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BATCH: 401

Q1. Critically analyze the role of religious reformers in socio-political awakening of Indian Muslims in the 19th century. How did their efforts contribute to the formation of Muslim identity in the subcontinent?

Role of Religious Reformers in Socio-Political Awakening of Indian Muslims in 19th Century:

Introduction:

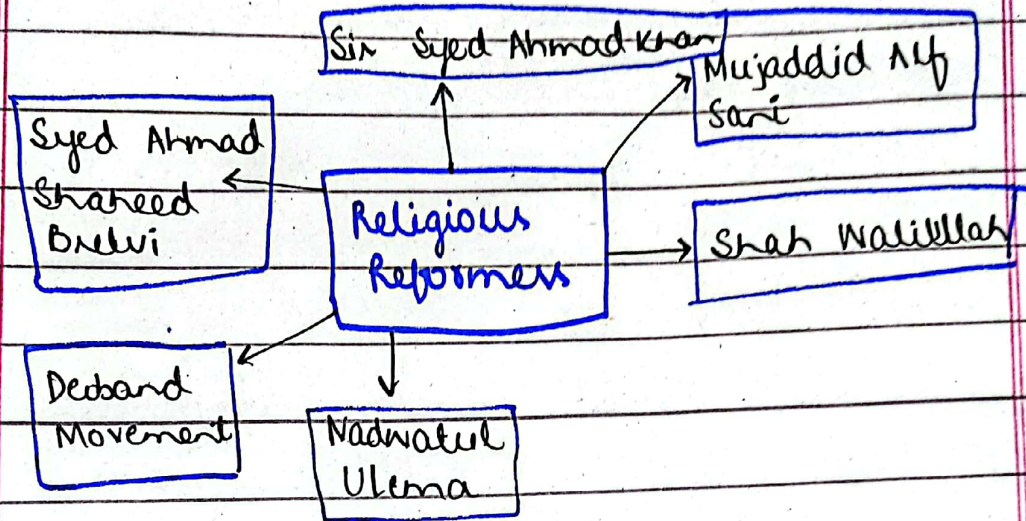
19th century was a great turmoil and turning point for Indo-Pak history. There was political, social, and educational downfall for Muslims after 1857 was of independence. This chaotic time needed reformers for Muslims to wake them up. Islam was in grave danger as this era was depicted loss of Islamic values, Muslim dignity

and socio-political strength. Therefore, some religious reformers emerged and their efforts led to creation of Pakistan in 1947.

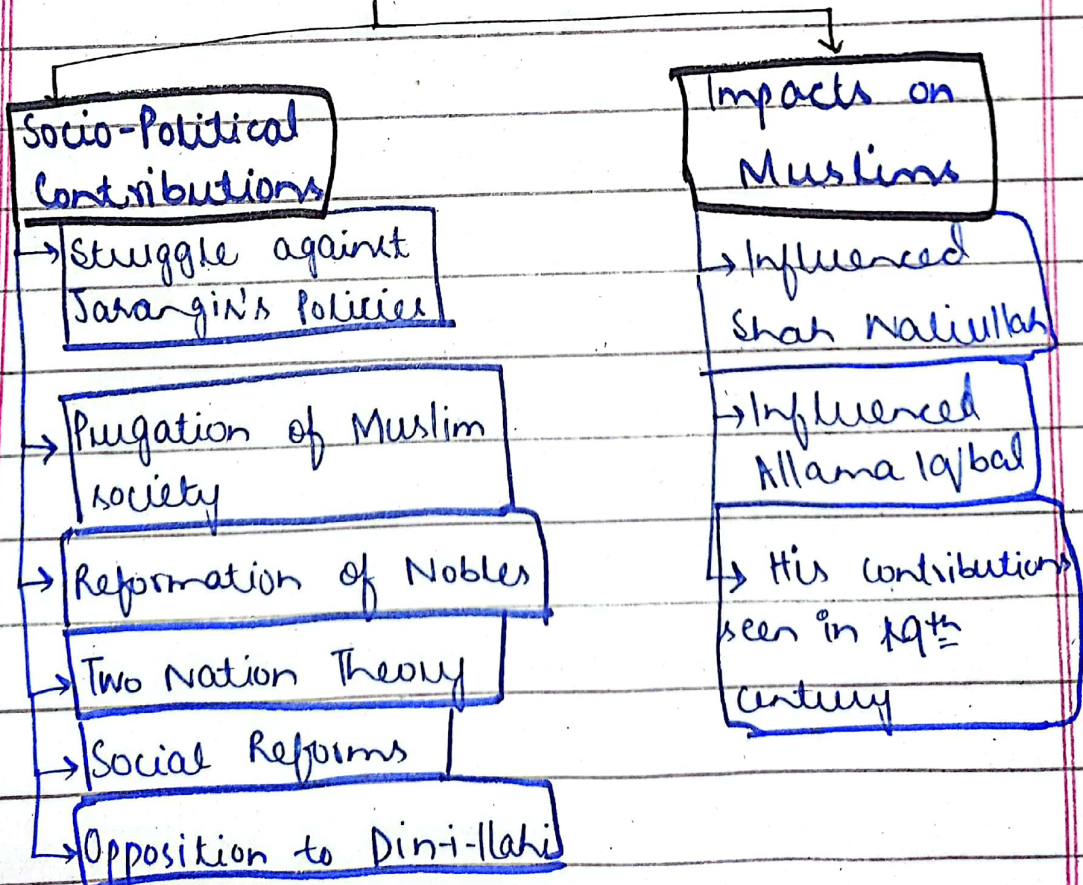
Background: Setbacks of Muslims after 1857

