ibn khaldun prolegomena

ibn khaldun prolegomena stands as one of the most influential works in the history of social sciences and historiography. Written in the late 14th century, this monumental introduction to Ibn Khaldun's larger work, the "Kitab al-Ibar", revolutionized the way scholars approached history, sociology, and economics. Throughout this article, readers will discover the rich context in which the Prolegomena was written, its core concepts, its historical significance, and its enduring legacy in both the Islamic world and beyond. The discussion will delve into Ibn Khaldun's unique methodology, his theories on society and civilization, and why his ideas continue to resonate in modern intellectual discourse. Whether you are a student, researcher, or simply curious about the evolution of the social sciences, this comprehensive guide will illuminate the lasting relevance of the "ibn khaldun prolegomena".

- Historical Context of Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena
- Main Themes and Concepts in the Prolegomena
- Ibn Khaldun's Methodology and Approach
- Impact on Social Sciences and Historiography
- Legacy and Modern Relevance
- Key Takeaways from Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena

Historical Context of Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena

The "ibn khaldun prolegomena" was written in 1377 during a period of remarkable intellectual activity in the Islamic world. Ibn Khaldun, born in Tunis in 1332, was a statesman, scholar, and philosopher who lived through periods of political upheaval in North Africa. His experiences in government, education, and diplomacy provided unique insights that shaped his worldview and scholarly approaches. The Prolegomena, also known as the "Muqaddimah," served as an introduction to his comprehensive history book, "Kitab al-Ibar," but soon gained recognition as a standalone masterpiece.

During the 14th century, the Islamic world was experiencing significant changes. The Mongol invasions, the decline of the Abbasid Caliphate, and shifting dynasties all contributed to an environment ripe for intellectual reflection on society, history, and civilization. Ibn Khaldun's work emerged as a response to the need for systematic analysis of historical events, moving beyond mere chronicles to uncover deeper patterns and causes.

Main Themes and Concepts in the Prolegomena

The "ibn khaldun prolegomena" encompasses a range of themes that have shaped modern social sciences and historiography. Ibn Khaldun's exploration of society, the rise and fall of civilizations, and human behavior is underpinned by his analytical approach to historical sources and events.

Asabiyyah: Social Cohesion and Group Solidarity

A central concept in the Prolegomena is "asabiyyah," or social cohesion. Ibn Khaldun argued that the strength and unity of social groups—tribes, dynasties, or nations—determine their ability to build and sustain civilizations. He explained how asabiyyah starts strong among nomadic groups and eventually weakens as societies become more urbanized and comfortable, leading to their decline.

Cycles of Civilization

Ibn Khaldun identified cyclical patterns in history, where societies grow, flourish, and eventually decline. He analyzed the factors that contribute to a civilization's rise, such as strong leadership, economic prosperity, and robust social bonds, as well as the causes of decline, including corruption, luxury, and diminishing group solidarity. His cyclical theory remains influential in modern discussions of historical development.

Critical Approach to Historiography

The Prolegomena set new standards for historical methodology. Ibn Khaldun stressed the importance of verifying sources, examining the motives behind historical narratives, and considering the broader social context. He criticized previous historians for their lack of rigor and introduced a scientific approach to the study of history.

Ibn Khaldun's Methodology and Approach

Ibn Khaldun's methodology in the Prolegomena is considered groundbreaking for its time. He advocated for a rational, analytical, and interdisciplinary approach, combining insights from sociology, economics, politics, and geography.

Empirical Observation and Rational Analysis

Rather than relying solely on religious or legendary accounts, Ibn Khaldun emphasized the importance of direct observation and empirical evidence. He encouraged scholars to question traditional narratives and seek logical explanations for historical phenomena.

Interdisciplinary Framework

The Prolegomena integrates elements from various fields:

- Sociology: Study of group dynamics and social structures.
- Economics: Analysis of production, distribution, and wealth.
- Geography: Impact of environment on societal development.
- Political Science: Examination of governance, authority, and power transitions.

By synthesizing these disciplines, Ibn Khaldun laid the foundation for modern social sciences.

