

ISLAMIC STUDY CIRCLE

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The Wahhabi Movement

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The Wahhabi Movement

Hadith concerning Najd

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"O Allah! Bestow your blessings on our Sham (Syria)

O Allah Bestow your blessings on our Yemen"

The people said, "And also on our Najd"

He (The Prophet PBUH) said:

"O Allah! Bestow your blessings on our Sham

O Allah Bestow your blessings on our Yemen"

The people again said "And also on our Najd"

I think the third time the Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"There (in Najd) is the place of earthquakes and afflictions (Fitnah) and from there will come out the head of Satan.

Reported by Abdullah Ibn Umar (Bukhari)

The Wahhabi Movement

Mohammed Ibn Abdul Wahhab [A]

The Founder of the Movement (1703 -1787 CE)

1. Born in 1703 at al-Uyayna in Najd
2. His grandfather Sulayman Ibn Muhammed was a Mufti (Jurist) of Najd
3. His father Abdul Wahhab was Qadhi (Religious Judge) of al-Uyayna. He was a follower of the Hanbali School of Fiqh and a Sufi and Sunni.
4. He memorised the Quran (Hifz) at the age of ten.
5. He married at the age of twelve.
6. Later on went for Hajj, visited Madinah and studied Fiqh under his father's guidance.
7. For further religious studies, he went to Madinah, where he met and studied under the aegis of Shaikh Abdullah Ibn Ibrahim (a great supporter of Ibn Taymiyya) who was to have a decisive influence on him in his future life.
8. He then travelled to Damascus, Basra, Baghdad, Isfahan, and Cairo for further studies.
9. He then settled in Huraymila (1739 CE) where he composed his first book, at-Tawhid and really began his movement and started recruiting his first disciples.
10. At this very early stage he was first of all disowned by his brother Sulayman and by his father.

The Wahhabi Movement

Mohammed Ibn Abdul Wahhab [B]

The Founder of the Movement (1703 -1787 CE)

11. He then lived in al-Uyana for four years, converted the Governor of al-Uyayna, Usman bin Muammar, to his ideas urging him to destroy some sacred tombs. Consequently, the tomb of Zayd bin Khattab (the brother of Hazrat Umar Farooq) was demolished by both of them in a nearby city, Jubayla.
12. At the same time he extended his preaching to the ruler of Dar'iyya (near Riyadh), Muhammad Ibn Saud, where he arrived in 1744 CE. An alliance of mutual loyalty, recognising Ibn Abdul Wahhab as the religious and ideological head with Ibn Saud as political and military chief, was sealed between them under oath.
13. After this historic pact, Ibn Abdul Wahhab married the daughter of Ibn Saud.
14. This marked the beginning of a military expansion, which proceeded rapidly under the leadership of Abdul Aziz, son of Muhammed Ibn Saud, and marked the beginning of the Wahabi State.
15. Until his death in 1787 CE he continued his activities in the religious as well as political field.
16. He taught at the Mosque in Dar'iyya, wrote books and sent out letters/messengers to win his cause, gathering new supporters in the Najd and neighbouring areas.

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Mohammed Ibn Abdul Wahhab

His Books

Kitab al-Tawhid His main work, often reprinted, sets out his teachings in the line of the strictest Wahhabi doctrine. A selection of the books is taught in Saudi Arabian schools

Kashf al-Shubuhah Condemns Muslims as Mushrikun (polytheists) who do not practise his teachings

He wrote two more books, which are no longer in circulation.

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Thoughts and Beliefs [A]

1. He used to call the Prophet Muhammed (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) a Tarish, which means postman.
2. He disliked the reading of Darood Sharif. He prohibited its reading on Friday nights. Once he ordered the execution of a Mu'azzin who used to read Darood Sharif after Azan.
3. He used to say that the sin of reading Darood Sharif loudly on the minarets of Mosques is greater than the sin of playing music in a prostitute's home.
4. He ordered the burning of books like Dalail al-Khayrat (collection of Darood Sharif) and many other books of the Tafsir, Hadith, and Fiqh, that did not help him in the propagation of Wahhabism.
5. He ordered the execution of many Muslims, including scholars and sufis, who did not accept his thoughts.
6. He stopped people from making Dua after Salah (Prayer) and used to say it was like asking for payment after worshipping Allah Almighty
7. He stopped people going to Madinah for the Ziyarah of the tomb of the Prophet (peace be upon him). Some people who did so were punished by the shaving of their beards on his orders.

