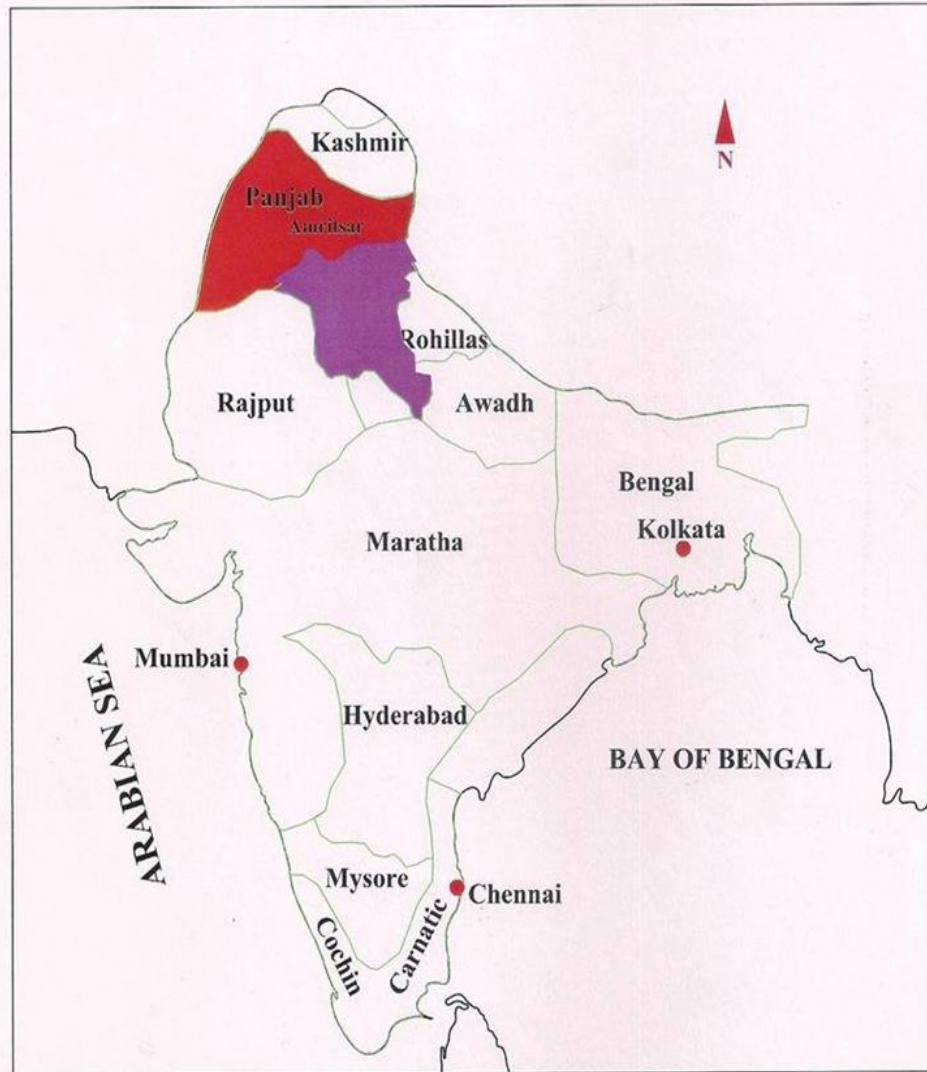


Lecture no 04

**ROLE OF SHAH WALIULLAH & HIS
ISLAMIC REVIVALIST MOVEMENT**

Political, Social and Religious Conditions of Shah Waliullah's India

Rise of different Provinces/ States after Aurangzeb's death (1707)



I- Political Decline

- 1707, the last powerful Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb died. A number of internal contradictions emerged and his successors couldn't be able to deal with them effectively, instead of it involved in non-serious activities, caused the decline of Mughal Rule in India.
- Provinces started to operate independently and didn't accept the authority of Central Mughal Emperors; Bengal (1717), Hyderabad Deccan (1724), Oudh (1723), Pathans of Rohilkhand (after 1739), Sind (1710's).
- 1738-9, Nadir Shah invaded India.
- 1748-1761, Abdali's invasions.
- Rise of the Sikhs against Mughal Rule in North-Western part of the India (Punjab).
- Rise of Rajputs in Rajasthan.
- Rise of Marathas against Mughals in Southern part of India.