Impact on Social Sciences and Historiography

The influence of "ibn khaldun prolegomena" on social sciences and historiography cannot be overstated. Ibn Khaldun's critical scrutiny of historical sources, his focus on causality, and his original theories have inspired generations of scholars in both the Islamic world and Europe.

Contribution to Sociology

Many historians and sociologists regard Ibn Khaldun as one of the founders of sociology. His examination of social cohesion, power dynamics, and the rise and fall of civilizations established key concepts still central to sociological inquiry.

Influence on Historiography

Ibn Khaldun's insistence on critical analysis and his rejection of unverified legends marked a significant shift in historical writing. His methods influenced later historians and contributed to the development of scientific historiography.

Economic Thought

The Prolegomena also includes pioneering insights into economic processes, such as labor, production, and trade. Ibn Khaldun discussed the role of taxation, the importance of agriculture, and the effects of luxury on society—issues that remain relevant in contemporary economic discussions.

Legacy and Modern Relevance

The legacy of "ibn khaldun prolegomena" extends far beyond its original context. In the centuries since its publication, scholars have recognized its enduring contributions to intellectual thought and practical governance.

Recognition in the Islamic World

Throughout the Islamic world, Ibn Khaldun is celebrated as a visionary thinker whose ideas anticipated many modern theories. His work is taught in universities and referenced in academic research across disciplines.

Global Impact

Western scholars began to study the Prolegomena in the 19th and 20th centuries, acknowledging its advanced methodologies and theoretical innovations. Ibn Khaldun's ideas have influenced thinkers such as Arnold Toynbee and Fernand Braudel. His work continues to be cited in studies of history, sociology, and economics.

Contemporary Applications

In today's world, the insights from the Prolegomena are applied to analyses of political change, social movements, and even business cycles. Researchers draw on Ibn Khaldun's theories to understand phenomena such as the rise and fall of states, the impact of technology on society, and the role of collective identity in shaping political outcomes.

Key Takeaways from Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena

The "ibn khaldun prolegomena" provides a wealth of insights that remain vital for scholars and students alike. Its emphasis on critical thinking, empirical analysis, and the interconnectedness of social forces serves as a model for academic research and practical decision-making.

- 1. Ibn Khaldun introduced the concept of asabiyyah, highlighting the importance of social cohesion in the rise and fall of civilizations.
- 2. His cyclical theory of history explains the dynamic nature of societies and the factors driving their evolution.
- 3. The Prolegomena established rigorous standards for historical methodology, emphasizing verification and causality.

- 4. Ibn Khaldun's interdisciplinary approach laid the groundwork for modern social sciences, including sociology and economics.
- 5. The legacy of the Prolegomena continues to shape academic and practical discussions on society, governance, and history.

The enduring relevance of "ibn khaldun prolegomena" ensures its place among the foundational texts in global intellectual history.

Questions and Answers about Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena

Q: What is the main purpose of the ibn khaldun prolegomena?

A: The main purpose of the Prolegomena is to introduce a systematic and scientific approach to the study of history, society, and civilization. Ibn Khaldun aimed to explain the underlying causes of historical events and the patterns governing the rise and fall of societies.

Q: What is the concept of asabiyyah in ibn khaldun prolegomena?

A: Asabiyyah refers to social cohesion or group solidarity. Ibn Khaldun argued that strong asabiyyah enables societies to flourish and build civilizations, while its decline leads to societal weakness and eventual collapse.

Q: How did ibn khaldun prolegomena influence modern social sciences?

A: The Prolegomena introduced critical analysis, empirical observation, and interdisciplinary thinking, which became foundational principles in sociology, economics, and historiography. It is regarded as a pioneering work in the social sciences.

Q: Why is ibn khaldun prolegomena considered groundbreaking in historiography?

A: Ibn Khaldun set new standards for historical writing by emphasizing source verification, causality, and the importance of social and economic context. His approach marked a shift towards scientific historiography.

Q: In which historical context was the ibn khaldun prolegomena written?

A: The Prolegomena was written in the late 14th century during a period of political and social change in North Africa, following the decline of the Abbasid Caliphate and the rise of new dynasties.

