

KARL MARX:-

Date: 12/8/23

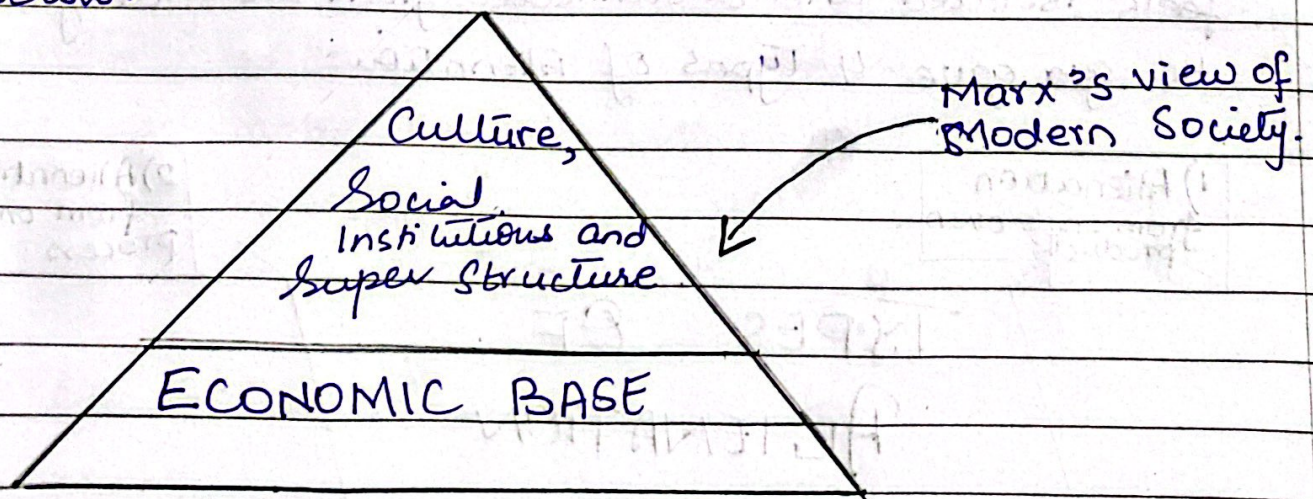
Q Evaluate Karl Marx's contribution to the concept of alienation. Discuss different types of Alienation given by him ... (20) - 2019.

Karl Marx's ideology:

Karl Marx's ideology, linked to the disadvantages of Capitalism. The way a social change would be seen through conflict between the classes especially the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

How an economic character of a society shapes it?

According to Karl Marx, the economic character forms the base of its society. The cultural and social institutions of the society rests upon it as well as the super structure as demonstrated below:

