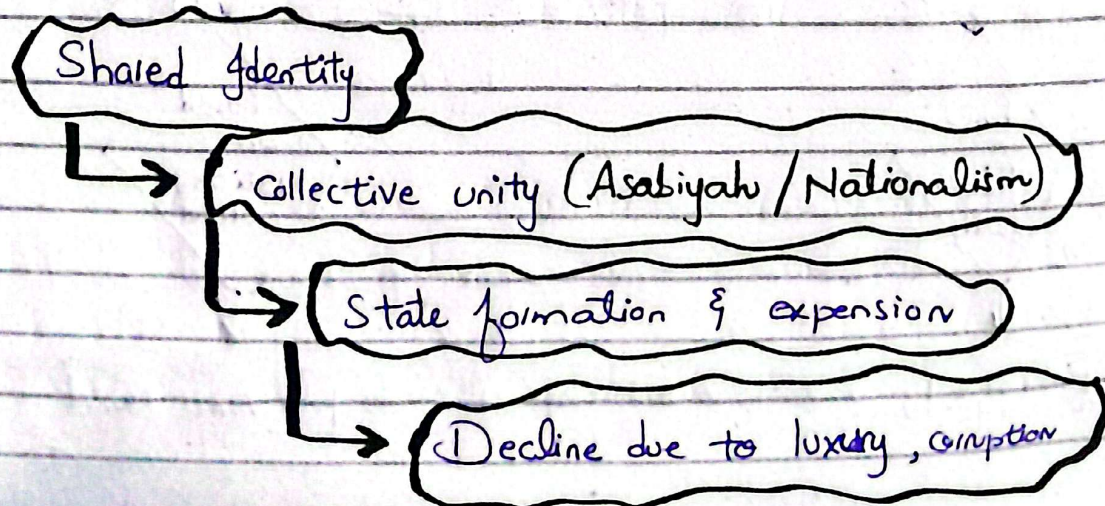


How far Ibn-Khaldun's Concept of Asabiyyah is comparable to modern Nationalism.

Ibn-Khaldun presented the concept of Asabiyyah to explain how unity and group feeling create political power and social order. According to him, no state can survive without strong unity among its people. In modern age, Nationalism plays the similar role by ~~united~~ uniting people on the basis of shared identity, culture and morals (religion). Although Asabiyyah belongs to tribal societies and Nationalism belongs to modern Nation-states, both ideas serve the same purpose of building unity, strengthening authority and maintain stability. Therefore, modern nationalism can be seen as a developed and organized form of Asabiyyah.

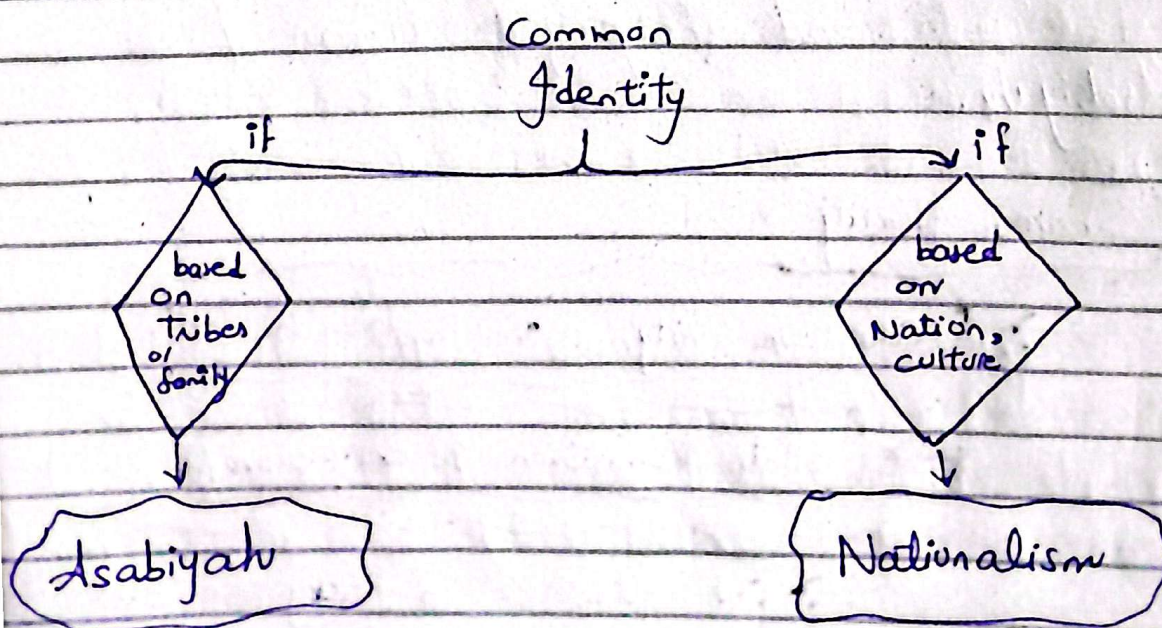


NATIONALISM AS ORGANIZED FORM OF ASABIYAH

Here are some arguments that will prove that Nationalism is nothing but an organized and modern form of Asabiyah.

