

Ibn I Khaldun while acknowledging the external factors, emphasizes more on the internal systemic factors as decisive for the decline of states. Elaborate

Exordium

Ibn I Khaldun examined the rise and decline of civilization. He acknowledged the external factors and internal factors as decisive for decline of a state. He highlighted that internal factors are more responsible for the decline of a state than the external factors. By considering this phenomenon, he gave the concept of 'Asabiyah'. He discussed these internal factors under the shade of asabiyah. For him the unity and solidarity can ruin a state more than any external battles. He gave a cycle by which any state passes during its life. It consists of 120 years time period and took 4-5 generations. He explained five steps through which internal factors can lead to the decline.

of a state. Here is the detailed explanation of those five steps.

1. 'Asabiyah' - Rise and victory of a new civilization

Ibn Khaldun emphasized that there is must a civilization which is taking last breath of its life. Either that civilization will end by itself or a group from mountains will come to show its decline. That new group will establish a new civilization. They will have strong asabiyah (social cohesion). Asabiyah is strong on two basis, first is religion and second is kinship. The strong asabiyah will be the reason of their rise. All the required services like defence and bureaucracy will be provided for free. There will be no king in new civilization but a leader who will work and perform his duties with suggestion of others. All the laws must be applicable on him and on others.

equally.

Exempli gratia, In subcontinent all the previous civilizations were about to end and they lost solidarity.

When the Arabs and Turks invaded this area. They had strong *arabiyah* on basis of religion Islam. They came from north and started a new civilization.

2. 'Istila' - consolidation of power

This is the second stage which lead to decline. 'Istila' is manipulation of other leaders. Ibn Khaldun mentioned that after few time the descendant of that lead will arrive.

It will treat himself as king instead of leader. He exploited his power and erode the strong *arabiyah*. He will only interested in consolidation of power. He gradually with manipulation defeat other leaders who is against him. He will turn into a king. All the services which were

provided to be leader for free, for those services now available on wages (pays). History is evident that for crown brother killed his brother. In subcontinents, king even killed his brothers and sons so that they can not get crown.

3. 'Tafakkur' - Peak of prosperity

'Tafakkur' is another internal factor which can lead to a civilization to its end. This is third stage towards decline of a state. This stage surrounds around 'luxury'. The taxes are collected as in Islam 2.5% taxes. These are implemented on everything so, in long run it turns into huge sum. At ^{this} stage, kings are indulge in anti-political activities just to enjoy luxury. They build gardens, palaces etc.

From sub-continent the most inspiring example of this is **(Akbar)** as

separated from basis of Islam and majority disliked him for this. So, one pillar of asabiyah had fallen because they had asabiyah on basis of Islam. He was a true spend-thrift and enjoyed his luxury. Another example is, Raza Shah Pehvi and his most famous party which costed \$ 635 m\$. People were starving and he hosted a party where food brought from abroad for guests. He enjoyed his luxury and not focused on the state.

4. Inhilal - Decline of Asabiyah

The forth stage is ~~last~~ loss of asabiyah. The civilization is moving to its expository action after climax of luxury. They will implement more taxes but no revenge will generate in return. The state will face economic issues and pains of defense and bureaucracy would be pending. At this stage the ruler will be

useless. The peace and economic stability brought by ancestors will turn them lazy and careless.

Exempli gratia, Bahadur Shah Zafar from subcontinent faced his decline just like this way.

The history of USA is full of powerful and devoted leaders but now they are just enjoying the 'World Order' established by their forefathers. Lastly, Raza Shah Pehlvi also faced its decline and end of 'pehlvi dynasty' after the white revolution.

5. 'Inhidam' — Fall and rise of new civilization

Ibnul Khaldun mention this a cycle of 120 years and at this stage the civilization will end.

There can be two ways by which the civilization with no asabiyah ended. Firstly, it can be ended by itself just like Gandahara civilization. Secondly, a new force

with strong arabiyah will come and replace this declining civilization.

Exempli gratia, in sub-continent this new civilization came from sea route in form of **East India Company**. It ended the last breath taking civilization of Bahadur Shah zufar. A civilization begins from here.

Also, when Raza Shah Pehlwi left for treatment in 1979. The Pehlwi dynasty ended and **khomeni** emerged and started a new civilization on arabiyah of 'Shia school of thought'.

new civilization
with
struggles

Asabiyyah

120 years

Inhibition

Istidla

cycle of
rise and
fall

Inhibition

Tafakkur

Denouement

Criticism on his philosophy?
Relevance of this theory today?

Ibn Khaldun's rise and fall of civilization by the concept of asabiyyah is explained in above detail. All these dynasties and civilizations are giving proof to Ibn Khaldun's philosophy. The fall of Mughals dynasty and

Delhi dynasty showed that internal systemic factors are of vital importance. These internal factors are the basis of solidarity. If a civilization lose this, it will face its decline. Meanwhile, if a nation has strong *arabiyah* then they can collectively remove all the external factors. Hence, Ibn Khaldun was right that internal systemic factors are the catalyst for the decline of a state.