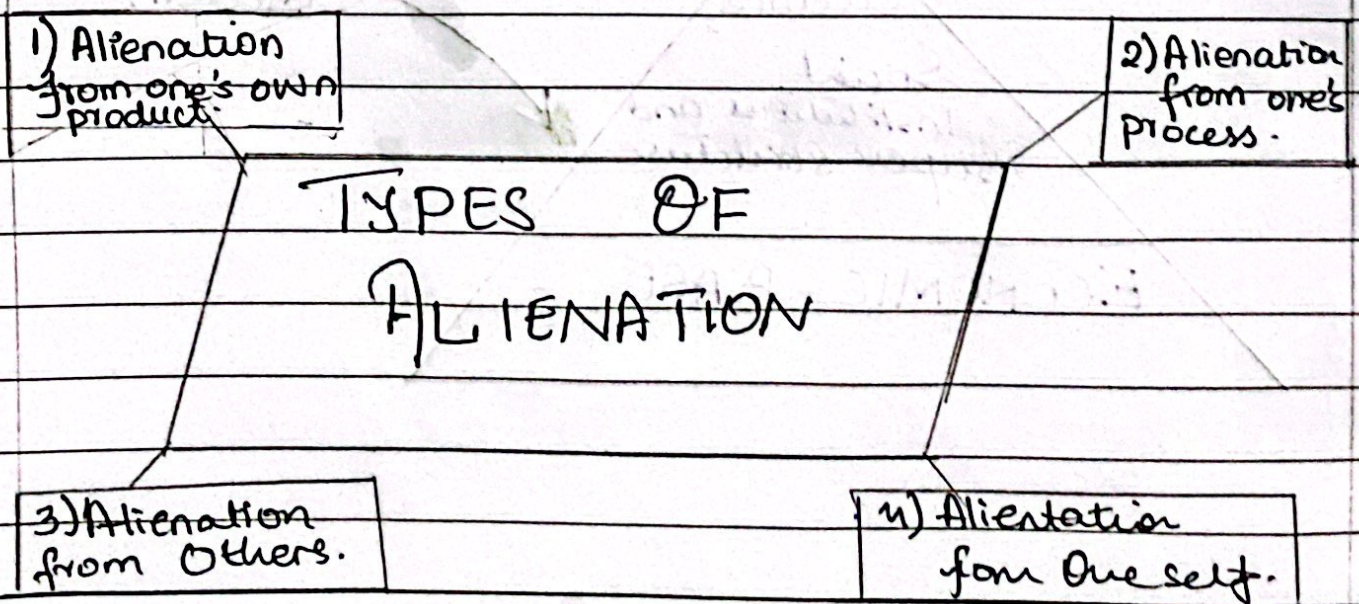


The Class-conflict:

Marx believed, the primary mode of social change would be possible through class-conflicts. He saw the conflict existing between bourgeoisie and proletariats. Eventually, one class dominating another. He proposed the concept of Alienation. And the four types of Alienation in a Modern, classist society.

ALIENATION:

The concept of Alienation by Karl Marx in his writings, particularly in "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" and later works like "Capital". It is the condition basically, in the capitalist society. When the individual feels isolated and disconnected from the society. He gave 4 types of Alienation.



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1) Alienation from One's labour of own products

In a capitalist society, the worker could not relate to the product, he is working on. The product is the commodity being prepared to be sold out to customers. For e.g.: The worker in a Ford company could spend their entire life on fixing the windows of the car without ever seeing the whole - complete product i.e. car in this case. Same goes for every industry in a capitalist society.

2) Alienation from the process of production

A worker cannot alterate the conditions where he/she is working. The working class has no right to make any changes in the process of the product. For e.g.: A worker cannot add a new ingredient to the french fries / any product in a food chain or any restaurant. They are not obliged to do so as they do not get to decide and the production is in the hands of the owner.

3) Alienation - from the others:

The employees in a company in the modern society are competitive or are in a competition with each other than co-operation. This feeling gives birth to alienation from one another.

e.g: compete to get more bonus, promotion or any other type leading to hostility.

4) ALIENATION FROM ONE-SELF:

The person who is working cannot relate to his/her profession. Rather than taking a pride in the occupation he/she is involved in they work or log in as a machine. They just work to get paid by fulfilling their duty. The element of job-loving or passion is highly missing in the modern societies work culture.

E.g: Watchman, automobile's engineer and others.

The above mentioned were the types of alienation evaluated by Karl Marx by thoroughly studying the society and the class-difference. On the basis of alienation, he also further elaborated two theories:

Theory of False-Consciousness:

He established, the working class gives birth to the false-consciousness. The concept that sets the groundwork that people make the beliefs, ideals and ideologies that are not best for their personal interest. or is not in their own interest. The competitive vs the cooperation

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and emphasizing more on competition over co-operation or hard-work pays its own rewards. These are more advantageous to the owners than the working class. Karl Marx suggested the False-Consciousness needs to be replaced by Class-Consciousness.