Q: What are the main themes explored in ibn khaldun prolegomena?

A: The main themes include social cohesion (asabiyyah), cycles of civilization, critical historiography, economic theory, and the interplay of social, political, and environmental forces.

Q: How does ibn khaldun's methodology differ from earlier historians?

A: Ibn Khaldun's methodology is distinguished by its reliance on rational analysis, empirical evidence, and an interdisciplinary framework, moving beyond traditional narrative history to uncover deeper patterns and causes.

Q: What is the legacy of ibn khaldun prolegomena in the Islamic world?

A: The Prolegomena is highly respected and widely studied in the Islamic world, influencing academic research, governance, and the understanding of social and historical processes.

Q: Are ibn khaldun's ideas still relevant today?

A: Yes, Ibn Khaldun's theories continue to inform contemporary studies of history, sociology, political science, and economics, offering valuable perspectives on social change and development.

Q: What disciplines did ibn khaldun integrate in his Prolegomena?

A: Ibn Khaldun integrated insights from sociology, economics, geography, and political science to provide a comprehensive analysis of societies and historical events.

Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena

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Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena: Unveiling the Foundations of a Revolutionary Social Theory

Introduction:

Have you ever wondered about the underlying forces shaping societies, the rise and fall of civilizations, and the cyclical nature of history? Ibn Khaldun, a 14th-century Arab scholar, tackled these very questions in his groundbreaking work, the Muqaddimah, often referred to as the Prolegomena. This isn't just another historical text; it's a foundational work in sociology, economics, and political science, anticipating modern social scientific thought by centuries. This blog post delves into the Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena, exploring its key concepts, historical context, and enduring relevance in understanding the complexities of human societies. We'll unravel its core arguments and explain why it remains a crucial read for anyone interested in history, social sciences, or the evolution of human civilization.

H2: The Historical Context of the Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena

The Prolegomena wasn't written in a vacuum. Ibn Khaldun lived during a period of significant political and social upheaval in North Africa and the wider Islamic world. Witnessing the rise and fall of various dynasties, including the Berber empires, fuelled his intellectual curiosity and provided the empirical basis for his theories. The fragmentation of power, the constant struggle for dominance, and the interplay between nomadic and sedentary societies profoundly shaped his understanding of societal dynamics. This historical context is crucial for understanding the depth and breadth of his analysis. He wasn't simply observing; he was actively participating in and reflecting upon the historical processes unfolding around him.

H2: Key Concepts in the Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena

The Prolegomena is a vast work, encompassing a wide range of topics. However, some key concepts stand out:

H3: 'Asabiyyah' - The Spirit of Solidarity:

This is arguably the most significant concept in Khaldun's work. 'Asabiyyah' refers to the social cohesion and group solidarity that bind a society together, enabling it to conquer and establish power. Khaldun observed that this social cohesion wanes over generations, leading to the eventual decline and replacement of dynasties. He saw it as a crucial factor in the rise and fall of civilizations, a dynamic force driving both social progress and decline.

H3: The Cyclical Nature of History:

Khaldun challenged the prevailing linear view of history, proposing instead a cyclical model. He observed recurring patterns in the rise, dominance, and eventual decline of societies, emphasizing the role of 'asabiyyah' in this process. His cyclical theory anticipates later historical and sociological analyses that highlight the inherent instability and impermanence of social structures.

H3: The Importance of Nomadic Societies:

Khaldun recognized the unique role of nomadic societies in the historical process. He argued that their strong 'asabiyyah', forged in the harsh conditions of their lifestyle, often led them to conquer sedentary societies, establishing new dynasties. However, once settled, this strong 'asabiyyah' gradually weakened, making them vulnerable to new nomadic conquerors.

H3: Economics and Social Organization:

The Prolegomena also delves into economic principles, examining the relationships between production, consumption, and the distribution of wealth within society. He explored the influence of economic factors on social organization and political power, anticipating some key aspects of modern economic sociology.

