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Write a detailed note on the concept of Asabiya as given by Ibn-Khaldun. What is its significance in the progress and decline of nation? (2018)

I Introduction:

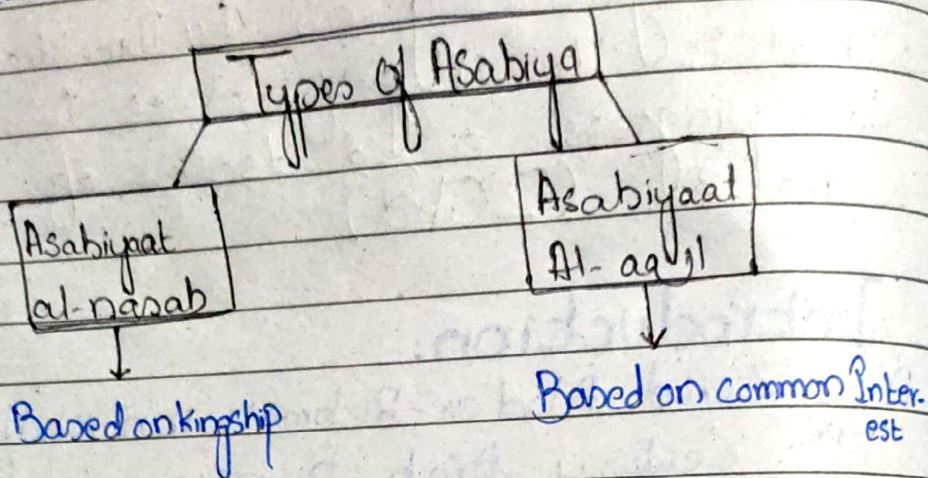
Abu Zaid Abdur-Rehman ibn Khaldun, 14th century Arab historian and scholar, introduced the concept of "Asabiya" in his famous work *al-Muqaddimah*. He emphasized the importance of Asabiya or social cohesion from the rise and fall of dynasties. This concept plays a crucial role in offering insights into the dynamics of societal development.

II Concept of Asabiya

Asabiya is a social bond that unites people into a group. It is often translated as "group feeling" or "solidarity". It is a strong relation of groups based on two things i.e. "Kinship and Religion". It provides a sense of responsibility, identity and belonging, promotes cooperation and coordination and helps to protect the group from

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external threats.



III 5 Stages in the Development of society and state

I The Upward cycle (Period of Establishment)

A state begins to rise when a group of people with strong asabiya conquer a territory. The new ruler use their Asabiya to unify the conquered people and build a strong state. Strong Asabiya in primitive people ruled at the center. Ruler build necessary institution for conquest and expansion. Establishment of state.

Stage 1:

"Asabiya is strong"
At the beginning, a society experience a high level of Asabiya, characterized by strong social cohesion and a collective consciousness. In this stage the

Ruler is a good chief who accommodates the wishes of subject

Stage 2:

This is the stage of monopolations. The society expands and conquers new territories and achieve success. Ruler has concentration of power and is in absolute kingship.

Stage 3:

This stage is called climax of civilization. At that time rulers were creative. They were there were more revenues and low taxes king were spending on the beautification of citizen cities and comfort of ruling class. It was period of "Rest and Self Indulgence" in which men enjoying leisure and luxurious life.

2

(The Downward Cycle)

Stage 4:

This is the ^{stage of} "weakening of social cohesion". The weakening of ~~aba~~ asabiya result in a loss of social cohesion and a decline in the sense of collective identity. It was the start of internal divisions and conflicts.

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Stage 5:

Complete decline of civilization. Asabiya completely declines, the ruler has lost the loyalty from his kin there were more taxes and less revenues. The society becomes vulnerable to external threat and internal strife.

IV Significance in Nation's Progress:

Asabiya is a key concept in Ibn Khaldun's theory of state development.

i Collaboration and Innovation:

Asabiya plays a pivotal role in fostering collaboration and innovations within a society. A cohesive group is more likely to work together, share resources and collectively address challenges driving economic and technological advancement.

ii Trust and Cooperation:

Asabiya's strength cultivates trust and cooperation among individuals. This trust is essential for smooth functioning of institutions, promoting social stability and facilitating the development of political and economic structures.

iii

Cultural and Intellectual flourishing
Societies with a strong sense of asabiya are more likely to experience cultural and intellectual flourishing. The shared values and identity contribute to a vibrant cultural environment, encouraging artistic expression and exchange of ideas.