CLASS-CONSCIOUSNESS:

Karl Marx, to eliminate the disparity between the classes advised this should rather be the criteria for the working class. It is the phenomenon an individual is aware with his/her rank in the society. He mentioned, the class-consciousness could be the advocate for social change. He also suggested the proletariats to join together and form unity against the bourgeoisie. He deeply believed the class conflict is the main and primary medium for social change.

Evaluation on his contribution:

However, the extensive explanation by Karl Marx on Alienation of the workers, in the process of production and all the phases of labour. His observation is relevant even today in the modern society.

1) Separation from labor:

The truth is always bitter. The modern industries,

hire individuals and they contribute to a small, specialized part of a larger production process, leading to a sense of disconnection from the final outcome of their work.

2) Devaluation of Labor

The commodification of labor, where it is treated as a mere commodity to be bought and sold, has deep, hidden implications for how workers perceive their own value. Resulting in powerless and reduced job satisfaction.

3) Lack of Autonomy

The repetitive and monotonous nature of some jobs can make individuals feel like cogs in a machine, stripped of their autonomy and creativity. This raises questions about the role of fulfilling and meaningful work in human lives.

4) Impact on Identity

Marx's emphasis on how work is tied to human identity brings up conversations about self-worth and personal fulfillment. The way people are pigeonholed into specified roles can impact how they see themselves.

- 5) Social Isolation: The idea that capitalist systems foster competition rather than cooperation raises important considerations about the quality of social interactions in modern society. Alienation can lead to weakened community ties and hinder a sense of shared identity.
- 6) Relevance to Gig Economy: In the gig economy and freelance work, the transient and often unstable nature of employment aligns with Marx's concern about the precariousness of labor in capitalist systems.

Conclusion:

However, the Marx's concepts prompts to critically assess the societal structures that shape our lives. His criticism calls for a reevaluation of the importance of meaningful work in societies. The more a today's society can learn from Marx's ideology is no doubt he gave a conceptual and contemplated the structure of the society really well. But, the idea that he proposed for the alienation leading to the conflict is true to some extent. Further his conflict leading to the social change as the dominance and the proletariat and the bourgeoisie.

eventually forming a classless society and in his perspective would be the ideal one. This concept is utopian. The history of mankind has never witnessed a classless society. Society needs hierarchy to function. The assessment and self-awareness is necessary for better living and co-existing. This would also instill in the person to strive for meaningful work.

Durkheim and Ibn-e-Khaldoon ^{Date: 11/8/2023}

Q. Compare Ibn-e-Khaldoon's *Asbabiyah* and Durkheim's social solidarity on the basis of consonance and dissonance in the major premises of their theories. (2022) (20).

Historical backgrounds:

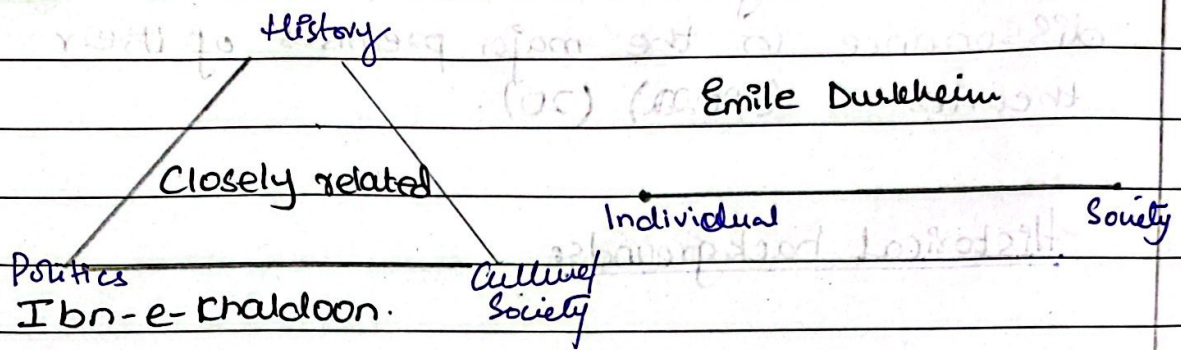
Ibn-e-Khaldoon:

The renowned Islamic sociologist born in Tunis in 1332. He talked extensively about the cultural lives of people and the changes in the cultures of the society. He used logic as scientific method to study those changes. He established there is a strong close relationship between the history, politics and the social events. His work mainly highlights his insights on the social solidarity and evolution of societies and civilizations.

