARID KHAN

He wrote letters to Mulla Farid Khan which had lasting impacts on the revival of pure Muslim identity. In this letter he has mentioned following things:

- 1) Those infidels who conspire against Muslims shall be punished.
- 2) Those who cannot be purified shall also be punished.
- 3) Those who claim Islam is in danger also to be punished. Because they challenge Allah's claim of being the protector of Islam.

The Doctrine OF WAHIDAT-US-SHAHOOD

The biggest impact on Muslim culture was the unorthodox doctrine of Wahdat-ul-Wajood. That there is no difference between creator and creation. This was a justification point for Hindus that they worship idols because it is part of God. Shah rejected it and introduced Wahdat-ul-Wajood, phenomenological monoism, that both the creator and creation are not the same thing. They

are two completely different things.

Allama Aqbal calls MAS as the first spiritual guide of Muslims. who did his best to preserve the waning identity of Muslims.

THE ROLE OF SHAH WALI

ULLAH

In the era of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, the problem was only waning of the actual essence of Islam and Muslim identity. However, in the time of Shah Wali Ullah, there was two problems. The Muslim identity was eroding because after 1707, the Mughal empire was declining and the gap was gradually filled by Marhattas and others. This made him realized that in order to protect Muslim identity it is necessary to revive a strong Muslim state first.

EFFORTS FOR THE REVIVAL OF STRONG STATE

Shah Wali Ullah wrote letters to Ahmad Shah Abdali and reminded him of his duty to help Muslim brother. He also wrote letters to Rohilla tribe to give way to Abdali. Abdali accepted his request and eventually crushed the Marhattas strength in

India. This forested the threat of taking over the Mughal empire by Marhattas.

TRANSLATION OF QURAN

He translated Quran into Persian language. It is because the different biased interpretation has caused in Muslims various sects and groups. So by translating Quran, people would be able to learn Quran themselves.

ECONOMIC POLICY

He believed that economic instability is the root cause of all evils. Therefore, he gave guiding principles based on "adai and barabari", justice and equilibrium. For him both of these things are the backbone of an egalitarian society. He ordered payment of Zakat, also said that tax collection is the disreputation of ruler. Besides he discouraged the custom of taking lands from kings.

Purification of Faith.

He preached the true principles of Islam and asked people to abandon the un-Islamic rituals. He taught people the benefits of Zakat, prayer and fasts etc.

DISCOURAGED POMPOSITY

He strongly criticized people who were involved in luxury & affluent lifestyle. He said all these have come from

hindu culture. These corrupt rituals clouds the passion for Jihad and austerity.

IMPACTS OF THE JOINT STRUGLE ON MUSLIMS

1) POLITICAL IMPACTS

Their struggle helped muslim revive their actual identity in muslims. This claim of Mujahid Ali of Sami that these two are two different nations continued till the creation of Pakistan. As it was the demand of the last muslim leadership in subcontinent that we are two different nations and we need separate lands to practice our own ideologies.

Similarly, the struggle of Shah Waliullah for the revival of a strong state continued even after his death. People like Siraj-ud-Dulla & Tipu Sultan did their best to build a strong state.

2) SOCIAL IMPACTS

All the rituals and customs borrowed from hindu culture were slowly discouraged. People started following their own religion. They got aware of their separate and unique identity. Their culture was supreme to those of others. This realization of separate identity eventually resulted in the creation of Pakistan.

CONCLUSION:

As discussed above, both Shah Waliullah and Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi witnessed a very critical phase of Muslim identity in subcontinent. Muslims very socially, economically, religiously and politically losing their identity. Their way of life, rituals, customs and even the core policies of empire were influenced by Hindus. This imposition of Hindu ideologies and customs posed a serious threat to the Muslim identity in subcontinent. Ideologies like Din-e-Ilahi ~~was~~ had severely impacted the outlook and standing of Islamic principles. In the midst of these turmoils, it was unflinching struggle of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi and Shah Waliullah in their eras which only helped Muslims gain their actual identity but eventually led to the creation of Pakistan. As Pakistan was the product of the very ideology that Muslims of the subcontinent are a different nation. If they stay under hind raj, they will eventually lose their actual identity.

Q No. 2

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR OF

CONGRESS AND DEMAND FOR PAKISTAN

INTRODUCTION:

The Indian National Congress had always tried to assert itself as a secular and genuine representatives of the Indians, including muslims and all others. However, their true face revealed when they got power in India. It proved itself as a hindu party, as predicted by Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan in 1888, not as the representative of all the communities living in India. They introduced policies which were extremely harsh towards muslims. They integrated all those ideologies which were purely from hindu religion. They unleashed unprecedented terror on muslims, they were deprived of jobs and social identity. It was during this time that muslims of the subcontinent realized that it is no more possible to live with and demanded a separate

homeland.

