

Muslim Reform Movements:

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The Mughals were a Muslim dynasty who ruled over a majority Hindu population. By 1750, they had dominated much of South Asia for several centuries. Muslims were already living in India when the Mughals first arrived. During Mughal rule, Muslims averaged only about 15% of the population. In subcontinent movements started to integrate Islam into Hinduism. Elements started appearing among Muslims who adopted Hindu concepts. In this context many reform movements were started to protect the Muslims identity & to implement & adopt Islam in its original form, the credit of which goes to the heads of Muslims elders & Sufis of India. These reform movements hold the status of Historical aspect of Pakistan ideology.

- i) Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi
- ii) Shah Wali Ullah
- iii) Syed Ahmed Shaheed
- iv) Sir Syed Ahmed Khan & Aligarh Movement.

- v) Darul Uloom Deoband
- vi) Nadwat-ul-Ullama
- vii) Sind Madrassa-tul-Islam
- viii) Islamia College Peshawar
- ix) Anjuman Himayat-i-Islam

Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi / Mujadid Alf Saani

~~1564-1624~~

1564-1624.

- i) Introduction
- ii) Pre-History of Sheikh Ahmad's reformal movement.
- iii) Achievements of Reorganizational work of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi.
- iv) Conclusion.

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Introduction:

- ↳ Hazrat Mujadid Alf Sani is one of the foremost personalities who revived Islam in India through his preaching efforts.
 - ↳ He was born on June 26, 1564 during the reign of Akbar in Sirhind (Punjab)
 - ↳ father was Sheikh Abdul-Aliad.
 - ↳ also known as Sheikh Ahmad Farooqi Sirhindi
 - ↳ disciple of Khwaja Baqi Billah.
- "Sheikh Ahmad is a light which will enlightened the whole world."

Pre-History of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi movement:

↳ The era in which Sh. Ahmed started his reform movement was a period of great trial for Islam in South Asia. History is still unable to estimate the damage that was being done to Islam during this period.

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↳ Mughal Emperor Akbar was ruling in India.

↳ Hindus were busy in cutting the root of Muslims & Islam & had full support of the royal court. Akbar wanted to integrate Hinduism & Islam to preserve his power & rule.

↳ He couldn't be patient with political power & started wanting sanctity & became seeker of people's devotion.

↳ Deen-i-Ilahi introduced by Akbar.

↳ Un-Islamic practices

↳ Impact on Muslim's separate identity.

↳ Concept of Wahdai ul Wajood, exemption of Jaziya & prohibition of cow slaughtering were part of the then Muslim society.

Sirhindi is the spiritual guardian
of Muslims of subcontinent.

Iqbal

Achievements of Reorganizational Work of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhadi.

i) Creation of Islamic distinction:

↳ most of non-Islamic movements targeted Islam & eliminated its separate identity → merge Hinduism & Islam → He restored the true identity of Islam & made it clear that

"There are gulfs b/w Islam & Hinduism which can't be bridged."

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ii) End of Din-i-Elahi: initiated by Akbar:

Akbar's self proclaimed Din-i-Elahi had harmed the true spirit of Islam & deprived the society from true spirit of Islamic beliefs. ^(Ahmed) He raised the religious consciousness of Muslims.

Hazrat wrote to Akbar:

"Your Kingdom, your power, & your army will perish one day. Bow down before Allah Almighty! Seek his forgiveness & if you don't, wait for God's wrath."

(Hayat Mujaddid Alif Sani)

iii) Prohibition in Bowing worship:

He opposed the performance of Sajdah Tazimi & termed it as Kufr & Shirk, during Akbari & Jehangiri era.

He was imprisoned by Jehangir on allegation of creating unrest in the society.

- prostration from the court ended.
- Jehangir freed him & apologized
- Jehangir ordered (khutba) sermon to be recited

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ii) Discarding of unislamic laws:

- ↳ He insisted on abandoning all Hindu rituals.
 - ↳ Jehangir ordered that cow slaughter to be carried out as required by Islamic principles.
 - ↳ Jehangir also agreed to the construction of a big mosque on the advice of Mujaddid Alif Sani.
 - ↳ Revival of Islamic teachings.
- Explanatory Notes of Reality & Shar'ias

v) Ittibat-i-Sunnah:

Ulema & scholars had ceased to refer sunnah so, he prepared & send a num of disciple to different parts of subcontinent & asked them to emphasis on Ittibat-i-Sunnah.

vi) Doctrine of Wahdat-al-Shuhud & Prophethood:

Due to Akbar's liberal approach some people to please Akbar developed the philosophy of Wahdat-al-Wajud (The follower of this idea believed that there was no living dif. b/w Man & his creator God).

Sheikh presented his theory of Wahdat-al-Shuhud which argued that creator & creatures are two dif things.

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At that time some sufis were telling people that Wilayat was better than prophethood. He rejected all these misleadings & wrote a book

Ibat-un-Nabuwat (Affirmations of prophethood) in which he excellently explained the institution of prophethood.

Vii) Provided Two Nation Theory:

He wanted to see Muslims as separate nation & Islam as separate religion. It is believed that Muslim & Hindu society would have consumed if Mujadid Alif Sani had not revived Islam in subcontinent.

↳ First father of two Nation Theory & Pakistan movement.

Viii) Impact of Sirhindi's Letters:

He wrote more than 80 letters to different nobels of at that time, for rectification (Mughal Rulers & other contemporaries.) of their Deen. & to take action to revive the glory of Islam.

"Muktubāt-e-Imam Rabbani" which is collection of his letters

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Conclusion:

The efforts of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi to purify the religious & practical life of Muslims left an indelible impact on the history of Muslims. He was not only a religious leader but a reformist who freed Muslim society from the clutches of un-Islamic practices.