Muslim India during the Rise of Shah Waliullah

Moral & Religious Decline of Muslims

Moral Decline:

- Even in Aurangzeb's period, his own sons were trying to betray him on the greed of handsome amount, offered by Marathas, during a battle b/w Mughals & Marhathas. So, corruption, dishonesty, wealth-worship were common practices.

Religious Decline:

- Shia-Sunni conflict,
- Hanafi-Shafai conflict,
- Wahdat-ul-Wujudi & Wahdat-ul-Shuhudi conflicts.
- These were the conditions of sub-continent which compelled a pious Muslim scholar of Dehli to introduce reforms in the society in order to stop decline of his nation fellow. His name was Syed Qutub-ud-Din and later he was called by Shah Waliullah.

Who was Shah Waliullah?

- *Complete Name:* Qutub-ul-Din
- *Title:* Shah Waliullah
- *Born:* 21st February 1703 near Delhi
- *F/Name:* Shah Abdul Rahim, a renown religious scholar, who contributed in the compilation of Fatawa Aalamgeeri.
- *Teaching Career:* In 1718 Shah Waliullah began teaching at the Madrassa.
- *Visit to Arabia:* In 1724 Shah Waliullah went to Arabia to perform Haj and to further his studies. He studied under the famous scholar Sheikh Abu Tahir bin Ibrahim.
- *Returned to India & Initiating of Movement:* In 1732, he returned to India and started to contribute for the development of Muslim society.

CONTRIBUTION OF SHAH WALIULLAH TOWARDS MUSLIMS OF SUBCONTINENT

1. Literary, Intellectual & Religious Contribution:

- Translation of Quran into Persian language.
- Wrote number of books in Arabic & Persian languages, among them most famous book was “Hujatul Baligah”. This book explains how Islam was found suitable for all races, cultures and people of the world.
- A new and comprehensive interpretation of Islam.
- A new approach to reduce the sectarian tensions among Muslims.

2. Social Contribution

- Full focus on moral development of individuals.
- At collective level, he directed his teachings towards reorienting the Muslim society with the concepts of basic social justice, removing social inequalities and balancing the distribution of wealth.
- He advised Mughals to take care of following things:
 - I. Pressure on public treasury, the emoluments given to various people who render no service to the state.
 - II. Heavy taxation on peasants, merchants and workers with the result that tax evasion was rampant.
 - III. He also requested Mughal rulers to stop their corrupt activities and advised not to give lands to those who were not loyal to the state.

Contribution of Shah Waliullah towards Muslim Society

3. Political Contribution

- Wrote letters to Muslim Kings to come into India in order to crush the rising power of Marathas.
- Ahmad Shah Abdali of Kabul responded and made an all-out attack on India in 1174 H /1760-61 A.D.
- Third Battle of Panipat took place.
- The Marhathas, despite their great military might, suffered a crushing defeat.
- They could not rise for some time to come. This was a golden opportunity for the Muslims to avail of, but against all expectations they remained where they were.

Impacts of Shah Waliullah

- Responsible for political, social, cultural reawakening of Muslims.
- He tried to synthesize the two streams of liberalism and religious extremism of Akbar and Mujadid Alf Sani simultaneously.
- Laid the foundations of Quranic understanding in the period of decline.
- Responsible for the moral education of Muslims.
- Tried to minimize the sectarian tensions among Muslims.
- Presented a new philosophical interpretation of Islam, thus laid the foundation of modern Ilm-ul-Kalam and encouraged others to reinterpret Islam according to modern requirements.
- At some extent, his letters encouraged Abdali to invade India and fought against Marathas. Thus Marathas were crushed.

Suggested Readings

1. S. M. Ikram, ***“History of Muslim Civilization in India & Pakistan”***, Institute of Islamic Culture
2. S. M. Ikram, ***“Rod-e-Kausar”***, Idara Saqafat-e-Islamia
3. Annemarie Schimmel, ***“Islam in the Indian Subcontinent”***, Sang-e-Meel Publications
4. I. H. Qureshi, ***“Bar-e-Sageer Ki Millat-e-Islamiya”***
5. Ghulam Hussain Jalbani, ***“Shah Waliullah G Taleem”***, Sindhica Academy Karachi
6. M.R.Kazmi, ***“Pakistan Studies: A Textbook”***, Oxford University Press