The war of independence in 1857 was a great setback for Indian Muslims. Britishers blamed them for this revolt and excluded them from most of government jobs, administrative services, and from education. Their madrasahs were closed and economically they were deprived. Muslims were divided between modernism and old traditional values. So, all these crises led the religious reformers come forward and help these Muslims regain their identity.

Prominent Religious Reformers and Their Impacts on Muslims:



Mujaddid Alf Sani - Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi



Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi played a crucial role in safeguarding the ideological and spiritual foundations of Islam in Mughal era. His contributions left long lasting influence on reformers in 19th century. He opposed Din-i-Ilahi of Akbar that blurred the line between Islam and other religions. He was imprisoned due to his spreading popularity, yet he stood for what was right. It

Influence of Sheikh's Efforts:

The efforts of Sheikh Ahmad to change religious and social life of Muslims left a huge impact on history of Muslims in India. Allama Iqbal has paid tribute to his personality that did not bow in front of Akbar. Many people converted to Muslims and their ideologies played part later in 19th century.

Shah Waliullah

Socio-Political Awakening of Muslims by Shah Waliullah Reforms:

Social Reforms:

Shah Waliullah provided social services to reform society in line with political values. His efforts aimed to eliminate inter religion marriage practices and eradicate sectarianism, promoting unity among Muslims. He also struggled against Biddat's to restore original teachings of Islam. One of his key struggles was bringing back moral fervor in Muslim community. In Hujjat-ul-Balighah, he explained causes of societal disintegration and chaos and ways towards just and united society.

Political Reforms:

Shah Waliullah made significant political services to safeguard the Muslim identity. He wrote letters

to ~~Marathas~~ Ahmad Shah Abdali regarding threats from Marathas. He also introduced the idea of Two-Nation Theory, highlighting separate identity of Muslims. He aimed to unite Islamic world and revive Muslims political strength in the subcontinent.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan Socio-Political Awakening of Muslims by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan:

Social Reforms:

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan Shah Waliullah made tremendous social reforms for awakening Muslims of subcontinent. He made efforts to counter Western rationalism and resist blind following of Western civilization. He challenged superstitious beliefs to promote enlightenment. He wrote Ahkame-Taam-e-Ahle-kitaab to guide Muslims. He established

orphan houses to support the vulnerable community. In fact, he wrote other books and magazines to educate Muslims & to strengthen Islamic values.