IV Challenges to Asabiya:

i- Complacency and Decline:
Khalidun observed that success can lead to complacency, causing a decline in asabiya. Societies that become too comfortable may neglect the factors that initially contributed to their cohesion, setting the stage for decline.

ii- Complexity in Advanced Stages:
As society progresses, they often become more complex and the original asabiya may weaken. The challenges lie in maintaining a sense of unity and identity in the face of increasing diversity and complexity.

iii

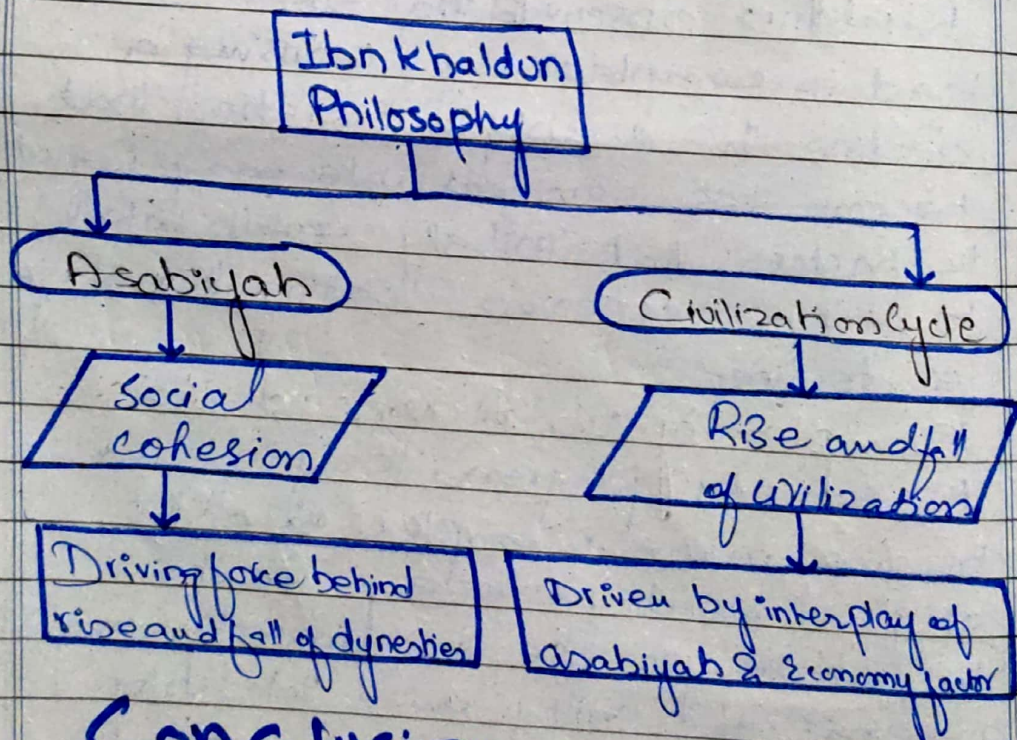
Wealth and luxury:
Accumulation of wealth and luxury can contribute to a weakening of asabiya. Individuals prioritize

personal interest over collective good, leading to divisions within society.

iv- External Threats:

External threats, such as invasion or conflicts with other societies can challenge and strain *asabiya*. The need for defense may shift focus from internal unity to external defense, potentially causing internal strife.

VI Flow Chart



VII Conclusion:

In conclusion, Ibn Khaldun's concept of *asabiya* provides a profound understanding of the dynamics of societal development. The significance of *asabiya* in the progress of

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a nation lies in its role as a driving force for collaboration, innovation. However societies must navigate challenges of complacency and complexity to sustain ~~and~~ the true sense of asabiya.

Describe Al-Mawardi's theory of Imamate. (2016)

I Introduction

Abu'l Hassan Ali Ibn Mohammed Al-Mawardi was the first political thinker in history of Islam. He wrote his famous book "Al-Akhidas-Sultaniya" or the principle of government to defend the Caliphate (Imamat) and to restore the authority of Abbasid Caliphate to its original position.

Bagley says that: "Al-Mawardi's book is the greatest theoretical exposition of Islamic Constitutional Law."