References:

1. Al-Sawaiq al-Elahiyya by Shaikh Suleman Ibn Abdul Wahhab d.1789 CE
2. Radd-ul-Muhtar by Allama Ibn Abideen Shami d. 1831 CE
3. Khulasat-ul-Kalam by Shaikh Ahmed Ibn Zaini Dahlan Makki d. 1883 CE

The Wahhabi Movement

Thoughts and Beliefs [B]

8. He considered Tawassul (mediation) and Shafa'ah (intercession) as Kufr.
9. He declared that saying "Syedana" or "Moulana" to anyone is also Kufr.
10. His followers, in his presence, used to say that their walking sticks were better than the Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) because those sticks may help them but the Prophet had died and could not help anyone. Ibn Abdul Wahhab used to condone such remarks happily
11. He believed that for the previous 600 years all Muslims had become Kafir/Mushrik. Whosoever killed such Muslims would go to Paradise.
12. At the time of Bay'ah (the oath of allegiance) he used to ask people to testify that:
 - a) In his previous life he was a Mushrik.
 - b) If he had already performed Hajj he would reperform it.
 - c) His parents died as Mushrik.
 - d) The well-known Muslim Ulama of the past were also Mushrik.If someone refused to declare these things, Ibn Abdul Wahhab executed them.
13. He was deadly against Sufism

References:

1. Al-Sawaiq al-Elahiyya by Shaikh Suleman Ibn Abdul Wahhab d. 1789 CE
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The Wahhabi Movement

The Opinion of Ulama of Deoband

1. Muhammed Ibn Abdul Wahhab was a foolish and poorly educated person. He used to swiftly brand Muslims as Kafirs.
(Moulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri, Former Shaikh-ul-Hadith, Darul Uloom, Deoband, Ref: Faiz-ul-Bari)
2. Muhammed Ibn Abdul Wahhab Najdi did hold false views and absurd beliefs. He killed Sunni Muslims and considered this act of as rewardful. He was a tyrant, rebel, cruel and a transgressor.
(Moulana Husain Ahmed Madani, Former President of Darul Uloom Deoband, Ref: al-Shahab al-Saqib)
3. Muhammed Ibn Abdul Wahhab was a Khariji.
(Khalil Ahmed Anbethwi and Ashraf Ali Thanwi, Ref: al-Tasdiqat)

The Wahhabi Movement

The Saudi/Wahhabi Dynasty

Muhammed bin Saud

{Period of Reign, 1735 -1765 CE} Ruler of Najd (Riyadh) (died 1765 CE)

{1814-1818 CE} **Abdullah** (died 1818 CE)

{1820 -1834 CE} **Turki** (died 1834 CE)

{1834-1838 CE & 1843 -1865 CE} **Faisal** (died 1865 CE)

{1865 -1871 CE} &
{1874 - 1884 CE} &
{1886 - 1888 CE}

{1865 -1871 CE} &
{1874 - 1884 CE} &
{1886 - 1888 CE} **Abdullah** (died 1888 CE)

{1888 - 1891 CE} **Abdul Rahman** (lost power sought
asylum in Kuwait)

{1902 - 1953 CE} **Abdul Aziz** (died 1953 CE)

born 1888 CE Recaptured Riyadh, Founder of the present day Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

{1953-1964 CE} **Saud**
Born 1902
Dethroned 1964
Died 1969

{1964-1975 CE} **Faisal**
Born 1904
Assassinated 1975

{1975-1982} **Khalid**
Born 1912
Died 1982

{1982 CE -} **Fahd**
Born 1921

39 Other Sons
24 of whom still
survive

The Wahhabi Movement

Creation of Saudi Arabia

(Population 18,426,000 [1996])

- 1902 King Abdul Aziz recaptured Najd, making Riyadh his Head Quarters. He was helped by the Emir of Kuwait.
- 1913 He captured Al-Hasa from the Turks.
- 26/12/1915 A pact between Abdul Aziz (commonly known as Ibn Saud) and the British Government. Britain agreed to recognise Ibn Saud and later on his descendants as rulers of Najd. In return Ibn Saud accepted that Britain control the foreign affairs of his country. Defence and financial aid from Britain also began for Ibn Saud.
- 24/8/1924 Ibn Saud attacked Taif and conquered the region after a bloody war.
- 30/10/1924 Makkah came under Saudi control after a brutal encounter.
- 5/12/1925 After 10 months siege Madinah also fell to Saudi forces.
- 23/12/1925 Jeddah also captured by Saudi forces
- 24/9/1934 Ibn Saud named his country as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 1938 Oil was discovered, Standard Oil of California was granted contract for oil exploration.
- 1944 Era of close ties with USA began.
- 1945 Production of oil began
- 1950 Saudi Arabia became the leading oil producing country and the modern era of prosperity began

The Wahhabi Movement

Characteristic Features of Wahhabis

1. A sect dominant in Saudi Arabia and Qatar
2. At the beginning of the 19th Century it gained a foothold in India and Africa
3. The Wahhabis are often said to belong to the "Hanbali School of Law", but they are Ghayr Muqallidin (non-adherents)
4. They brand all who disagree with them as heretics and apostates, thereby justifying the declaration of Holy War (Jihad) against other Muslims.
5. The Creed of Wahabism is supposedly based upon Tawhid (the assertion of Divine Oneness) but does not comply with the usual meaning of this term in Islamic Law.
6. They are alarmingly pre-occupied with the term Bid'ah and do not distinguish between objectionable and non-objectionable innovations.
7. They vigorously deny the concept of Sufism (Tariqah) and reject the idea of Saints including the visiting of Prophets'/Saints' tombs
8. To call upon Prophets/Saints for aid or protection is nothing less than Shirk (Polytheism) in Wahhabism.
9. They also reject all notions of holiness or sacredness of objects or places as detracting from the exclusive holiness of God and as infringing upon Divine Unity.
10. Compared to traditional Islam the Wahhabi view is extremely "dry" and tends to reduce religion to a set of rules.