

## **Ibn Khaldun Tunis 1332-Cairo 1406**

Terms:

`umran culture, civilisation  
`ilm al-`umran knowledge of culture, social science  
wazi` restrainer  
mulk dominion, kingship, domination  
dawla dynasty, state

badawa primitive society, wilderness life, bedouin ways;  
differentiated, partly by `asabiyya= group feeling, from  
hadara citied life, civilised society  
Compare: Emile Durkheim on mechanical and organic solidarity;  
Ferdinand Toennies on Gemeinschaft (community) & Gesellschaft  
(association)

the circle of power: Justice depends upon religion, religion on the  
state, the state on the army, the army on taxation, taxation on  
prosperity, prosperity on justice...

Ibn Khaldun's contributions:

1. history wave-like.
2. goal of badawa is statehood.
3. admires primitive more than civilised.
4. throws light on a range of historical data in tribal and Islamic societies which modern western sociology sidelines, or accomodates only as an afterthought (eg Weber on Islam).
5. functional view of religion as a means of maintaining social order (also in Durkheim).
6. prudential, managerial view of socio-political values (see also Machiavelli).
7. effect of ruler's behaviour on political culture.

and recent events? 1. effects of modern technology.  
2. Tribalism still exists.  
3. role of `asabiyya in terrorist movements.  
4. the radical diversity of human societies.  
5. Rational maximisation may be universal but it can be achieved by radically different structures.

Reading: Ibn Khaldun: the Muqaddimah, an Introduction to history, trans. Franz Rosenthal, 3 vols (Princeton UP 1967); abridged by N.J.Dawood (Routledge & KP, 1967).  
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*Ibn Khaldun: the Muqaddimah, an Introduction to History*, ed Quatremere, 3 vols (Paris, 1858); trans. Franz Rosenthal, 3 vols, rev edn (Princeton: Princeton University Press,1967); abridged by N.J.Dawood (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1967)--all references are to this abridged translation unless otherwise stated.

*The Book of Government of Nizam al-Mulk*, Trans.H.Darke, 2nd edn (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul,1978) (c. 1092; authorship disputed).