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Reforms in Iran:

Weakness of the state, the Ulama and the increasing importance of the Ulama in Iran, Tobacco concession= best example to show the growing influence of Ulama.

Nasir al-din Shah: serious attempts to reform, some of them did not materialize, most importantly: the educational reforms, schools Dar al Funun (1851), Military Reforms (The Cossack Brigade: 1879, built with the help of the Russian armies, Russian trained and staffed by Russian officers)

-The Economic reforms were a total failure, there was no protection of the economy, kept giving concessions to European investors, best example= Tobacco concession which Shah gave British company to give exclusive right to produce, sell, export all of Iran's Tobacco crop and consequently Iranians were angry at this concession and rose in protest against this

-The Tobacco Protest (1891), The Shi'i Ulama led these protests, they were close to the merchants and the merchants interested were damaged by this concession and they issued a Fatwa (legal opinion) that states that tobacco concession was a violation of the laws of Islam and consequently the use of Tobacco is unlawful, illegal until the concession is cancelled, people stopped smoking/ buying tobacco from concessionary companies. The Shah cancelled Tobacco concession in 1892. Significance of this protest: demonstrates the growing influence of the Ulama in the political field. Most of them were involved in only social and cultural issues

The Reaction/ Response of Islamic Societies to Western Hegemony

-Britain invaded and occupied Egypt

-France Algeria and

-Shah of Iran giving concessions

Wether Muslim Ummah

2 replies: Islam was not flawed, the problem was that we are replacing Sharia law with secularism (Western constitutions)

-Islamic practices had decayed

1) level of the state: Reaction of Abdul Hamid II the Sultan

-Anti-Western beliefs

-he suspended the constitution (1876), put the Ottoman gov'n under his direct control, circled himself with the Ulama, and declared himself the muslim Caliph (spiritual and religious leader)

-adopted ne ideology called: Pan Islam (unity of all Muslims)

-new shift to Pan-Islam he built the Hijaz railway to connect Damscus to Mecca, opened in 1908 as a symbol of Pan islamism and financed by Muslims who donated money to the project, move from Ottomanism to Pan-Islam, alternative model for unity

- censored the press, discussion of politics forbidden, spies infiltrated all levels of society
- many Ottoman intellectuals put in jail, schools and universities were also under control, but students continued to write political pamphlets and those who were exiled continued to write and smuggled them back in
- higher education institutions became the major locations of discontent
- Hamid ordered army to suppress Armenian revolt, suppression of other nationalist movements: Crete, and ...

2) Islamic Reform Movements:

- a) Wahhabi, b) The Mahdiyya movement and c)

Wahhabi movement: founded by Muhammad Ibn Abdul-Wahhab and Muhammad Ibn Sa'ud. Sa'ud was a prince and he was the governor, movement swept all of Arabia. Military and political power, Wahhabism opposed decadent practices such as visiting the tomb of prophet Muhammad against mysticism, magic, witchcraft, all of which deviated from the true tradition of the prophet, emphasized the oneness of God and Sufis deserved to be killed. Even Muhammad you should not worship, only God. They insisted that the Quran and the Hadith as the only sources to understand the divine will, no interpretations and no ijtihad (interpretation of the Quran according to one's reason), they believe in strict interpretation of the Quran.

-For those who do not accept Wahhabi ideas are considered polytheists and this is a sin, and they deserve to be killed. They opposed revolts and asserted obedience to God.

-The central river in Iraq: Tigris, mainly Shi'i area was under constant attack and threat from the Wahhabis, Wahhabis killed and stoned the Shis and their shrines

-in 1802 they attack Karbala (major Shi'i city in Iraq) and looted the Hussein shrine and took the Shites of... Mushrikin of Shirk (polytheism) they legalized looting their properties and killings.

In 1803 they conquered Mecca and destroyed the gravestones and tombs of the early companions and wives of the prophets, only the gravestone of the prophet was not touched, they confiscated jewelry and ornaments, they banned all water pipes (shisha), entertainment toys were abandoned, no smoking, they eliminated any addition to the standard praying (ex Sufi dance is not allowed, when celebrating birth of Muhammad). Movement in Egypt today the Mosque movement, the way we celebrate Ramadan is not legal because it is like a Muslim Christmas.

-1819 Ottoman Egyptian army achieved victory over Wahhabi warriors, executed Sa'ud, Egyptian army destroyed town of Dar'iyah the birthplace of Wahhabism

-Wahhabism re-emerged in 1923 and became the ideology of Saudi Arabia

3) The reaction of the 'Ulama: Reconciling Islam and Western Traditions'

-Al-Afghani and Abduh

-Afghani believed that the common danger and values social and cultural values that all Muslims shared should outweigh the sectarian differences among Muslims (Shi'ism and Sunni'ism)

-believed that political factions and interests of the monarchies should not be allowed to stand in the way of unity. Muslim leaders should cooperate in the service of Islam.

-Aim of Pan-Islam: to revive the glory of Islamic civilization by restoring the unity of the Ummah (Islamic community), according Afghani first called on Persians and Afghan's (Sunni'ites) to unite. He constructed a plan: the Persians would recognize the Ottoman sultan as Caliph, Second: the sultan would recognize the Shah as independent and give up to him the Shi'ite holy cities in Iraq (province was an ottoman province at the time). The general conference of Islamic leaders would be held in constantinople to decide questions of common concern and to declare jihad against Western Aggression.

-For Hamid Pan Islam was an excellent strategy to reinforce the loyalty to the empire, the outcome: nothing, the plan failed, this partly explains the strategies

The Era of the Young Turks and the Iranian Constitutional Revolution (The Rise of Nationalism)

The Young Turk movement (The committee of Union and Progress, CUP)

-France acknowledged British occupation of Egypt, British acknowledged Fr in Tunisia and Algeria

-Ottomans made ties with Germans

Composed of 3 groups:

1) Exiled Young Ottomans

2) Dissatisfied Civil Servants and students of military and medical schools

3) Alienated army officers

-Called for return of the constitution,

The opposition to the Shah (on webct slide...)

The Prominent leaders of young Turk movement:

From Ottomanism to Turkism:

-Demographic changes:

had tremendous impact because those who came wanted Turkey to emerge as a nation only for the turks, Ottomanism stopped to be an appealing concept instead pan-Turkism, called for formation of own nation-state, the reaction of the arab subjects of the empire:

The CUP and Arab Provinces:

-Turkification, replacement of all arab employees in government with Turks, teaching Turkish language, consequently

-Arabism: was an outcry against the politics of the CUP, it spread among Arab notables, who were removed from their positions, it meant a desire for arab cultural identity to be recognized could be expressed through literary clubs, reforms and secret societies, recognition of Arabic as official language

-Arabism

-CUP tried to appease the Arabists by appointing some Arabs to government positions

