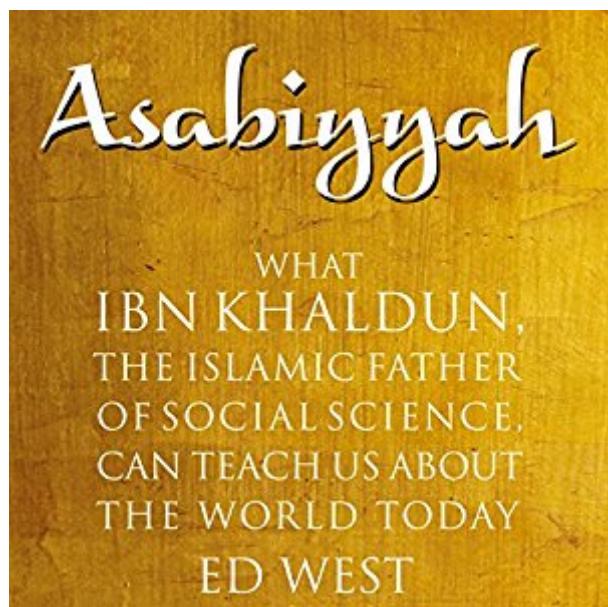


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Asabiyyah: What Ibn Khaldun, The Islamic Father Of Social Science, Can Teach Us About The World Today



Synopsis

A quarter of a century after the end of Communism swept away the ideological conflict of the "short 20th century", a new world is once again taking shape, this time in the Middle East. But what does the crisis in the region, and its refugee exodus into Europe, signify for the future of the world? And why has the noble dream of nation-building failed? Focusing mainly on religion, ideology or economics, most analysis ignored one crucial factor: asabiyyah, or group feeling, something outlined six and a half centuries ago by a largely ignored Arab historian called Ibn Khaldun. Ibn Khaldun is largely overlooked in the west, yet, on top of his claim to being one of the greatest historians of all time, can rightfully be viewed as the father of social science and sociology. His book, *The Muqaddimah*, dealt with a range of subjects from science to economics to the rise and fall of empires, which he attributed to "the asabiyyah cycle" - the evolution of societies from barbarism to civilization to decadence, which he attributed to the strength of "group feeling". Even today asabiyyah is an essential component of human society and development, and is the key to understanding why some states fail and others succeed, why democracy works sometimes but often not, and why the nation-state will remain the foundation of human society. Whatever happens from now on, the outcome of the 21st century will be dependent on asabiyyah, which remains the fundamental reality of human existence.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A concise historical treatise utilizing the optics of sociology. Enlightens why Mid East mores and

customs conflict with the structural requirements of a democratic state. Arcane language and oftentimes cumbersome narrative make for a clunky read. Even so, diligence will result in unique insights to an age less vexation.

Great book. I recommend it to people interested in studying history. It has a timeless message that many will enjoy.

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