1937 ELECTIONS AND CONGRESS

MINISTRIES

When in the light of 1935 Indian Act, elections were conducted. The INC won elections in 8 provinces out of 11. When they got majority and power they showed their actual face. They showed how biased they were towards Muslims. It also exposed their nefarious design of unitary party system.

"There are only two parties in this country INC and Government. Rest all should line up"

Jawahar Lal Nehru

Similarly, Chandra Bose raised the slogan of "Congress Dictatorship". He was of the view that Congress party shall dictate every policy, no one else.

POLICIES THAT LEAD MUSLIMS TO DEMAND FOR PAKISTAN.

1. WIDYA MANDAR SCHEME

They introduced widya mandar scheme in which muslim childrens and all others were taught about political ideology of INC. The culture of muslims was denigrated in it. Besides only one page was give to Holy Prophet (saw) and rest all was about hindu religious ancestors.

(ii) BANDY MATARAM

This was a contemptuous song written by G.B. Chatterjee against muslims. Congress adopted this as their anthem in all the legislative assemblies.

(iii) TEMPLE SCHOOLS

In the backward areas of Madras and UP, Hindu temples were declared as schools. The problem was that in these schools they forced Muslim students to pray with the hindu students.

(iv) Hindi Language

Urdu was replaced by hindi and devanagiri script. Gandhiji and other leadership identified urdu as religious language and raised the slogan of hindostani language. Eventually official language became hindi.

... It eliminated Urdu language and so will be the identity of Muslims" Quaid-e-Azam

v BAN ON Cow Slaughtering

They banned cow slaughtering as cow was considered sacred by them.

vi Tri-Colour FLAG

The problem was not with the saffron, green and white colours of the flag but the 'Dharam Chakra' in it. Which was their religious symbol dated back to Mahabharat. Thus, they ever religionised flag.

vii BAN ON JOBS

They cancelled the policy of special quota given in the 1909 reforms. This effected the backward Muslim areas severely.

END OF CONGRESS MINISTRIES

Upon deadlock with Britain on the issue of sending troops to Britain, INC resigned from the ministries in protest, not from provinces.

DAY OF DELIVERANCE

Quaid-e-Azam asked Muslims to celebrate it as the day of deliverance as Muslim got rid of the cruel and biased government of INC. They celebrated this day with zeal and gusto.

DEMAND FOR PAKISTAN

After dark period of congress ministries, muslims realized that they cannot exist together. Their joint existence will eventually cause chaos and destruction

"To yoke such people together in a single state will result in growing discontent and finally destruction"

Quaid-e-Azam

opening speech of Lahore Resolution.

LAHORE RESOLUTION

The horrific policies of INC congress throughout the time and especially in the time ministries resulted in the demand for Pakistan. It was the first time All India Muslim League made this strong and uncompromising demand of a separate homeland. Before they were only struggling for political rights only.

K.K. Aziz, in his book "The Making of Pakistan", argues that it was the policies of congress that led Muslims to demand of separate homeland. Had they not coerced Muslims and adjusted them respectfully

things would have been completely different.

Similarly Francis Robinson in his book "Separation of the Indian Muslims" argues that the policies of INC substantiated the claim of all those muslim leaders which argued for a separate homeland based on the fact that we live under the hindus we will be made subject to unprecedented revenge.

QUAID-E-AZAM STANCE

Quaid-e-azam in Lahore resolution demanded for a separate homeland. Before this demand he presented Pirpur Report and Shanief Report in which all the qualities of congress ministries were recorded. Thus, he demanded for a separate homeland; because to him we are a separate homeland.

"We are a nation according to every definition of nation. By every canon of international law Muslims are a separate nation"

Quaid-e-Azam

Quaid-e-Azam rejected Gandhi's claim of being representative of all the indians.

"Gandhi movement is not for the independance of India, but for subjecting 70 million Muslims to Hindu Mahashaba" Quaid.

CREATION OF PAKISTAN

Eventually the struggle of Quaid-e-Azam and AIML bore the fruit and Pakistan came into being on 14 August 1947.

Conclusion:

Based on the aforementioned discussion it becomes clear how the policies of India National Congress caused Muslims to demand a separate homeland. They were never the true representatives of Muslims and other minorities. They were only concerned with Hindu Raj and superiority of Hindus. To them, rest all the communities living in India were a sort of their subjects. They imposed their social and religious ideologies on them. Eventually, Muslims under Quaid-e-Azam realized that to get rid of them and also preserve our identity it was indispensable to stand for a separate homeland. A land where there will be no coercion. A land peace and promises. A land where every community will be respected.