

GURU NANAK CHANGED THE SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS FACE OF INDIA

ABSTRACT

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Guru Nanak ushered a massive change in the spiritual, social, economic and political life of people of Punjab starting from second half of 15th century. He presented a “holistic approach” to life by stressing that to lead a normal lifestyle it is important to recognize that daily living cannot be sub-divided into water tight compartments thereby keeping religious life apart from socio-economic and political matters. His ideas were revolutionary and they helped to reshape the Indian landscape and pushed the society towards modernity. He challenged traditional beliefs which were thousands of years old and called upon his followers to re-educate themselves so that they can enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from the caste system. He motivated people to get out from under the priestly rule. He made people realize the value of equality, justice and freedom for leading a wholesome and fulfilling life. His teachings were universal in scope and espoused fair treatment and love for all humanity. Guru Nanak transformed the social and, religious face of India forever.