

# Muslim Reform Movements

Dr. Jijo Jayaraj

# Muslim Reform Movements

- The Muslim community, like their Hindu counterpart was equally caught by religious diktats and fatwa's issued by the Muslim Clerics class.
- Many Muslim leaders also believes that Islam in India had been degenerated, under the influence of Hinduism, hence need to be reformed.
- They took upon themselves the task of purifying and strengthening Islam resulting in Wahabi and Faraizi Movement.
- Apart from this, the official Government view on the revolt of 1857 held the Muslims to be the main conspirators.
- This view was further strengthened by the activities of the Wahabis. Hence the need for a cooperative attitude towards the British to improve the community's social condition was felt by many liberal Muslim. This resulted in Aligarh Movement.

- 1. Wahabi/ Waliullah Movement**
- 2. Titu Mir's Movement**
- 3. Faraizi Movement**
- 4. Ahmadiya Movement**
- 5. Aligarh Movement**
- 6. Deoband Movement**

# **Wahabi/ Walliullah Movement**

# Wahabi/ Waliullah Movement

- Shah Waliullah inspired this essentially revivalist response to western influences and the degeneration which had set in among Indian Muslims.
- He was the first Indian Muslims leader of the 18thcentury to organize Muslims around the two fold ideals of this movement.

# The Two Fold Ideals Of The Movement.

- The desirability of harmony among the four schools of Muslims jurisprudence which had divided the Indian Muslims
- The recognition of the role of individual conscience in religion where conflicting interpretation were derived from the Quran and the Hadis

- The teachings of Waliullah were further popularized by Shah Abdul Aziz and Syed Ahmed Barelvi who also gave them a political perspective.
- India was considered to be dar-ul-Harb(land of kafirs) and it needed to be converted to dar-ul-Islam(land of Islam).

# Titu Mir's Movement



# Titu Mir's Movement

- Titu Mir was a disciple of Sayyid Ahmed Raebareli, the founder of Wahabi Movement.
- Titu Mir organised the Muslim peasants of Bengal against the Hindu landlords and the British indigo planters.
- The British records say it was a militant movement which wasn't completely true.

# **Faraizi Movement**

# Faraizi Movement

- The movement also called the Fara'idi Movement because of its emphasis on the Islamic pillars of faith, was founded by Haji Shariat Allah.
- Its scene of action was East Bengal, and it aimed at the eradication of social innovations current among the Muslims of the region.

- Under the leadership of Haji's son, DuduMian, the movement became revolutionary from 1840 onwards.
- He gave the movement an organizational system from the village to the provincial level with a khalifa or authorized deputy at every level.
- The movement survive merely as a religious movement without political overtones after the death of DuduMian in 1862.

# Ahmadiya Movement

# Ahmadiya Movement

- The Ahmadiya Movement, founded by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in 1889, was more or less based on liberal principles.
- It described itself as the standard bearer of Mohammedan Renaissance.
- It based itself, like the Brahmo Samaj, on the principles of a universal religion of all humanity

# Features

- It opposed Jihad or the sacred war against non-Muslims.
- It stood for fraternal relations among all peoples.
- It spread western liberal education among the Indian Muslims.
- It started a network of schools and colleges for this purpose and published periodicals and books, both in English and vernaculars.
- It suffered from the limitations of mysticism.
- It represented an effort on the part of Islam to assimilate the principles of western liberalism.

# **Aligarh Movement**



# Aligarh Movement

- The first national awakening among the Muslims found expression in a movement which aimed at making the Indian Muslims politically conscious and spreading modern education among them.
- Sayyid Ahmad Khan was the founder of the movement. He had such collaborators as the poet Khwaja Altaf Hussain Ali, Maulvi Nazir Ahmad and Maulvi Shibli Numani.

- The liberal social reform and cultural movement founded by Sayyid Ahmad Khan is known as the Aligarh movement because it was at Aligarh that the Mohammedan Anglo-oriented College was established in 1875.
- This college developed into the Aligarh University in 1890.
- Khan's progressive social ideas were propagated through his magazine **Tahdhib-ul-Akhlaq**(Improvement of manners and morals).

- He advocated the removal of purdah.
- He stressed on the education of women.
- Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan believed in religious toleration as he felt an underlying unity of practical morality to be present in all religions.
- However, he warned the Indians against political involvement for he felt that they were not mature enough as yet to govern themselves.

- An All-India Muslim educational conference was also organized.
- The Aligarh movement aimed at spreading western education among the Muslims without weakening their allegiance to Islam.
- The religious education reinforced the secular education which was imparted in the educational institutions that it started.
- The second task it undertook was to introduce social reforms in the Muslim society.

# Characteristics

- It aimed at evolving a distinct social and cultural community among the Indian Muslims more or less on modern lines.
- It condemned polygamy and the social ban on widow remarriage which, though permitted by Islam, had crept in among some sections of the Muslims who were recent converts from Hinduism.
- It was based on a liberal interpretation of the Quran.
- It tried to harmonize Islam with the modern liberal culture and Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan condemned the institution of slavery and described it as un-Islamic.

# Deoband Movement

# Deoband Movement

- The Deoband Movement was organized by the orthodox section among the Muslim ulema as a revivalist movement with the **twin objectives** of
- propagating pure teachings of the Quran and Hadis among Muslims and
- keeping alive the spirit of jihad against the foreign rulers.

- In contrast to the Aligarh Movement which aimed at the welfare of Muslims through western education and support of the British government, the **aim** of Deoband Movement was moral and religious regeneration of the Muslim community.



Thank you