

LAWS-01205 – History (South Asia)

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Muslim Intellectuals in South Asia

Sheikh Ahmed Sir Hindi (1564-1624)

- The Sufis attracted a large number of followers. The ulema saw this as a threat.
- In the 15th century the Bhakti Movement was largely influenced by Sufism.
- 1564-1624: Sheikh Ahmed Sirhindi was one of the early reformers.
- Sheikh Ahmed went to Delhi at the age of 36 to become a disciple of the mystic saint Baqi Billah.

Sheikh Ahmed's Teachings

- Sheikh Ahmed's influence spread to Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Ottoman Empire. He came to be known as Mujaddid-i-Alf-i-Thani.
- He did not approve of Akbar's Din-i-Ilahi.
- He was imprisoned by Jehangir for not prostrating before him.
- After two years, Jehangir set him free; he asked his son Shah Jehan to become his disciple.
- Sheikh Ahmed organized Naqsh bandiya order.
- His famous writings are: Risal-e-Nabooat, Isbat-ul-Nabat and Tauheed-i-the Shuhudi.
- 1757: Battle of Plassey. English defeated Nawab Sirajuddaulah and gained control of Bengal.
- 1763: Britain began to gain control of India.
- 1764: Battle of Buxar; defeat of the puppet rulers Mir Jafar and Mir Qasim by the British.
- 1769: James Watt developed the steam engine.

Shah Waliullah (1703-62)

- Shah Waliullah belonged to a family who were the founders of the Madrasa Rahimiya.
- His father, Shah Abdul Rahim, helped compile the Fatw a-i-Alamgiri.
- Shah Waliullah translated the Quran into Persian, the language of educated Muslims.
- Later his sons, Shah Abdul Qadir and Shah Abdul Aziz, translated the Quran into Urdu.
- Shah Waliullah urged Muslims to shun sectarianism .The worst religious conflict of the times was between the Shias and the Sunnis.
- Shah Waliullah's most famous works are Hujjatullah-ul-Balighah and Izlat-ul-Akhfa.
- He advocated adl and tawazan; he laid great stress on a just and honest society.
- Partly this invitation, Ahmed Shah Durrani of Persia came to Delhi to crush the Marathas, who were overpowering the Mughals.
- 1776: American Declaration of Independence.
- 1789: Beginning of the French Revolution.
- 1804: Napoleon became emperor of France.
- 1807: Britain and the United States banned the slave trade.

Syed Ahmed Barelvi (1786-1831)

- Syed Ahmed Barelvi was a disciple of the Madrasa Rahimiya. He talked of the need for jihad.
- 1823: Syed Ahmed Barelvi founded the Jihad Movement. He wanted to liberate the Punjab and NWFP from Sikh rule.
- 1826: Syed Ahmed's mujahedeen forces attacked the Sikhs at Okara and captured Peshawar by 1830.
- The mujahedeen army now numbered 80 000 men.
- 1853-56: The Crimean War.
- 1857: Indians revolted against British rule.
- 1861-65: The American Civil War.

- 1869: The opening of the Suez Canal.

The Jihad Movement

- Syed Ahmed survived an assassination attempt by one of his tribal chiefs.
- His next targets were Kashmir and Hazara.
- He was killed in the Battle of Balakot
- The Jihad Movement was a fore runner of the Pakistan Movement-the recognition of the desire of the Muslims to be independent.

Haji Shariat Ullah

- The 19th century saw a revival of Islam in Bengal. The most famous leader was Haji Shariat Ullah, a follower of Sheikh Abdul Wahab of Arabia. He wanted to purify Islam of Hindu influences.
- His organization was known as the Faraizi Movement.
- Later, Titu Mire merged as a more militant Muslim leader in Bengal, He was killed in an encounter with the British in 1831.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan (1817-98)

- 1817: Birth of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan.
- In 1839, he became a judge in the East India Company. In 1846, he became a judge in Delhi
- 1846: He wrote the famous Athar-ul-Samadeed.

- 1857 At the time of the revolt, he tried to dissuade the Muslims from fighting: he believed this was not the way to achieve their objectives.
- He worked as a conciliator between the Muslim and British communities.
- His aim was to make the Muslims realize the importance of western ideas: he encouraged them to learn English.

Writings

- Sir Syed wrote a pamphlet, Essay on the Causes of the Indian Revolt, in which he blamed the British for ignoring Muslim sentiments.
- He wrote The Loyal Mohammedans of India to show that the Muslims were not totally against the British.
- He wrote a commentary on the Bible to show the similarities between the two religions.
- 1863: He founded the Scientific Society of Ghazipur, for the translation of Persian, Arabic and English works into Urdu.
- He started a magazine, Tahdhib-ul-Akhlaq, in which he contended that western learning was not un-Islamic.
- 1875: He established a school which, in 1876, became the MAO College, and by 1921 grew into the Aligarh University.

Allama Iqbal (1877-1938)

- 1877: Allama Iqbal was born in Sialkot; educated at Government College Lahore, Cambridge University and London's Lincoln Inn as well as at Heidelberg University in Germany.
- A poet of renown, he was greatly influenced by Sufism and wrote poems in honour of Sheikh Sirhindi.

- 1922: He was knighted by the British in recognition of his poetry.
- 1930: He published The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam.
- 1930: At a Muslim League meeting in Allahabad he stated that the Muslims needed a separate home land.
- 1931 and 1932: He attended the Round Table Conferences

The Quaid-i-Azam (1876-1948)

- Jinnah was born in 1876. He went to England to study at the age of 15. He studied law and then got interested in politics.
- 1909. Jinnah became a member of the Imperial Legislative Council.
- 1913: He joined the Muslim League, At this time he was a member of both the Congress and the Muslim League.
- He was admired and respected by both the Hindus and the Muslims.
- 1921: He resigned from Congress, having realized that it was a totally Hindu party working only for the interests of the Hindus.
- 1919: He resigned from the Executive Council in protest against the Rowlett Act.

Political Career

- Jinnah, disenchanted with Indian politics, settled in London.
- 1933: Liaquat Ali Khan persuaded him to return to India.
- 1934: He was made life president of the Muslim League.
- 1937: The Muslim League fared badly in the elections and had to suffer a very oppressive Congress rule.

The Pakistan Resolution

- After the realization that Congress was not willing to share power with the Muslim League, the League's membership rose dramatically.
- 1940: The Pakistan Resolution was passed.
- 1943: The Muslim League won 47 out of 61 seats in the elections.
- 1947 Jinnah left Delhi for the last time.
- 11 September 1948: Jinnah died in Karachi.