

# The Muslim Communalism in India

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**Abstract:** The Muslim Culture belongs to the follower of Prophet Mohammad. The Ideology of Islam believes in one god. The followers who migrated from Makah and Medina dispersed themselves into different regions of world. That is they move to Indian sub-continent, Mongolia, Saharan Sub continent (Africa) etc. there first and only motto was to establish Islam as a major religion in the world. For this they destroyed the original cultures of the country which they inhabited. They showed that "Allah is above all." In Indian sub-continent they came from Ghazini and Mongolia. In India it was difficult for the Muslim followers to establish and was equally responsible for the upliftment of Islam in this cultured sub-continent.

**Keywords:** Allah, Prophet Mohammad, Islamic Ideology, Communalism.

## I. INTRODUCTION

India is an ancient country. It is one of the largest culturally and civilized country. For this reason only Indian economy was flourished. The name of Indian Sub-Continent was spread between Indus Valley Civilization India saw a developed Vedic era. This Vedic era was a golden age in Indian History but the rituals and custom practices led to decline this Vedic Era. This saw the beginning of Buddhism & Jainism in India. This led Indian population for some country. But decline began in these religions too due to different hard practices which were confined for these religions.

In India the first external religion which arrived was Islam [1]. The Indian were in business co-ordination with Arabs. Arab was then a non-Muslim country but in the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D. It develops into a most powerful country due to the Influent of caliphs. Caliphs were then accepted Islam as their major religion.

The Arabs fought with Indian Rajpoots and they defeated Rajpoot's. Arab established their rule in India in 712 A.D. [2] There are various evidences which proof that Muslim renaissance began in India in 9<sup>th</sup> Century [3]. The business route of Arab and India. There were three routes from west side to entrance to India:

- 1) By ocean route to west
- 2) North west Khaibar and Bolan Pass and
- 3) Makran Desert.

It took 90 years for Arab to establish their rule in India.

### *Flourish of Islam:*

The Islam in India was in an infant stage till 12<sup>th</sup> Century. After the decline of Prithvi Raj Chauhan and Delhi Empire converted to Delhi Sultanate, The infant rose to child stage. To develop itself the Islamic observer, preacher, rulers and followers followed different tactics like: Allah is the most powerful, no one can hold anything except Allah. They betrayed the follower of other religion harshly. They sow the seeds of communalism in the Indian Culture.

### *Definition:*

Communalism is an Ideology which is based on believes as Indian Society is distributed on the basis of economy, policy, religion, social and cultural aspects which are different and they are enemy of each other. Communalism is an utmost belief by which social, economy and political activities are observed and analysed. This let to political unification among different religion. The Communalism raised is based on modern politics.

Reason for Success of Communalism in India:

- India was ruled by Muslim rulers.
- They overlook all the prevailing system
- Different Taxes were imposed on other religion for pilgrimage.
- Muslims were orthodox.

The Muslims started coming to India in the beginning of eight century. The political and cultural influence was then continued to Sind. Mahmud Ghazni never thought of establishing an empire in India. This thought came with Mohammed Ghori. An Islamic kingdom was set up in India which grew to become an empire over the years. The Muslim were a ruling class for a long time. But they intermixed with the local populace and a composite culture developed over the years.

The seeds of Muslim communalism were sown in the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Shah Waliullah Dehalvi (1703 – 1762) was an orthodox Muslim leader and he started a movement for the resurgence of Islam in India because decline and downfall of the Mughal Empire had set in after the death of Aurangzeb in 1707. His movement came to be known as Wahabi Movement and his followers came to be known as Wahabis.

The Wahabis believed in the pure Islamic traditions prevalent in the life time of Prophet Mohammed and the first four Caliphs. Waliullah dreamt of Caliphs ruling the whole world. However, he kept his mission confined to the Indian subcontinent as it was not practical to implement his mission in the whole world at one go. He gave the clarion call of "Jihad" i.e. a fight against the non-believers to realize his dream. It was this mindset that persuaded him to invite Ahmed Shah Abdali, the ruler to keep away from the Hindus lest Islam would be polluted. He asked them to treat themselves as the part of a Pan Islamic world and not that of India. In the process, he also encouraged them to oppose every Indian tradition i.e. Hindu tradition. This was the beginning of the weaving away of the Muslim from the mainstream Indian society. This reversed the process of evolution of a composite culture that was taking place for same time. Waliullah wrote letters to the Muslim Nawabs to support Ahmed Shah Abdali. But Abdali returned to Afghanistan even though he was successful in the third battle of Panipat. The establishment of British rule in India was a gradual process. The English firmly established

themselves in Bengal by 1772 and gradually started defeating other native powers. Shah Abdul Aziz (1746 – 1822), the son of Waliullah, declared Jihad against the English and called India Dar-ul-Herb (a country at war).

Such an Islamic movement was also started in Bengal, known as Faridi movement, under the leadership of Shaniatullah.

Shah Abdul Aziz appointed an Arab, Syed Ahmed Bareilvi (1176 – 1831) as a military, political and spiritual leader to conduct Jihad in India – to fight against the Christians (the English) as well as the Hindus. Syed Ahmed Bareilvi made a whirlwind tour of Ruhelkhand, Doab, Awadh, Bihar and Bengal and recruited volunteers and garnered financial support for the establishment of new caliphate. By 1830 Syed Ahmed Bareilvi was successful in forming a Govt. at Peshawar and raising an army of 80,000 armed Wahabis.

The English were wise enough to direct the ire of the Wahabis against the Sikhs in Punjab by providing them every possible support. In this way, the English would get rid of their deadly energy as well as Sikhs. The Sikhs, however defeated the Wahabis in the battle of Balakot in 1831 and Syed Shah Bareilvi was killed and his army decimated.

The Wahabi movement remained active and now it was directed against the English when they took over Punjab. The British military warfare and technology was advanced, so they were successful in brutally crushing the Wahabis in Punjab and the North-West. They were also ruthlessly crushed in other parts of India, where they had spread by then and were creating trouble for the English.

It makes clear that the Wahabi Movement was the beginning of Muslim communalism in modern times. It also becomes clear that British policy of divide and rule was responsible for the growth of Muslim Communalism from the very beginning.

They systematically alienated the Muslim community in India from the Hindu Community. They supported and encouraged the Wahabis so long they were fighting the Sikhs in Punjab and the North-West. But they crushed the Wahabis when the Sikh power wanted and was liquidated after the death of Ranjit Singh. In 1897, Lord Elgin, the then Viceroy, wrote a letter to Lord Hamilton in which he elaborated the British plan never to allow the Hindus and Muslims unite in Punjab and the North-West, otherwise the British Empire in India would be under the threat.

The British policy of divide and rule was implemented with greater vengeance after the suppression of the Revolt of 1857 and India was not allowed to develop as a nation. Communal interests were promoted giving a terrible blow to the whole national fabric.

## II. CONCLUSION

From the above study we see that Islam spread in India during 7<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. Its renaissance began in 12<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. Various Islam preaches were major contributor to establish riots were seen in the country which advocated in support of Muslim communalism.

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