H2: The Enduring Legacy of the Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena

The Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena remains remarkably relevant today. Its insights into the dynamics of social cohesion, the cyclical nature of history, and the interplay between nomadic and sedentary societies continue to resonate with contemporary social scientists. Its interdisciplinary approach, blending history, sociology, economics, and political science, prefigures modern social science methodologies. It's a testament to Khaldun's intellectual brilliance that his work continues to inspire and inform scholarship centuries after its creation. Its influence can be seen in various fields, from conflict studies to developmental economics.

H2: Accessing and Understanding the Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena

While the original Arabic text is invaluable, numerous translations are available in English and other languages. Choosing a reputable translation with thorough annotations is crucial for a comprehensive understanding. Engaging with secondary sources and scholarly interpretations can also enhance your appreciation of this complex and multifaceted work. Several academic institutions offer courses and lectures dedicated to Khaldun's thought, offering further avenues for exploration.

Conclusion:

The Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena is far more than a historical account; it's a seminal work in social theory, offering profound insights into the workings of human societies and the cyclical nature of power. Its concepts, particularly 'asabiyyah', remain central to understanding social dynamics, highlighting its enduring relevance for students of history, sociology, economics, and political science. Engaging with this monumental work provides invaluable perspectives on the complexities of human civilization and the processes that shape our world.

FAQs:

1. What is the best translation of the Ibn Khaldun Prolegomena? There's no single "best" translation, as each has its strengths and weaknesses. Look for translations with comprehensive annotations and scholarly introductions to guide your understanding. Comparing different translations can be beneficial.

- 2. How does Ibn Khaldun's work compare to modern sociological theories? Khaldun's ideas anticipate many concepts in modern sociology, particularly in the areas of social cohesion, social change, and the relationship between economics and politics. However, his approach differs in its focus on historical cycles and the importance of 'asabiyyah'.
- 3. Is the Prolegomena a difficult read? Yes, the Prolegomena is a demanding read, requiring patience and persistence. The breadth of topics covered and the density of the writing necessitate careful engagement.
- 4. What are some practical applications of Ibn Khaldun's theories? His theories can be applied to understanding contemporary issues such as political instability, social inequality, and the dynamics of conflict and cooperation between different groups.
- 5. Where can I find further resources on Ibn Khaldun's work? Numerous academic articles, books, and online resources are dedicated to Ibn Khaldun and his work. University libraries and online academic databases are excellent starting points for further research.

ibn khaldun prolegomena: An Arab Philosophy of History Ibn Khaldūn, 1958 ibn khaldun prolegomena: A Selection from the Prolegomena of Ibn Khaldūn Ibn Khaldūn, 1905

ibn khaldun prolegomena: Ibn Khaldun Robert Irwin, 2019-11-05 Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406) is generally regarded as the greatest intellectual ever to have appeared in the Arab world--a genius who ranks as one of the world's great minds. Yet the author of the Mugaddima, the most important study of history ever produced in the Islamic world, is not as well known as he should be, and his ideas are widely misunderstood. In this groundbreaking intellectual biography, Robert Irwin provides an engaging and authoritative account of Ibn Khaldun's extraordinary life, times, writings, and ideas. Irwin tells how Ibn Khaldun, who lived in a world decimated by the Black Death, held a long series of posts in the tumultuous Islamic courts of North Africa and Muslim Spain, becoming a major political player as well as a teacher and writer. Closely examining the Mugaddima, a startlingly original analysis of the laws of history, and drawing on many other contemporary sources, Irwin shows how Ibn Khaldun's life and thought fit into historical and intellectual context, including medieval Islamic theology, philosophy, politics, literature, economics, law, and tribal life. Because Ibn Khaldun's ideas often seem to anticipate by centuries developments in many fields, he has often been depicted as more of a modern man than a medieval one, and Irwin's account of such misreadings provides new insights about the history of Orientalism. In contrast, Irwin presents an Ibn Khaldun who was a creature of his time--a devout Sufi mystic who was obsessed with the occult and futurology and who lived in an often-strange world quite different from our own--Jacket.

