

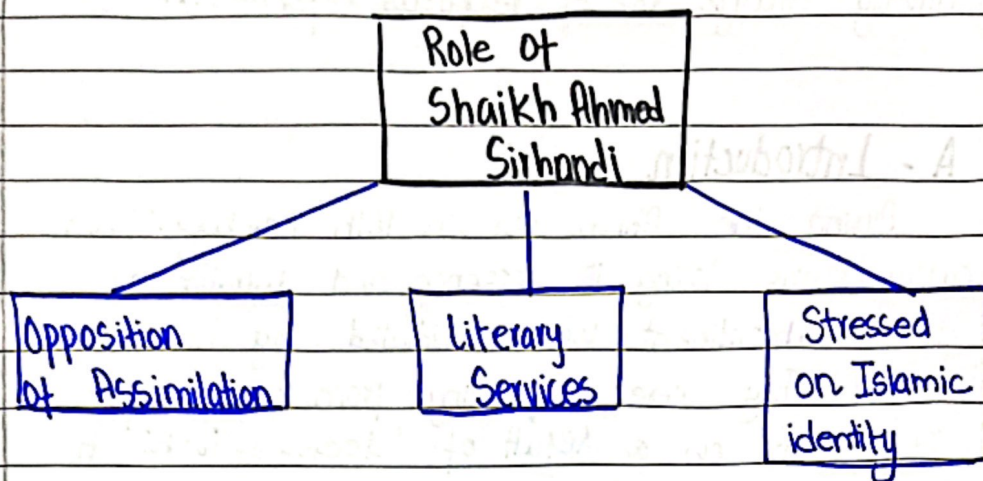
Q1 Critically analyze role of religious reformers...

A - Introduction

During the Akbar era, in 16th century, Muslim culture was losing its essence and Muslims of the subcontinent were dominated by Hindu culture. They were refraining from the teachings of Islam as a result of 'Deen-e-illahi'. A new religion for the people of subcontinent that blurred out the lines between Muslims and other religions. This was the time when Muslim scholars like 'Shaikh Ahmed Sirhandi' and 'Shah Waliullah' carried out their religious reformist movements and upheaved the status of Muslims in the subcontinent. They provided the basis and realization for the separation of Muslims as a nation based on their religious identity. They contributed in aspects like religious, social as well as educational so that Muslims can progress and stick to their identity when Hindu culture was on the rise.

B: Shaikh Ahmed Sirhandi's Role

Shaikh Ahmed Sirhandi also called 'Mujaddid Alf Sani' helped Muslims politically and socially as he could see that Muslims were going away from the teachings of Shariah.



Shaikh Ahmed Sirhandi opposed the assimilation policy which was a part of Bhagti movement of Hindus, a narrative that "all are one", while Shaikh Ahmed Sirhandi believed that Muslims have their unique identity and they cannot be assimilated with Hindus and other religions. Moreover, Shaikh Ahmed Sirhandi also wrote Islamic books to spread the word of Islamic values and teachings.

