

Services of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

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Biography:

Real Name: Syed Ahmad Khan

Born: 17 Oct 1817 in Delhi

Died: 27 Mar 1898 in Uttar Pradesh.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was a Politician, Thinker, Writer, and Founder of modern education in India. He was the founder of Two nation theory. He was the founder of the Muslim nationalist founder of Aligarh movement.

Before 1857

Due to the undue tolerance of the Muslims in the subcontinent, the Hindus and the British took full advantage and weakened the power of the Muslims. The decline of the Mughal Empire began with the mutual conflicts of Aurangzeb's sons. Marathas and Hindus began to rise and the British began to gain a foothold.

After the British took hold of India they killed many people who belonged to the Mughal empire. British came up with the Colonial Government. They used a cunning technique Divide and Rule policy. Then in 1857 Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Bengalis planned to lay down the British government. Unfortunately, they all failed to do so. The British took revenge on Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Bengalis of Rebellion.

After 1857

But all the responsibility of the war was put on the Muslims. All the lands of Muslims were usurped. They were kicked off their jobs. British announced their new scientific educational system but all the Muslim families said no to this modern education because they thought that this education was not valid. Sir Syed Ahmad was watching all of this and he decided to take steps for the education and prosperity of the Muslims.

Educational Services:

The significant events of 1857 had a profound impact on him. He became deeply concerned about the plight of his fellow countrymen, especially the Muslims, who were in need of comprehensive revitalization. He believed that spreading the message of proper education would be the most effective way to lift people out of their current stagnant state. He firmly held the belief that individuals must overcome their biased views towards the English language and Western education if they want to thrive in the modern era. According to him, this was the path to understanding the realities of the new world and embracing a period of enlightenment.

Sir Syed's publications encompass a wide range of works, with notable mentions being Asar-us-Sanadeed, Asbaab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind, Khutbaat-e-Ahmadia, Tafseer-ul-Quran, and Tareekh-e-Sarkashi-i-Bijnaur. These works have captivated the attention of many readers. Asar-us-Saadeed offers valuable insights into the architectural marvels of old Delhi, while Asbaab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind sheds light on the circumstances that led to the events of 1857. In this book, Sir Syed also aimed to correct the British misconceptions surrounding the tragic catastrophe. Khutbaat-e-Ahmadia stands as a

strong and logical response to a Christian author's distorted portrayal of Islam. On the other hand, his Tafseer-ul-Quran sparked debates as it analyzed religious matters from a rational perspective and challenged the notion of miracles in matters of faith. Additionally, Sir Syed's miscellaneous writings and travelogues are of great interest to readers

Despite all of his educational services for Muslims, many Muslim families don't look at Sir Syed Ahmed with a good eye. Because at that time many Muslims were illiterate and they were unaware of the conquests. But Sir Syed didn't flinch for a second he continued all of his struggles for the future and prosperity for the Muslims.

He believed that Muslims can't gain success until they equip themselves with higher education. Not only did he develop a fresh philosophy and teaching method for public education and produce impressive explanatory writing, but he also brought about a shift in people's mindset, particularly within the Muslim community, regarding social, cultural, and national identity. He was a revolutionary who advocated for a scientific approach. With his impact on poets and writers, he gained recognition and appreciation as one of the significant reformers of India.

Political Services:

Sir Syed Khan advised Muslim youth to stay away from politics.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan made significant contributions to the political sphere in order to safeguard the interests of Muslims. After the 1857 War of Independence, Sir Syed compiled a booklet called "Rasal-i-Asbab-e-Baghawat-i-Hind," which aimed to clarify to the British government that Muslims were not solely responsible for the rebellion. The booklet highlighted several factors that contributed to the uprising, including the public's misunderstanding of the ruling class, mismanagement within the army, a lack of awareness by the government regarding the people's circumstances and grievances, and the implementation of laws that went against the wishes of the people.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was deeply disturbed by the dire state of Muslims across the board. He resolved to go to great lengths to improve their welfare. Recognizing the imperative of dispelling British rulers' mistrust towards Muslims, he penned an essay titled "Causes of the Indian Revolt." In this work, he demonstrated that multiple factors contributed to the 1857 rebellion, absolving Muslims of sole responsibility. Furthermore, he authored "Loyal Muhammadans of India" to highlight the loyalty of Indian Muslims.

Sir Syed was aware of the Hindus' intentions and cautioned the Muslims against joining them. He believed that the Congress primarily served the interests of Hindus, focusing on protecting their rights. Instead, he urged Muslims to prioritize acquiring modern education before engaging in politics as a means to safeguard their own rights. Sir Syed believed that political involvement would distract Muslims from their constructive endeavors and potentially reignite mistrust from the British.

He placed great importance on promoting modern education in Muslim society. He held the belief that his community could only improve and make progress by embracing Western scientific knowledge and culture. In 1864, he founded the Aligarh Translation Society, which was later renamed the Scientific Society.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was an influential Muslim advocate and political figure during the 19th Century. After receiving a comprehensive education in Persian and Arabic, he embarked on a career in government service. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan took a bold step towards guiding and supporting his fellow believers, enabling them to thrive within their community. His contributions spanned various fields including theology, philosophy, religion, history, literature, education, and politics, establishing him as a social reformer, political leader, religious thinker, moralist, rationalist, humanist, and jurist. As one of the pioneers of the freedom movement in Indo-Pakistan, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan played a pivotal role in providing modern scientific education to the marginalized and illiterate Muslim population of the subcontinent. This empowered them to meet the political and socio-economic challenges of their time.