Emile Durkheim:

The French sociologist born in 1858. He is known as one of the founders of modern sociology. His work laid the groundwork for understanding the structure and dynamics of societies. He played crucial role in establishing sociology as a modern and academic discipline. Durkheim's holistic approach to sociology stressed the

Interplay between individual behavior and social structures:



1) The Basis of Consonance

2) Ibn-e-Khaldoon's Work → Assabiya:

Assabiya means 'Social Solidarity'. It is the unifying force that brings people together. Khaldoon stressed on the emotions of similarity that people share and form groups leading to societies and civilizations. He expressed without Assabiya i.e. social solidarity, no groups/tribes or civilizations would have existed. He also evidently mentioned it ensures governance. According to him, people come together join hands, minds and resources and become a unified group. He recognized the importance of religion in strengthening Assabiya and termed it as 'source of cohesion'. He strongly believed an individual could not survive without a society or in isolation. He named the concept of solidarity as 'Umm-ul-Imran'.

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"He was the founder of a new science by universal standards ... that of culture history and the philosophy of history in general." - Franz Rosenthal on Chaldun.

Durkheim's Work → Social Solidarity

Durkheim studied the society "stressed on the necessary interconnectivity of all of its elements". Durkheim believed, society is the greater sum of all of its parts. Durkheim emphasized on the social solidarity and the shared culture, ideas and moral values that shaped the society and were important in forming the bonds. The linkages in a social group play key role in holding the groups together. He relates the working of society to the working of a human being's body. He emphasizes the importance of religion and also the importance of solidarity in a society.

Peter Berger quotes on Durkheim :-

Simply, Durkheim is universally recognized as one of the founders of the scientific approach to the social sciences and for his distinctive contribution to the study of religion.

