

Muslim Intellectuals' Response to the European Cultural Colonization in Muslim Lands

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The present-day Islamic resurgence among many other things that it expects of Muslims before they could resume their role as the best of the communities and dazzle the world with the vigour of their spirituality and their intellectual capabilities they must emancipate themselves from the slavish emulation of the West. The earlier Muslims had no model to follow. They created their own model through creative efforts under the guidance of the Qur'anic principles of human conduct.

Another trend that highlights Muslim intellectualism near the end of the twentieth century is a dramatic departure from the apologetic attitude that characterised the writings of Muslim intellectuals at the beginning of the century. On numerous critical issues when they were challenged by non-Muslim critics, they were very often defensive, and sought excuses for cultural and civilizational elements which were not in consonance with the prevalent spirit of rationality and scientific inquiry. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Syed Ameer Ali, S. Khuda Baksh in South Asia, and the rest of the leading intellectuals of the Aligarh School of Thought, were scholars of great calibre, but they were different in acknowledging that the Islamic precepts which were being condemned were rudimentary right, and actually and rationally superior to those of other civilizations. Today's Muslims intellectuals and writers on the

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