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ibn khaldun prolegomena: The Muqaddimah - Volume 1 Ibn Khaldun, 2020-09-04 The Muqaddimah, often translated as Introduction or Prolegomenon, is the most important Islamic history of the premodern world. Written by the great fourteenth-century Arab scholar Ibn Khaldun (d. 1406), this monumental work established the foundations of several fields of knowledge, including the philosophy of history, sociology, ethnography, and economics. The first complete English translation, by the eminent Islamicist and interpreter of Arabic literature Franz Rosenthal, was published in three volumes in 1958 as part of the Bollingen Series and received immediate acclaim in the United States and abroad

ibn khaldun prolegomena: *Ibn Khaldûn's Philosophy of History* Muhsin Mahdi, 2015-10-14 This book, first published in 1957, is the study of 14th-century Arab historian Ibn Khaldun, who founded a special science to consider history and culture, based on the philosophy of Plato and

Aristotle and their Muslim followers. In no other field has the revolt of modern Western thought against traditional philosophy been so far-reaching in its consequences as in the field of history. Ibn Khaldun realized that history is more immediately related to action than political philosophy because it studies the actual state of man and society. He found that the ancients had not made history the object of an independent science, and thought it was important to fill this gap. A factual acquaintance with the conclusions of Ibn Khaldun's reflections on history is not the same as the full comprehension of their theoretical significance. When these fundamental questions are answered, it becomes possible to pose the specific question of the relation of Ibn Khaldun's philosophy of history, or his new science of culture, to other practical sciences and, particularly, to the art of history. After an exposition of the major trends of Islamic historiography, part of this book attempts to answer this question through the analysis of the method and intention of the sections of the 'History' where Ibn Khaldun himself examines the works of major Muslim historians, shows the necessity of the new science of culture, and distinguishes it from other practical sciences.

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ibn khaldun prolegomena: <u>A Selection from the Prolegomena of Ibn Khaldūn</u> Duncan Black Macdonald, 1905

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ibn khaldun prolegomena: *Ibn Khaldun* Allen James Fromherz, 2011-09-30 A biography of Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406), famous historian, scholar, theologian and statesman.

ibn khaldun prolegomena: The Epistemology of Ibn Khaldun Zaid Ahmad, 2004-03-01 This is an analytical examination of Ibn Khaldun's epistemology, centred on Chapter Six of the Muqaddima. In this chapter, entitled The Book of Knowledge (Kitab al'Ilm), Ibn Khaldun sketched his general ideas about knowledge and science and its relationship with human social organisation and the establishment of a civilisation.

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ibn khaldun prolegomena: Kant's Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics Immanuel Kant, 2022-05-29 This is a book by the German philosopher Immanuel Kant, published in 1783, two years after the first edition of his Critique of Pure Reason. One of Kant's shorter works, it contains a summary of the Critique's main conclusions, sometimes by arguments Kant had not used in the Critique. Kant characterizes his more accessible approach here as an analytic one, as opposed to the Critique's synthetic examination of successive faculties of the mind and their principles.

ibn khaldun prolegomena: Society, State, and Urbanism Fuad Baali, 1988-07-08 □Ilm al□umran is □...an independent science. This science has its own peculiar object□that is, human civilization and social organization. The discussion of this topic is something new, extraordinary, and highly useful. Penetrating research has shown the way to it.□□ Ibn Khaldun This book probes the nature, scope, and methods of □ilm al-□umran, the new science of human social organization, as it is developed in Ibn Khaldun□s 14th-century masterpiece, the Mugaddimah. It explores his ideas and observations on society, culture, socialization, social control, the state, asabiyah (social solidarity), history as a cyclical movement, urbanization, and the typology of badawa (primitive life) and hadara (civilized life or urbanism). Through a comparative perspective, this study illustrates that Khaldun□s ideas about society have conceptually preceded those of Machiavelli, Vico, and Turgot, as well as those of Montesqueau, Comte, Durkheim, Gumplowicz, Spengler, Tonnies, and even Marx. Society, State, and Urbanism demonstrates that Ibn Khaldun□s thought is relevant to contemporary sociological theory, and that his very language differs little from that of classical and modern sociologists.