Based on Shared Identity :

Asabiyah refers to the group solidarity and unity based on tribe, families or religion where as nationalism is also based on unity keeping nation, culture and homeland. Both bring people together through common identity. Eg, Arab tribes united through islam.



Source of Political Power :

Ibn Khaldun believed that political power comes from group support rather than force alone. A ruler can only govern if the people are loyal through strong Asabiyyah. Similarly modern nationalism strengthens the government to gain legitimacy, as the citizen accept the power because they feel connected to the authority.

Role in State formation :

Asabiyyah plays an important role in the formation of state. The tribes with strong unity were able to conquer territories and establish dynasties. In the same way, nationalism plays role in modern nation-state system.

*The unity of ~~Germany~~ Germany & Italy in 19th century and the creation of Pakistan in 20th century are examples of how collective unity leads to state formation.

Thus both asabiyyah & nationalism explain how political system come into existence.

Political Stability & Social Order :

Ibn Khaldun argued that when group feeling is strong, internal conflicts remain limited. Modern Nationalism also creates political stability by promoting loyalty, discipline and obedience to the state.

Countries with strong unity and national bonding tends to be more political stable than the one having weak social & national bonding. So the unity remains essential for social order in both pre-modern & post-modern societies.

Spirit of Sacrifice & Loyalty :

In Asabiyyah people act together in war, governance and daily life. Cooperation became possible because individuals trust and support one another. Modern Nationalism also encourages collective action by uniting citizens around national goals such as development, security & progress. During national crisis people often work together regardless of personal differences.

Spirit of Sacrifice & Loyalty :

Asabiyyah encourages people to sacrifice their lives and wealth for the survival of their group. The same spirit

can be seen in nationalism, where citizens are willing to defend their country in times of war.



In both cases, emotional attachment to the group motivate individuals to act beyond personal interests for the collective good.

Decline Due to Luxury & Corruption:

Asabiyyah weakens when rulers and societies become obsessed with luxury, comfort and selfish interests. This leads to corruption, instability and moral decline, which eventually destroys unity. The same process can be observed in modern states where Nationalism weakens due to corruption, inequality and injustice. When citizens lose interest in nationalism, the decline started.

Raise & Fall of State:

Ibn Khaldun explains the rise and fall of Asabiyyah that the stronger the Asabiyyah the stronger the state will be while weaker Asabiyyah represents the fall of state.

This theory still valid today. Many contemporary states have collapsed or weakened due to internal division and weak nationalism.

This similarity shows that the principles behind Asabiyyah still help us understand the success & failure of modern states.

Resistance against Foreign Rule :

Asabiyyah enable tribes to resist foreign enemies and protect their independence. In modern world, nationalism played a crucial role in anti-colonial movements, where people united to end foreign domination. Both serve as tool of resistance & freedom.

Emphasis on Common Good :

Both Asabiyyah and nationalism place public interest above personal benefits. In Modern World this can be seen when people pay taxes, obey laws or serve the state greater good.

Nationalism as Modern Asabiyyah :

Nationalism is more inclusive and based upon citizenship rather than bloodline, tribe or family. People from different background can be the

part of same nation. so, Modern nationalism can be understood as Asabiyyah transformed into an organized and institutional form. The main purpose remains same: to unite people and strengthen political authority.

FINAL REMARKS

Ibn Khaldun concept of Asabiyyah is highly comparable to the modern nationalism. The purpose of both remain same: to unite people, work for public welfare, ~~is~~ ready to sacrifice for tribe or state, gain political stability and achieve social order. The main difference between Asabiyyah and nationalism is only one, that is asabiyyah is exclusive in nature as it is only limited to the tribe and family which nationalism is inclusive, it unite the people on the basis of nation and citizenship. Nationalism can therefore be seen as a modern extension of Asabiyyah, proving that Ibn-Khaldun's idea highly relevant for understanding modern political system.