Shaikh Ahmed Sirhandi's books

Maktoobat ≈ On Research and Ijtihad

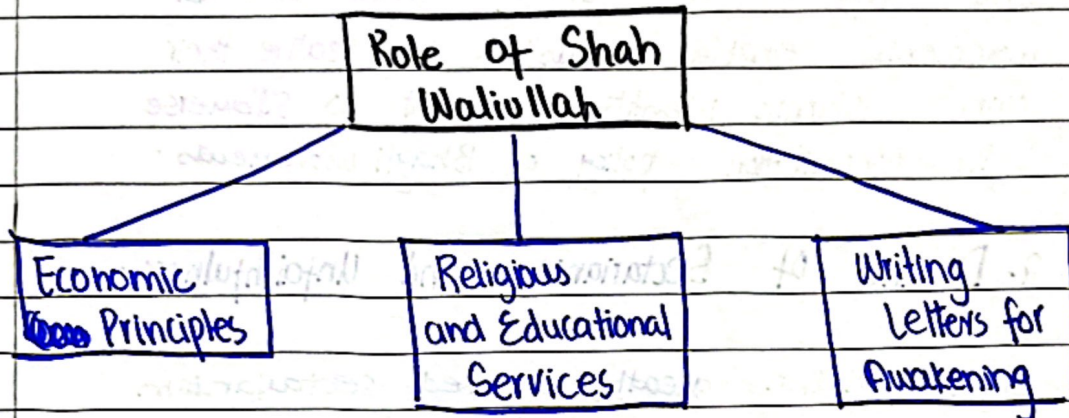
Asbat un Naboo ≈ On Logic and Reason

Maarif Ud Dunya ≈ On Shariah and Tasawwuf

Shaikh Ahmed Sirhandi also stressed on unique Muslim identity after the spread of 'deen-e-illahi'. He identified the deviance of Muslims from Shariah laws and took steps to enforce Muslim teachings and oppose Hindu culture.

C. Shah Waliullah's Role :

Shah Waliullah was also another significant reformer for muslims in the subcontinent in 18th century. He was given the title of 'Qutubuddin'.



Shah Waliullah gave economic principles during his religious reformist movement and stressed on muslims to not accumulate wealth and his religious and educational services played a great role in upheaval of muslims. He wrote books like 'Hajatul-Hil-Balaag' and 'Al-Faiz al-Kabi' to educate muslims. Shah Waliullah also translated the Quran in Persian so that muslims can understand Islamic values. Moreover, Shah Waliullah's letters are also famous. He wrote letters to artisans, leaders and Ahmed Shah ~~Abdali~~ Abdali to help muslims.

D. Impacts on Formation of Muslim Identity

(Religious Formation)

1. Defining and Separation of Muslim Identity:

Shah Waliullah's and Shaikh Ahmed Sirhindi's movements enabled muslims to realize their own islamic identity and not to submerge in assimilation policy of Bhagti movements.

2. Decline of Sectarianism and Unfaithfulness:

Shah Waliullah greatly opposed sectarianism and repatriating from Shariah law. This helped muslims to realize that they were one nation supposed to follow the divine religion of Islam.

(Social Formation)

3. Decline in Hindu Dominance

These reformist ~~move~~ movements played a great role in combatting the Hindu sepmist movements and prevailing Hindu cultures.

Hindus were forcefully converting muslims and spreading their religious agenda on muslims which was threatening Islam.

4. ~~Awakening~~ Awakening of Leaders

Reformist movements also called out leaders on their corruption and inefficient leadership, triggering a moral awakening in favour of muslims and prevailing hindu culture.

(Educational Reformation)

5. Emphasis on Study of Shariah

During the reformist movements, many 'madressas' were laid out to educate muslims on Islamic values and teachings.

6. Intellectual and Ideological Foundations

Both the movements stressed on islamic ideologies and rejected 'Bid'at', innovations in Islam, that enabled muslims to stick to the true values of Islam.

E. Conclusion

Reformist movements of Shah Waliullah and Shaikh Ahmed Sirhandi laid the foremost principles of a separate nation and also provided basis for two nation theory.

As their basis of movement was realization of muslims and their religious identity. The religious reformist movements came at a time when muslims needed it the most:

Date _____

hindu reformist movements were on the rise, muslims did not practice Islamic teachings and society was going downhill as a result of social evils. Islamic scholars came and upheaved muslim identity by enforcing ~~muslim~~ Islamic identity, taking steps to spread religious education and preserve the teachings of Islam in the subcontinent.