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ibn khaldun prolegomena: The Muqaddimah Ibn Khaldūn, 1958

ibn khaldun prolegomena: Theism and Atheism in a Post-Secular Age Morteza Hashemi, 2017-07-05 This book examines the post-secular idea of 'religion for non-believers'. The new form of unbelief which is dubbed as 'tourist atheism' is not based on absolute rejection of religion as a 'dangerous illusion' or 'mere prejudice'. Tourist atheists instead consider religion as a cultural heritage and a way of seeking perfection. What are the origins of these new forms of atheism? What are the implications of the emergence of a type of atheism which is more open toward religious teachings, rituals, arts, and world views? Hashemi argues that public intellectuals must consider that it is a sign of a post-secular age in which believers and non-believers go beyond mere tolerance and engage in a creative process of co-practice and co-working.

ibn khaldun prolegomena: An Arab Philosophy of History 'Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Muḥammad (called Ibn Khald \bar{u} n), 1950

ibn khaldun prolegomena: Ibn Khaldun Syed Farid Alatas, 2013-05-23 Ibn Khaldun was one of the most remarkable Muslim scholars of the pre-modern period. Part of the 'Makers of Islamic Civilization' series, this book introduces the reader to Ibn Khaldun's core ideas, focusing on his theory of the rise and decline of states.

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ibn khaldun prolegomena: <u>Ibn Khaldun</u> Aziz Al-Azmeh, 2012-11-12 A reinterpretation of Ibn Khaldun, 14th-century Arabic philosopher, historian and politician.

ibn khaldun prolegomena: <u>Knowledge, Language, Thought, and the Civilization of Islam</u> Mohd. Nor Wan Daud (Wan.), Muhammad Zainiy Uthman, 2010

ibn khaldun prolegomena: The Last Muslim Conquest Gábor Ágoston, 2023-09-12 A monumental work of history that reveals the Ottoman dynasty's important role in the emergence of early modern Europe The Ottomans have long been viewed as despots who conquered through sheer military might, and whose dynasty was peripheral to those of Europe. The Last Muslim Conquest transforms our understanding of the Ottoman Empire, showing how Ottoman statecraft was far more pragmatic and sophisticated than previously acknowledged, and how the Ottoman dynasty was a crucial player in the power struggles of early modern Europe. In this panoramic and multifaceted book, Gábor Ágoston captures the grand sweep of Ottoman history, from the dynasty's stunning rise to power at the turn of the fourteenth century to the Siege of Vienna in 1683, which ended Ottoman incursions into central Europe. He discusses how the Ottoman wars of conquest gave rise to the imperial rivalry with the Habsburgs, and brings vividly to life the intrigues of sultans, kings, popes, and spies. Ágoston examines the subtler methods of Ottoman conquest, such as dynastic marriages and the incorporation of conquered peoples into the Ottoman administration, and argues that while the Ottoman Empire was shaped by Turkish, Iranian, and Islamic influences, it was also an integral part of Europe and was, in many ways, a European empire. Rich in narrative detail, The Last Muslim Conquest looks at Ottoman military capabilities, frontier management, law, diplomacy, and intelligence, offering new perspectives on the gradual shift in power between the Ottomans and their European rivals and reframing the old story of Ottoman decline.

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ibn khaldun prolegomena: Islamic Thought Abdullah Saeed, 2006-11-22 Islamic Thought is a

fresh and contemporary introduction to the philosophies and doctrines of Islam. Abdullah Saeed, a distinguished Muslim scholar, traces the development of religious knowledge in Islam, from the pre-modern to the modern period. The book focuses on Muslim thought, as well as the development, production and transmission of religious knowledge, and the trends, schools and movements that have contributed to the production of this knowledge. Key topics in Islamic culture are explored, including the development of the Islamic intellectual tradition, the two foundation texts, the Qur'an and Hadith, legal thought, theological thought, mystical thought, Islamic Art, philosophical thought, political thought, and renewal, reform and rethinking today. Through this rich and varied discussion, Saeed presents a fascinating depiction of how Islam was lived in the past and how its adherents practise it in the present. Islamic Thought is essential reading for students beginning the study of Islam but will also interest anyone seeking to learn more about one of the world's great religions.