Political Reforms:

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan awakened Muslims politically by addressing the causes of 1857 revolt. He showed his loyalty of Muslims towards Britishers by writing "Loyal Muhammadans of India". He advised Muslims to avoid political involvement before being educated enough. He established Muhammadan Educational Conference to unite Muslims and he laid foundation of Two Nation Theory. He warned Muslims about potential of domination by Hindu majority as depicted in Hindi-Urdu controversy.

Other Reformers's Contributions:

Syed Ahmad Shahid awakened

Muslims socio-politically through his jihad movement, and revival of Islamic values. Darul Uloom Deoband aimed at Islamic education to strengthen Muslims. Nadwatul Ulama focused on modernizing Islamic thoughts and giving blend of Islamic and contemporary education to Muslims.

Conclusion:

During 19th century turmoil and chaos era, Muslims were awakened socio-politically by many reformers. They wrote books, magazines, developed institutes and conferences, and spread their knowledge and voice to help Muslims get out of that trouble. All these efforts led to formation of Pakistan in 1947.

Q2 Analyze the political behaviour of Indian National Congress during its ministries (1937-1939). How did these events influence Muslim League's political strategy and the demand for Pakistan?

Political Behaviour of Congress Ministries (1937-1939)

Background:

Congress ministries played a role of turning point in Hindu-Muslim relations. They won majorities in many provinces under 1935 Act. Congress formed government in eight out of 11 provinces. These elections exposed false claims of Congress of representing all Indians. Congress Ministries adopted Hindu majority and discriminatory policies posing severe difficulties for Muslims.

Dictatorship of Congress Ministries:

Congress ministries ruled over 27 months in eight months. They used all methods to suppress and persecute Muslims. The policies they adopted are described below:

- Communal Riots and Violence:

Hindu-Muslim riots were common during congress rule. There were organized assaults on Muslim lives, honour and properties. Congress showed its anti-Muslim governance by taking no action against these riots.

- Wardha and Vidya Mandir Educational Schemes:

Hindu heroes and values were promoted in curriculum and education. Students were asked to bow before Gandhi's pictures and sing songs in his praise. These policies totally alienated

Muslims from their faith and culture.

- Band-e-Matram Controversy:

Chatterjee wrote "Bande Matram" song, which contained verses against Muslims and Islam.

Congress made this song compulsory in schools to demonstrate domination of Hindus.

- Mass Contact Movement:

Nehru launched a mass contact campaign that focused on undermining Muslim League. This campaign tried to attract Muslims and get their support directly. This showed their direct hate and animosity with Muslims.

- Ban on cow slaughter and Religious Restrictions:

Provinces where Congress ruled, were banned for slaughtering cows. They also

supported Hindu possessions near mosques. Muslims were called "untouchables" and denied of many basic rights like access to wells. These policies violated the religious freedom of Muslims.

Congress oppressed Muslims during its ministries period which made lives of Muslim really difficult.

Political Strategy of Muslim League Influenced by Rotten Policies of Congress Ministries:

The beginning of second world war led to end of dictatorial rule of Congress in 1939. After 27 months of constant turmoil, ~~the~~ Muslims now were free of their oppression. Government asked all parties to ally with them in WWII. Muslim league meanwhile, changed

their political strategies.

- Organizational Revival:

Under the leadership of Ahsaid-e-Azam, Muslim League reorganized itself at both provincial and national levels.

They started membership drives and united Muslims across India.

- Demand for Constitutional Safeguards:

Muslim League decided not to accept any future constitution without Muslim consent. It demanded for separate electorates, Muslim rights and protection of religious, political and social interests.

- Political Awareness and Propaganda:

Muslim League started a campaign to awaken Muslims against and make them realize about anti-

Muslim congress rule. It highlighted the need of separate Muslim political identity by showing congress atrocities in newspapers, magazines, and speeches.

• Lahore Resolution and Political clarity:

Muslim League convinced Muslims that coexistence with Hindus in sub-continent was impossible after congress rule.

Lahore Resolution (1940) clearly depicted the interest of separate independent state of Muslims, which laid foundation of Pakistan.

Conclusion:

The oppressive policies of the Congress ministries exposed Hindu majority agenda that escalated Muslim mistrust. Muslim League reorganized itself and united Muslims for a common cause.