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Pakistan Affairs (Test 1)

~ (Question #1) ~

Role of Religious Reformers

Introduction:

Religious reformers like Shah Waliullah, Sheikh Ahmad Suhindi, Syed Ahmad Shaheed, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and many other reformers played a vital role in the socio-political awakening of Muslims. Their efforts awakened the Muslims of subcontinent and laid the foundation of a separate Muslim identity in the subcontinent.

give the main heading first....

A. Sheikh Ahmad Suhindi (1564-1624)

Sheikh Ahmad Suhindi was born in 1564 in Delhi. He was also known as Mujadal Alaf Sam (Reviver of Islam in the second millennium). He was the disciple of Khwaja Baqir Billah. According to SM Ikram, "He was one of the

most forceful and original thinker before Shah Waliullah and Iqbal."

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Condition of Muslims during his time

During Akbar's reign, Hindus were favoured. There were Hindu wives in the palace. A lot of Hindu rulers and nawabs were a part of his court like Raja Man Singh and Bhagwan Das. who used to influence Akbar's decision. Akbar abolished jizya and pilgrimage tax. Mosques were destroyed and temples were built in place of them. Akbar introduced 'Dim-i-Ilahi' (universal deen) which was a huge scar on Muslim identity. Suhudi feared that empowerment of Hindu may lead to decline of Muslim Rule.

Objectives and Efforts

He introduced Tauheed-i-Shahudi to counter Wahdat-ul-Wajood.

He wanted to expel Hindu rulers from the Mughal

contd. He urged Muslims to not interdine or intermarry with Hindus as it is not allowed in Islam. He wanted to remove the innovations and superstitions from Islam.

Success and Legacy of his movement

Unfortunately, his ideas could not gain success in his life.

But after his death, under Aurangzeb rule, jizya and pilgrimage was reimposed. Temples lost patronage while Mosque such as Badshahi Mosque was built. Aurangzeb was actually the student of Suhrawardi's son.

B. Shah Waliullah

Shah Waliullah real name was Qutb-ud-din Ahmad. He was one of the greatest and original thinkers of Muslim India. He was the forerunner of

Conditions of Muslims

After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, Muslims lost their political and social power as the successors of Aurangzeb were weak and incompetent. They were living a life of luxury without any care for the Muslims. Marathas were rising in power.

Objectives and Efforts

Shah Waliullah wrote letters to Shuja ud Daulah and Nawab ud Daulah to unify Muslims of India. He also wrote a letter to Ahmad Shah Abdali, ruler of Afghanistan, to save Muslims of India from Marathas. Ahmad Shah Abdali came to India and fought the 3rd battle of Panipat in 1761. Abdul Hameed Siddique beautifully wrote that

He saved the political body of Muslims from complete collapse.

Success and Legacy..

He translated Quran into Persian (the language of educated Muslims during that time). His son later translated Quran into Urdu. All the future movements were heavily influenced by Shah Waliullah's teachings. He is sometimes credited with early Two Nation Theory.

C. Syed Ahmad Barelvi

Syed Ahmad Barelvi was the student of Shah Waliullah's sons so he was heavily inspired by him. Since a young age, he believed in jihad. For that very reason, he joined Amin Khan's army in 1810. He launched Jihad movement to counter

the influence of Raja Ranjit Singh.

Conditions of Muslims

Sikh rule was very difficult for Muslims. They were not allowed to preach their religion freely. So Syed Ahmad Barelvi believed the jihad was the only option to save Muslim Ummah.

"He was the sword of Shah Waliullah's pen" - I.H. Qureshi

Jihad Movement

He traveled from Uttar Pradesh to Punjab, Bihar to Bengal to unify the Muslims of India under this religious military campaign. He appointed himself as Imam and later as Ameez-ul-Momeen. He declared that Raja Ranjit Singh should allow Muslims to practice Islam or face Jihad.

He established a parallel Islamic government in which he implemented Shariah Laws.

He fought many battle and at last got martyred in the Battle of Balakot in 1831

where Sikh army under the commander of general Sher Singh launched a surprise attack to kill Mujahideen.

"Balakot became Kaibala for Jihad movement"

(Hussein Qureshi)

Aims of this movement

This was one of the earliest armed struggle by Indian Muslim against Hindus. Atta

Although this movement did not contributed much but it lead to the political awakening of Muslims.

"This was one of the first armed struggle for the establishment of an Islamic

state." (Allama Shibli Nauman)

D. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

He was born on 17th Oct, 1817 in Delhi. He belonged to a very progressive family. His brother led to the formation established one of the first printing press in Delhi. Sir Syed completed his higher education from England. He was the first Indian Muslim member of Imperial legislative council.

Condition of Muslims

After the War of Independence in 1857, Britishers believed that Muslims were the main reason behind the revolt. They did not show hostility towards Hindus or other communities, but Muslims had to bear the brunt of it. Muslim lagged behind Hindus socially and

politically.

Sir Syed's Efforts

Sir Syed tried to bridge the gap between Indo Muslims and British government. For this purpose, he urged Muslims to learn English language. He requested Muslims to acquire Western education.

According to Nehru,

"Sir Syed was an ardent reformer."

He laid down the foundation of many schools ^{and societies} like Victoria School in Ghazipur, a Gulshan school in 1859 and scientific society which translated Western books into Urdu language. He lay down the foundation of Mohammadan Anglo-Oriental Girls' School in 1875 which latter became college in 1877 and university in 1920.

Just like Gandhi said, "Sir

Syed was a prophet of education."

Political initiatives

His essay on "The causes of Revolt of 1857" and "Loyal Mohammedans of India" tried to bridge the gap between the Muslims and the British.

At first, he was a staunch advocate of Hindu-Muslim unity. but after Hindu-Hindu controversy in 1867 in Banaras he realised the Hindu Muslim unity was not possible. That's why, he is credited with the concept of 'Two Nation Theory'. He supported Muslims demand of a separate electorate. He wrote *Hijjaj ul Balaghah* in which he told that Islamic principles are as much applicable as they were 1300.

discuss the impacts of these reforms in detail as well.

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years ago.

"The real greatness of Sir Syed lies in the fact that he was the only one who realised the ~~new~~ ^{fresh} interpretation of Islam and worked for it." (Allama Iqbal)

Conclusion:

All these reformers are credited to the formation of Muslim identity in the subcontinent. It was their ideas that lead Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam to demand for a separate homeland.

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