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PAK522 Assignment 1 Solution

Fall 2026

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PAK522: Pakistan Studies

Assignment No. 1 — Fall 2026 | Total Marks: 10

Name: VU Learning Hub

Question

Did the Aligarh Movement produce Muslim separatism or Muslim modernisation?

Answer

After the War of 1857 the Muslims of India lost power and wealth. They also fell behind in modern education. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan started the Aligarh Movement to change this state. Its goal was progress through learning. In my opinion the movement gave the Muslims modernisation. It never asked for a separate country.

In 1864 Sir Syed set up the Scientific Society. The society turned English books into Urdu. In this way new science reached Muslim homes. He also opened schools for Muslim boys.

In 1875 he opened the Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College at Aligarh. The college taught English and new subjects along with Islamic studies. Its students gained the knowledge needed for public service. In time the college grew into Aligarh Muslim University.

Sir Syed also brought out the journal Tehzeeb ul Akhlaq. The journal asked Muslims to give up old habits and take up new ways. It pressed for schooling and social change. Its words shaped the mind of a whole generation.

After 1857 Sir Syed advised Muslims to learn English and seek posts in the government. He asked them to live in peace with the British and avoid a fight. This was the wise course after a failed rising. It kept the community safe from more harm.

The movement never called for a Muslim state of its own. Sir Syed worked inside British rule. He stayed out of the Congress because he thought Muslim rights would be lost in it. His care was for rights and safety, not for parting from India.

It is true that a separate Muslim sense grew in time. The men of Aligarh later set up the Muslim League in 1906. But that step came after Sir Syed had died. The movement gave learning first. Its political fruit came later from other hands.

So the Aligarh Movement gave the Muslims modernisation. It gave them schools, science and a new outlook. It did not give them separatism. Separatism grew later from other events.