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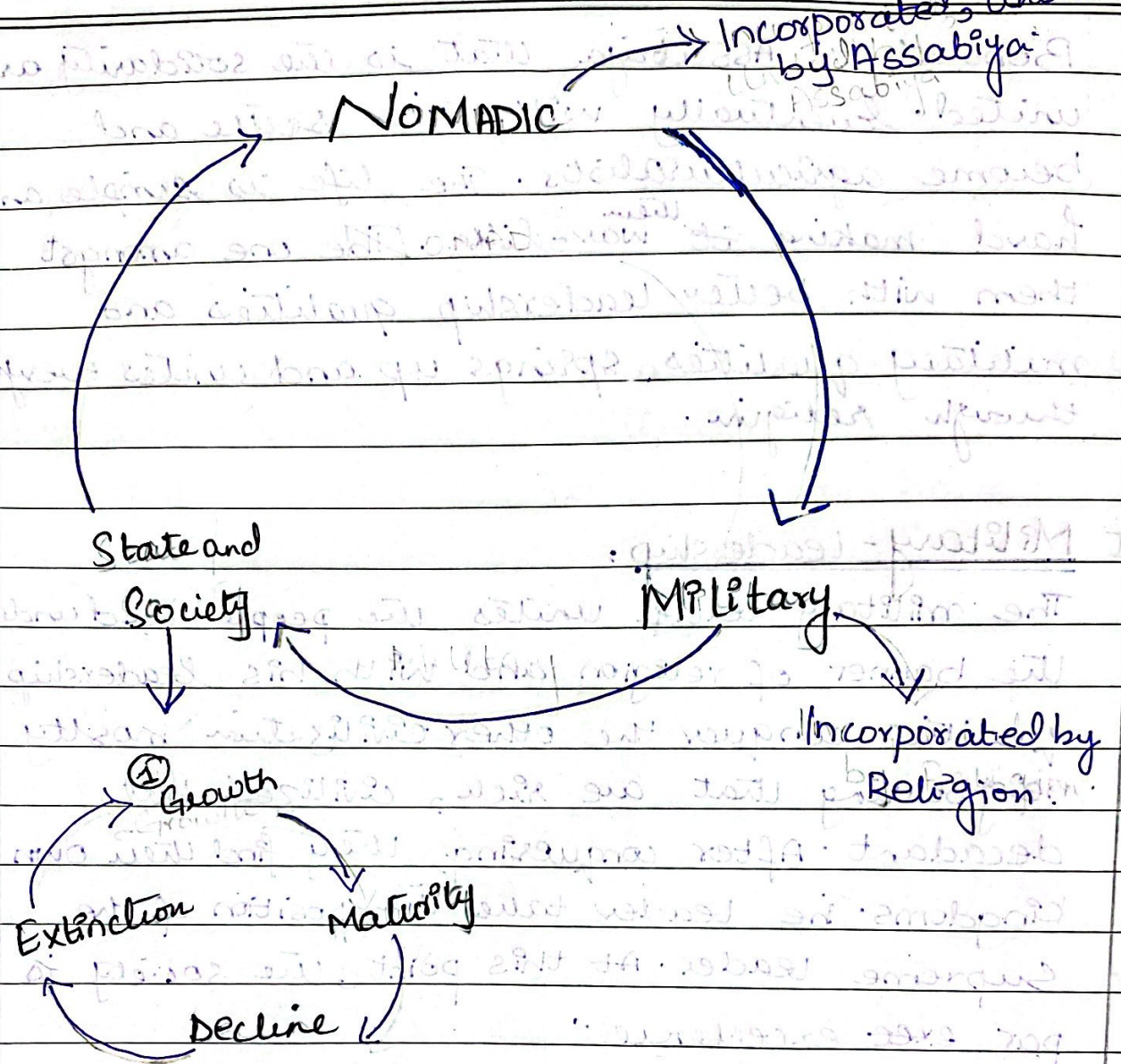
However, they both even after years of gap studied on the similar systems. Durkheim's functionalism and Ibn-e-Khaldoon's model base were different in many aspects too. Their vision to contemplate varied. They gave different angles by using the same methods. These key differences are mentioned below:

The Basis of Dissonance:

i) Forms of Unity:

a. Khaldoon's Assabiya:

Khaldoon, related the society to the life of human being. The phases the human being goes through likewise according to Khaldoon every civilization goes through the following stages and the key factors of Assabiya, religion incorporate, along the way for as a source of cohesion. Khaldoon, also represented the cycle of history in his work and masterpiece "Muqaddimah". Mainly representing the civilizations, societies and cultural life of people.



According to Khaldun → every civilization goes through these processes and he believed it takes 100 years to complete the cycle for every civilization.

I) Nomadic:

Khaldun, named it as the initial phase and the people live in deserts and have meagre resources.

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Bonded by Assabiya that is the solidarity are united. Eventually with time settle and become agriculturalists. The life is simple and hard making it ^{them} war-like. The one amongst them with better leadership qualities and military qualities springs up and unites everyone through religion.

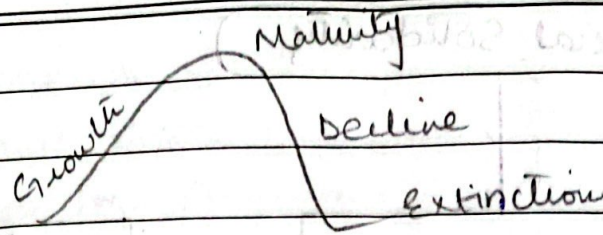
II Military Leadership:

The military leader unites the people and under the banner of religion and with his leadership qualities conquer the other civilization mostly neighbouring that are rich, civilized but decadent. After conquering, they find their own kingdoms. The leader takes the position of the Supreme leader. At this point, the society is par excellence.