ibn khaldun prolegomena: Articulating Islam: Anthropological Approaches to Muslim Worlds Magnus Marsden, Konstantinos Retsikas, 2012-11-08 This collection of arresting and innovative chapters applies the techniques of anthropology in analyzing the role played by Islam in the social lives of the world's Muslims. The volume begins with an introduction that sets out a powerful case for a fresh approach to this kind of research, exhorting anthropologists to pause and reflect on when Islam is, and is not, a central feature of their informants' life-worlds and identities. The chapters that follow are written by scholars with long-term, specialist research experience in Muslim societies ranging from Kenya to Pakistan and from Yemen to China: thus they explore and compare Islam's social significance in a variety of settings that are not confined to the Middle East or South Asia alone. The authors assess how helpful current anthropological research is in shedding light on Islam's relationship to contemporary societies. Collectively, the contributors deploy both theoretical and ethnographic analysis of key developments in the anthropology of Islam over the last 30 years, even as they extrapolate their findings to address wider debates over the anthropology of world religions more generally. Crucially, they also tackle the thorny question of how, in the current political context, anthropologists might continue conducting sensitive and nuanced work with Muslim communities. Finally, an afterword by a scholar of Christianity explores the conceptual parallels between the book's key themes and the anthropology of world religions in a broader context. This volume has key contemporary relevance: for example, its conclusions on the fluidity of people's relations with Islam will provide an important counterpoint to many commonly held assumptions about the incontestability of Islam in the public sphere.

ibn khaldun prolegomena: Ibn Khaldun and Tamerlane,

ibn khaldun prolegomena: Turkish Kaleidoscope Jenny White, 2021-05-04 A powerful graphic novel that traces Turkey's descent into political violence in the 1970s through the experiences of four students on opposing sides of the conflict Turkish Kaleidoscope tells the stories of four unforgettable protagonists as they navigate a society torn apart by violent political factions. It is 1975 and Turkey is on the verge of civil war. Faruk and Orhan are from conservative shopkeeping families in eastern Anatolia that share a sense of new possibilities. Nuray is the daughter of villagers who have migrated to the provincial city where Yunus, the son of an imprisoned teacher, was raised in genteel poverty. While attending medical school in Ankara, Faruk draws a reluctant Orhan into a right-wing nationalist group while Nuray and Yunus join the left. Against a backdrop of escalating violence, the four students fall in love, have their hearts broken, get married, raise families, and struggle to get on with their lives. But the consequences of their decisions will follow them through their lives as their children begin the story anew, skewed through the kaleidoscope of historical events. Inspired by Jenny White's own experiences as a student in Turkey during this tumultuous period as well as original oral histories of Turks who lived through it, Turkish Kaleidoscope reveals how violent factionalism has its own emotional and cultural logic that defies ideological explanations.

ibn khaldun prolegomena: *Arab Patriotism* Adam Mestyan, 2020-11-03 Arab Patriotism presents the essential backstory to the formation of the modern nation-state and mass nationalism in the Middle East. While standard histories claim that the roots of Arab nationalism emerged in

opposition to the Ottoman milieu, Adam Mestyan points to the patriotic sentiment that grew in the Egyptian province of the Ottoman Empire during the nineteenth century, arguing that it served as a pivotal way station on the path to the birth of Arab nationhood. Through extensive archival research, Mestyan examines the collusion of various Ottoman elites in creating this nascent sense of national belonging and finds that learned culture played a central role in this development. Mestyan investigates the experience of community during this period, engendered through participation in public rituals and being part of a theater audience. He describes the embodied and textual ways these experiences were produced through urban spaces, poetry, performances, and journals. From the Khedivial Opera House's staging of Verdi's Aida and the first Arabic magazine to the 'Urabi revolution and the restoration of the authority of Ottoman viceroys under British occupation, Mestyan illuminates the cultural dynamics of a regime that served as the precondition for nation-building in the Middle East. --

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