

Question:

Discuss the upward and downward development of state, rulers and ruled in socio-political thoughts of Ibn Khaldoon.

Ibn Khaldoon was a famous muslim political thinker. He is best known for his book AL-Mugaddimah, in which he explained how society and state rise, grow and finally fall. He believe that every state, like a human being, passes through stages of birth, growth & maturity and decline. His concept of Asabiyyah explained the development and collapse of states. Asabiyyah means social unity or group solidarity. According to him, when people are united and disciplined, they build a strong state, but when they become selfish, corrupt and lazy their state starts to decline. Both the ruler and common people played an important role in rise and fall. His analysis remains a timeless lesson that no empire can endure without justice, discipline and unity.

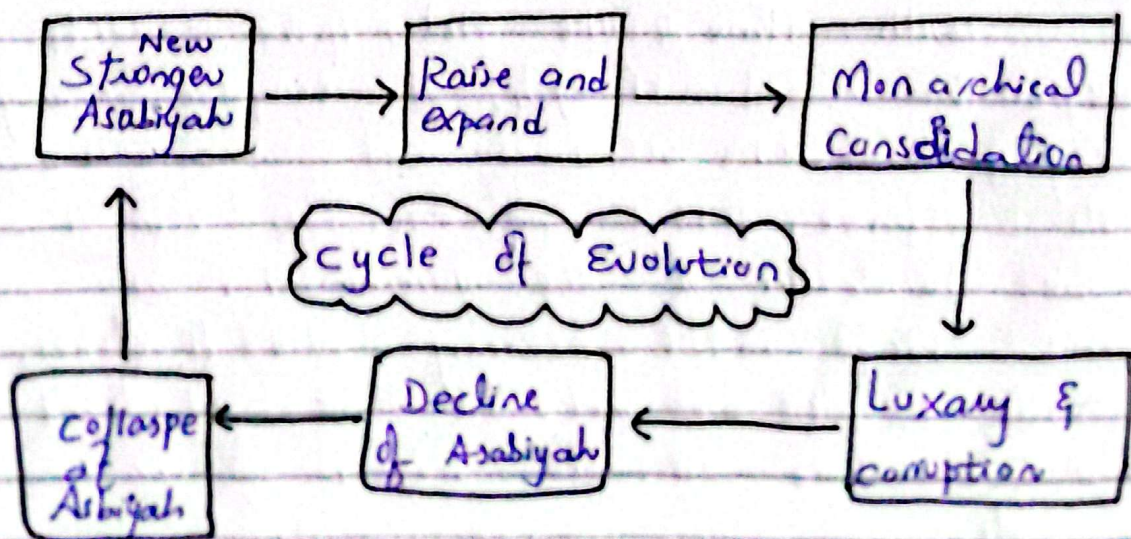
ASABIYYAH AS FOUNDATION OF STATE

He believed that state is both a political and moral institution. It rises from necessity but survive through justice. As human beings are social

by nature and to survive they must need a cooperation, leading first to family, then tribe and finally states. However this contribution is not more physical but moral, it depends on the strength of social solidarity or Asabiyyah.

Asabiyyah refers to the bond of people — means spirit, loyalty and unity among people.

In early tribe stages, Asabiyyah is strongest because people face common hardship, they protect and depend on each other. The group with strong asabiyyah conquer others, and establishes a state. As a generation passes by and luxury become common and moral discipline disappears. The weakening of Asabiyyah indicates the beginning of decline.



UPWARD DEVELOPMENT

(i) State

Birth of State through Asabiyyah :-

The birth of state begins with strong Asabiyyah, which is social unity and group feeling among people.

He explains that tribes or simple societies are bound together by blood relation & shared goals. The unity give them courage to fight.

Growth of Institutions :-

After its birth, the state experiences growth of institutions. During this stage, rulers build administrative systems, armies and legal structures to maintain order & justice.

Expansion and Strength :-

With time, the state moves towards expansion and strength. It conquers nearby regions, collects revenues and strengthens its defense. Justice and equality remain the foundation of the government. In this stage the economy also flourishes, because people are motivated to work hard and contribute to the progress of the state.

(ii) Ruler

Leadership through Courage :

Ruler also play the most important role. At the start the leader is usually a brave and courageous person who leads his people through personal example and loyalty.

Guardian of Religion :

As the state strengthens, the ruler becomes the guardian of religion. He says religion gives morality, guidance and strengthens. Religion serves as the moral backbone of society and brings unity among people.

Builder of Institutions :

The third stage is when the ruler becomes a builder of institutions. He establishes courts, tax systems and education. These institutions help maintain order and justice.

(iii) The Ruled

Social Unity :

People are the backbone of any civilisation. The ruled cooperate with one another and stand united with their leader.

Economic Contribution :

People make major Economic Contribution. Hardwork, honesty and cooperation leads to prosperity. Farmers and traders perform their duties well and the wealth of state increased.

Obedience and Morality :

The ruled show ~~affed~~ obedience and morality. They respect their leaders and follow laws. Justice is implemented equally and people live in peace.

DOWNWARD DEVELOPMENT

(i) State

Weak institutions :

According to Ibn Khaldun every state that reaches to the glory and height of power begins to move downward when Asbiyah ~~weakens~~ weakens. Institutions become weak and people start working for personal benefits.

Fiscal Exploitation :

To maintain luxury and wars, the state increases taxes and slows down the trade. People begin to lose trust on state. State works in benefit of elites.

Corruption and luxury :

The state becomes corrupt and depends on luxury. Rulers and nobels live in comfort but poor suffer. The state's rule and law are made in the interest of rulers.

(ii) Rulers

Autocracy & Tyranny :

The one brave and just ruler turn into tyrannical and autocratic ruler. He no longer rule for welfare of people but maintain his personal power. This is the first step towards the collapse of a state.

Neglection of Religion :

The rulers forget their duties as a guardian and protector of religion, faith and justice. The bond between rulers, politics and state breaks and society further decay.

Dependence on others :

The rulers become dependent on others. He loses confidence and relies on other people in state like advisers or (wazir) ministers and the authority becomes weak.

(iii) Ruled

Loss of Unity :

The people lose the unity, instead of supporting the state, they unite for selfish interests or against government. Tribal and group rivalries replace national unity.

Disobedience & Rebellion :

As injustice and taxes rise, people lose trust in their rulers. They start disobeying orders, hiding taxes and revolting. Law and order collapse and chaos will be there.

Decline in Morality :

People become materialistic, dishonest and selfish. They no longer care for religion, state and national interest. When morality disappears the social fabric breaks apart and finally the civilization falls.

FINAL REMARKS

Ibn Khaldun highlights that state, rulers and ruled development is a natural cycle of rise and fall. Their upward movement is based on courage, justice, solidarity while their downfall is caused by luxury, oppression and disunity. His philosophy is timeless, echoing in the fall of dynasties from albasids to the mughals.