III. STATE and Society.

In the next stage of the state and society. The society goes through the following cycle like human body according to Khaldun:

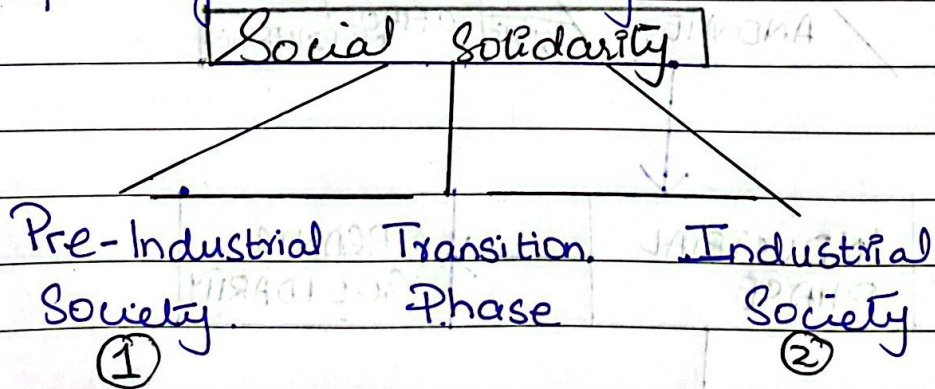
Growth → Maturity → Decline → Extinction



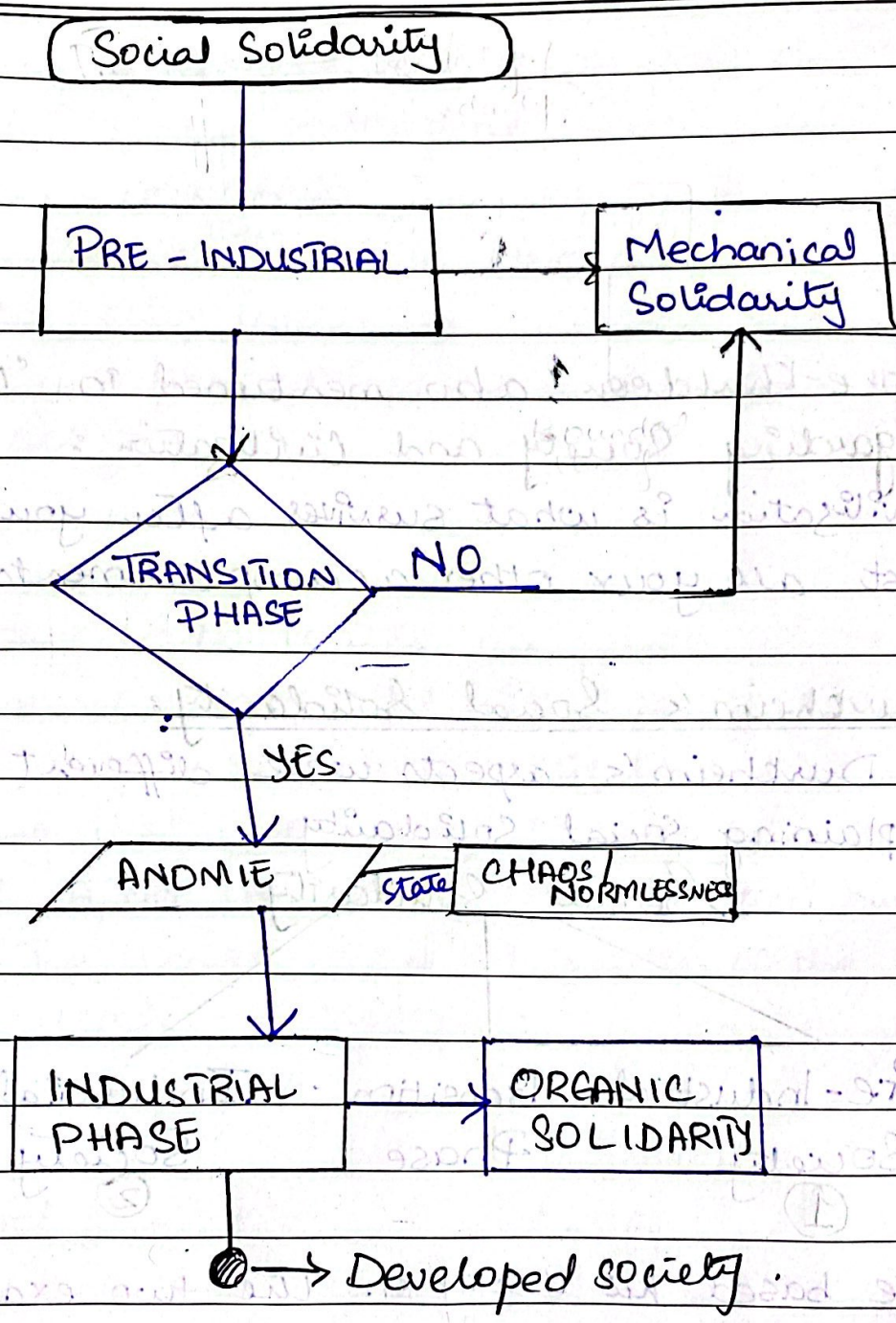
Ibn-e-Khaldoon also mentioned in 'Muqaddimah' regarding Society and Civilization:
 "Civilization is what survives after you have lost all your other accomplishments".

