

## **Shah Wali-Allah and His Socio-political Role in Indian Sub-continent**

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### **Introduction**

Death of Aurangzeb Alamgir (1707) marks the beginning of the downfall and disintegration of Muslim power in sub-continent. Pernicious forces so far contained by the audacious endeavour's of Alamgir, thrived after his death. None of his successors were neither able to consolidate and retain previous glory nor to control vicious forces which bend to weaken and divide India. The lack of proper leadership left the Muslims confused and ineffective. They had no sense of purpose or direction left. Now for the first time since the establishment of Muslim rule in sub-continent, the Muslim community was facing threats on the external as well as internal front. Not only the disintegration of its political rule, challenged by external forces; such as Marathas, Jhats and Sikh uprising, but also internal decay [spiritual and moral] and disunity among conflicting factions: Sunni and Shiah, Hadith and legal scholars, ulama and Sufis, precipitated crisis. Amid this confusing and pathetic situation of Muslims in sub-continent Shah Wali-Allah of Delhi started his reformative endeavor and provided the foundation for revivalism in sub-continent. His remarkable contribution to Islamic thought catered at a crucial conjuncture, when medieval period was closing and the modern era was dawning, he served as a permanent link between medieval and modern Islamic thought.

### **Shah Wali-Allah**

Shah Wali-Allah (1703 - 1763) was born four years before the death of Aurangzeb Alamgir at Phulat in modern district of Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, not very far from Delhi. Qutb al-din Ahmad his original name, the title Wali-Allah, was given to him by his father, Shah Abd-ur-Rahim. Shah Waliullah got his early Sufi training and education from his father, who was a great scholar and accomplished Sufi; Founder of a college, the *Madrash-i-Rahimiyyah*, and was its principle. Shah Wali-Allah being a precocious child at a very early age of fifteen years completed his formal education. He

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