~~desired to protect the identity of muslims~~

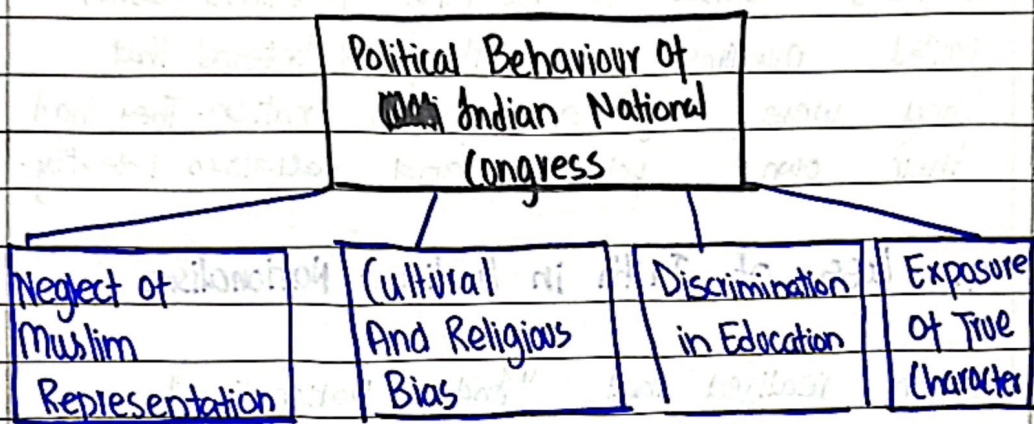
Q2. Analyze the political behaviour ...

A. Introduction

The years of 1937 to 1939 marked a crucial phase in India's struggle when Indian National Congress got power under the Government of India Act of 1935. This was a practical test for Hindus of Subcontinent in proving their loyalty to muslims but their behaviour proved in further division between Hindus and muslims. They excluded muslims and refused to form a united government comprising of muslims too. Their practices like promotion of Hindu, adoption of Bande mataram while restricting muslim culture and closure of Urdu schools. This terrorizing and exclusionary policies of Indian national Congress resulted in awareness among muslims

and expanded Jinnah's role in representing the muslim community. The period served as a political awakening for muslims that they were on their own and Indian National Congress could not be relied upon.

B. Political Behaviour of the Indian National Congress During its Ministries :



The congress rule brought a reign of terror on muslim identity when they refused the representation of muslim during ministries and forced their culture and religious values, completely ignoring the identity of muslims. They had enforced Hindi language and singing of "Bande mataram" during prayer times of muslims. They had ignored Urdu and promoted the closure of Urdu medium schools. Moreover, many teachers lost their job as well. Recruitment in government only favoured hindus. All these activities exposed the true character of Indian National Congress, showing that Hindus were only bent on

promotion of Hindu culture and did not care for Muslims.

C. Influence on Muslim League's Political Strategy and Demand for Pakistan?

1. Realization of Muslim Identity

Congress's refusal to recognise Muslims further united Muslims and they believed that they were truly a separate nation. They had their own political and religious identity.

2. Loss of Faith in Indian Nationalism

Muslims realized that "Indian Nationalism" under Congress only meant Hindu dominance and ignorance of Muslim culture.

3. Strengthening of Two Nation Theory

Congress's behaviour further strengthened the ideas laid out by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in two nation theory. Differences of religion, language, culture and values were irreconcilable.

4. Jinnah's Rise as Spokesman of Muslims

The widespread hatred among Muslims strengthened Muhammad Ali Jinnah's leadership and defence of Muslims.

5. Propaganda and Political Messaging.

Muslim League used reports like "Muslim Sufferings Under Congress Rule" (1939) to highlight the injustices faced by Muslims under the rule of Indian National Congress.

6. Transformation of Muslim League from an Elite to a Mass Party:

Before 1937, Muslim League was a party of elite with limited public support. After the Congress rule, a political awakening took place in individuals and enabled them to join politics in the face of injustice.

7. "Deliverance Day" and Political Symbolism:

After WWII, the Congress ministries resigned and Muslims celebrated "Deliverance Day" to mark freedom from Hindu dominance.

8. Formation of a Clear Political Goal:

The effect of Congress's behaviour convinced Muslims that coexistence with Hindus was not possible and wanted their separate nation called "Pakistan".

D. Conclusion

The behaviour of Congress Ministries showed the true intentions and character of Hindus of subcontinent that completely excluded Muslims. This period proved as a political awakening for Muslims and they realized that they could not live under the Congress rule and practice their religion freely. Consequently, Muslims demands shifted from safeguarding of their rights ~~to~~ demanding a separate nation and sovereignty. They had finally lost all hope in Hindu-Muslim unity and coexistence and started demanding their own land called "Pakistan".