b. Durkheim's Social Solidarity:

Durkheim's aspects were different when explaining Social Solidarity.



He based his theory on the two eras and difference between the solidarity or form of unity in these two and the phase the society went through the transition period.



Durkheim, explained in the pre-industrial era the ties were close due to cultural shared bonds, ideas, values and norms. He termed it as Collective Conscience. He was concerned when the cultural glue of society began to

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fail. The people were becoming more divided. Pre-industrial times were bonded by Mechanical Solidarity, a form of integration that kept people bound by cultural values, shared beliefs, moral attitudes. The transition from Mechanical to Organic solidarity is termed as 'Normlessness' or Anomie. The No rule of law. The society breaks and the collective conscience fails till the society reaches the Industrial Era and adopt a new way of solidarity or cohesion which is 'Organic Solidarity'. It is the form of social integration where the society is divided by division of labour and reliance or interconnectivity is by reliance on the special services they have to offer. According to Durkheim the changed form of solidarity is advantageous as it allows different cultures to co-exist.

For Durkheim, the society is like Human Body. The op. He supported this by the idea of division of labor. As every human organ is important to function to keep the human being alive similarly society's each part as an organ. He believed, the individual behavior can not be same as collective behaviour. The collective society is far greater than the sum of its parts.

ii) Ideology of Suicide:

:- Ibn-e-Khaldoon's Importance of Society:

Ibn-e-Khaldoon, did mention an individual would not be able to survive without a society but did not present its views on ideology of suicide. He did mention isolation but not the reason for suicide.

:- Durkheim's Ideology on Suicide:

Whereas Durkheim studied and presented his views on the factors related to suicide.

In his famous work *Suicide* (1897/1879), Durkheim believed a Protestant is more vulnerable

than a Catholic as he has no religious values to give him hope. A person living in urban

area is more likely to commit as he is in isolation or lonely or integrated to an

extent that he becomes self-less for the society. All proposed the types of suicides and

are more seen during the time of Normlessness or chaos.

These were the key highlights compared Durkheim's and Khaldoon's work and ideology paved the ways for future sociologists.