

Thoughts in Modern India.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

Introduction of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

- He is not considered as a political philosopher, rather considered as an educationist and social reformer. He
- He is treated at par with Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
- He dedicated his life for uplifting social & economic status of Muslims.
- He brought paper titled 'Tehzib ul Akhlag' which mean Social Reform.
- Syed Ahmad Khan has been a controversial figure. He was regarded as leader of a community, rather than leader of nation by nationalist segments.
- S.A. Khan was also criticised by his coreligionists (orthodox muslims) for his modernist approach.

Main concern of S.A. Khan

- To bring his community out of the state of frustration & degeneration.

There are phases in his thoughts.

1st Phase : As a nationalist

Initially he was an advocate of

Hindu-Muslim unity. He used to call

Hindus & muslims as the 'two eyes of the beautiful
bright India'

- However later on his approach changed.
He became critic of Congress, advised Muslims not to join Congress.

Reasons for change

- Controversy over language

Hindi vs Urdu

- His concern for upliftment of Muslims

- S.A. Khan as a leader of his community

Muslim community was in the state of degeneration, frustration & ignorance. One of the reason was the policies of British.

Britishers held Muslims responsible for the Revolt of 1857. Hence their policy was to promote Hindus & to marginalise Muslims.

S.A. Khan felt that so long Muslims are ignorant, lack confidence, they can't play any significant role in political sphere.

Hence the priority is upliftment.

He has written

- > Asbabe e Bagawate Hind

(Causes of revolt of 1857)

Here he has shown that Muslims were not responsible for revolt of 1857 but exploitative policies of British Raj.

- > He published a paper titled

'Loyal Mohammedans of India'

to convince British about sincerity & loyalty of Indian Muslims towards British Raj.

He was successful in his attempts.

With the help of British he could establish Muslim Anglo Oriental College in 1877.

which later on became Aligarh Muslim University.

He was criticised by orthodox muslims for his modernist outlook. He has given modernist interpretation of Islam. He established that Islam is most scientific religion. It is easiest for Muslims to adopt scientific temper. He used to say that 'every Muslim should hold Quran in one hand and the book of science in the other hand'.

Significance

- Muslim community in India today requires leaders like S.A. Khan.