II Theory of Imamate:

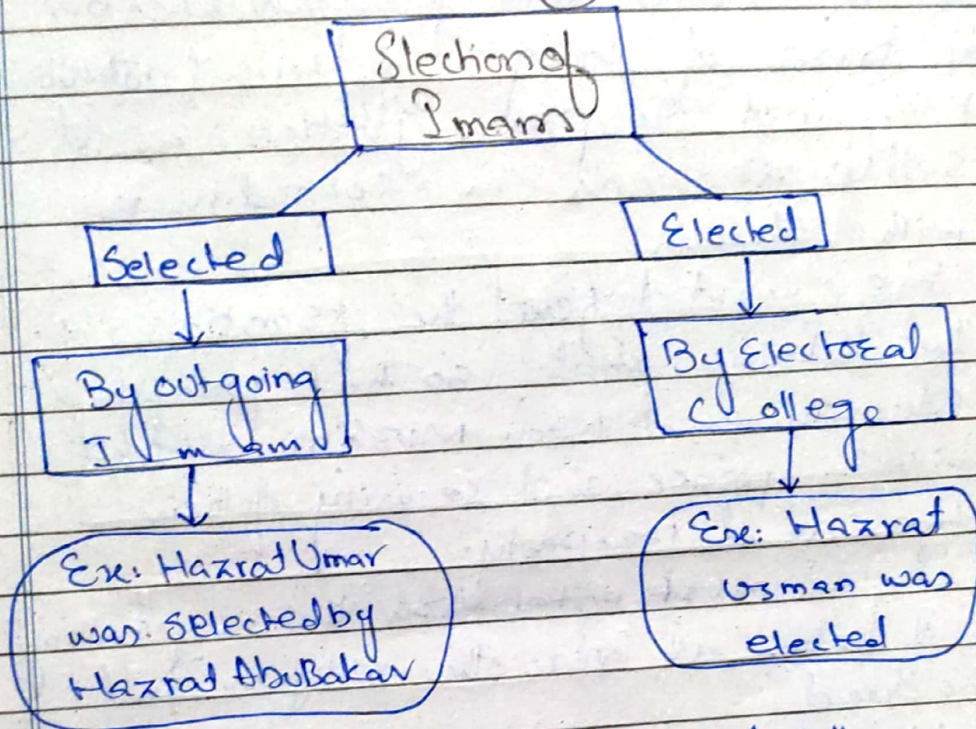
- i- Principle of Imamate:
 - a- Sovereignty belongs to Allah who has laid down laws so that justice truth and goodness may be widely known.
 - b- Authority is vested in Khalifs as successor of Holy Prophet
 - c- The duty of Khalifs (Imam) is to enforce the Shariah.

Mawardi defines Imamate as the institution replacing prophecy in the defence of faith and the administration of the world. It

§95 demanded by shariat not by reasons."

ii

Selection of Imam



a. Qualification of Electoral college

- i- Justice
- ii- Wisdom
- iii- Knowledge of Religion

b. Qualification of Imam that will be Selected or Elected:

- i- He uphold justice under all condition
- ii- He has knowledge of Religion and the interest of Policy of Muslim community at heart.
- iii- He Possess all physical senses.
- iv- He should be brave and wise.
- v- He must be from Quraish.
- vi- Capable of waging jihad against infidel

iii

Powers and functions of Imam:

- a. His first duty is to uphold the Islamic religion and shariah as understood and propounded on the basis of concepts of ancient authorities
- b. He must dispense justice and settle all cases in accordance with sharia.
- c. He must defend the frontiers of the Islamic state so that people, Muslim and non Muslim might live in peace and security of their lives and property.
- d. Imam must establish the supremacy of Islam all over other religion and creed.
- e. He must maintain law and order in country
- f. It is his duty to collect zakat and kharaj through shariah
- g. He should pay allowance and stipend from Bait ul-Mal to those who are entitled to them.
- h. He should impose criminal court of Quran
- i. He can impose taxes and generate revenues
- j. He can declare religious war.
- k. Keep himself informed of all affairs of his state

iv Duties of People

If Imam follow all his duties then:

- a. People must obey him.
- b. They should render him help in defence and security of state.

v The Deposition of Imam

- If there is a change in his moral status known as "Azale" in Islamic fiqh or jurisprudence then he can not be continued.
- He can also be removed if he possess any kind of body defects.

Modern Legacy:

Iran:

Iran Governance known as "Islamic Republic". The Supreme leader who is religious figure hold significant political power and is responsible for ensuring that legislation and policies align with Islamic law.

flow chart

Imamate is concept that between Imam and the people



The Imam is supreme ruler of Muslim community



Imam must be jurist and capable leader



Imam's ^{duties} include : Just, leading prayer, jibad against enemies of Islam



Imam can be removed from office if found to be unjust.

Conclusion:

Al-Mawardi's theory of Imamate provides a nuanced understanding of leadership in an Islamic state, offering balanced perspective of ~~balanced~~ various ways a leader may emerge. Through the use of election, selection. It underscore the legitimacy, of consultation and qualification of leader.

“The ruler is the shadow of God on earth”