

The Theory of Social Change by Malek Bennabi

نظرية التغيير الاجتماعي عند مالك بن نبي

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Abstract:

The study aims to highlight the concepts and theoretical frameworks put forward by the Algerian thinker Malek Bennabi in his works, for they constitute an integrated theory of social change. The study proceeds to analyze and understand the mechanisms of the theory's influence on society, with an emphasis on the concepts of education, economic development, community participation, the impact of ideas, awareness raising and cooperation enhancement between individuals as well as the importance of cultural identity.

The study concludes that these concepts combined definitely constitute a foundation to launch a grand operation of social change by contributing in building a balanced community, able to meet internal demands on the one hand and face contemporary external challenges on the other hand.

Keywords: social change, social actor, individual responsibility, Afro-Asianism, ideas.

ملخص:

هدفت الدراسة إلى تسليط الضوء على اهم المفاهيم والأطر النظرية التي قدمها المفكر الجزائري مالك بن نبي في أعماله، بوصفها نظرية متكاملة للتغيير الاجتماعي. وذلك من خلال العمل على تحليل وفهم آليات تأثير هذه النظرية على المجتمع، بالتركيز على كل من المفاهيم التالية: التعليم، والتنمية الاقتصادية، والمشاركة المجتمعية، وتأثير الأفكار، وزيادة الوعي وتعزيز التعاون بين الأفراد، فضلاً عن أهمية الهوية الثقافية. مع تبيان تأسيسه لرؤية شاملة تسعى لإطلاق عملية تغيير اجتماعي منظمة وهادفة، بإمكانها المساعدة في مواجهة التحديات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية.

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خلصت الدراسة إلى أن هذه المفاهيم مجتمعة تشكل أساساً لانطلاق عملية تغيير اجتماعي كبرى، تساهم في بناء مجتمع متوازن قادر على تلبية المطالب الداخلية من جهة، ومواجهة التحديات الخارجية المعاصرة من جهة أخرى. و أكدت الدراسة أن نظرية بن نبي في التغيير الاجتماعي تبرز كخريطة طريق ثمينة، يمكن أن يستفيد منها الباحثون وصناع القرار لمعالجة القضايا الاجتماعية والاقتصادية المستمرة بطريقة فعالة ومبتكرة.

كلمات مفتاحية: تغيير اجتماعي، فاعل اجتماعي، مسؤولية فردية، افرو-اسيوية، افكار.

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1. Introduction

The Arab and Muslim countries witness a flow of rapid and consecutive transformations in order to face complex socioeconomic challenges, which buttresses the need for new insights that enable communities to overcome their crises and a conduct a real transformation of their socioeconomic structures. In this respect, Bennabi's theory of social change stands out as it is one of the major theoretical frameworks that seeks to understand how to create social change within Arab and Muslim communities. It is distinguished by its focus on the individual and community's respective roles and responsibilities in the change process, with consideration to the interaction between religion, culture, education and economic development as vital elements of the change process.

The importance of Bennabi's theory of social change lies in its ability to put forward an integral vision that transcends the limits of theoretical analysis to establish operational mechanisms, that are able to lead effective social change. For that purpose, the study analyzes the ideas of Malek Bennabi in depth and works on implementing them in our contemporary context, in a way that re-presents them as an operational roadmap that can be utilized by both scholars and decision makers to implement the desired social change in our contemporary communities.

In the first place, the study reviews the key concepts put forward by Malek Bennabi in his major works, then proceeds to explain, analyze, and

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highlight the importance of each concept in solving socioeconomic crises, in relation to the cultural and historical context that contributed to their formation. The study connects these concepts with the sociopolitical context that rocked Malek Bennabi and influenced his integrated vision before deconstructing the mechanisms he proposed to launch the process of social change.

Moreover, the study sheds the light on the practical implementation of Bennabi's ideas in the realms of education, economic development in addition to religious and cultural awareness raising, with a particular focus on how to implement these ideas to face current challenges such as unemployment, poverty and technological underdevelopment. In this context, we want this study to be a sort of ready-to-use solutions to be implemented in order to achieve real social change.

Furthermore, the study aims to analyze the roles of the individual and the community alike in implementing the processes leading to social change, as put forward by Malek Bennabi, by highlighting each party's responsibility in driving social change. It also addresses the challenges that may hinder the effective implementation of these ideas such as social, economic and intellectual constraints and shows how to surmount them by reinforcing social awareness and shifting focus back to cooperation and participation.

In the end, the study suggests practical recommendations to drive effective social change, based on the ideas of Malek Bennabi. It also reviews certain future research prospects that can contribute in further developing this theory and applying it in various contexts. This paves the way to additional studies that have the objective of improving social reality by implementing the ideas of Malek Bennabi.

By following this cohesive plan, we intend to make this study a valid contribution to drive social change within Arab and Muslim communities. We also want this study to become an important milestone in building a

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more conscientious society, able to counter contemporary challenges and achieve effective and sustainable social transformation.

2. Research Question

Arab and Muslim countries are challenged by extremely complex political and economic issues, such as economic hardship in result of declining economic growth, high unemployment and poverty rates as well as exacerbating water and energy crises that threaten sustainability and economic development. In addition, Arab and Muslim countries face instability caused by political unrest and rapid changes occurring at the level of the international scene as a whole as well as increasingly acute regional conflicts and political alliances that limits states' ability to make critical decisions that would contribute in creating the necessary transformation on their socioeconomic structures.

Under these circumstances, the theory of the Algerian thinker, Malek Bennabi of social change stands out as an interpretative model that can contribute in deciphering the method and mechanisms for development within Arab and Muslim communities, with an emphasis on the interaction between individuals to drive social change as well as the important roles of religion, culture, education and economic development as vital elements in the process of change.

Therefore, how can the theory of Malek Bennabi of social change be relaunched in the light of current challenges, and what are the operational mechanisms that can contribute in overcoming social and economic crises, faced by Arab and Muslim countries?

3. Aims of the Study

The study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To analyze Malek Bennabi's thought and to demonstrate its efficiency in driving the desired social change;
- To delve into the cultural historical context that contributed shaping Malek Bennabi's ideas;

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- To deconstruct the mechanisms proposed by Malek Bennabi to achieve social change;
- To shed light on the practical implementation of Malek Bennabi's thought in various realms, such as education and economic development;
- To assess the individual and the community's respective roles in implementing the process of social change.

4. Importance of the Study

In light of the rapid transformations that the world is currently undergoing and under the influence of increasing social, economic and political challenges in addition to a number of issues that float to the surface and strangle our communities, the theory of Malek Bennabi of social change emerges as one of the available lifelines that is worth trying. In this context, it is paramount to deeply understand the ideas that can lead to development and positive change.

- Since Malek Bennabi's ideas were and still are a source of inspiration to individuals and communities alike because they present a comprehensive vision that stresses on the importance of the social actor and individual responsibility within communities that are challenged by poverty, unemployment in addition to intellectual and technical underdevelopment. Furthermore, it is possible to use ideas to motivate individuals to take responsibility and contribute in driving change even in case of shortage of resources. Experience has shown that an abundance of resources does not necessarily translate into an abundance of ideas, which has been borne out by our reality. Malek Bennabi maintains that individuals are not merely passive receptors of change, but active elements in the making process, thereby, increasing the individual's sense of responsibility.
- In addition, the study of Bennabi's ideas can contribute to increase the community's religious and social awareness as he affirmed that both culture and religion play a pivotal role in shaping the

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individuals' behaviors and practices. This creates an urgent need to reconsider how to invest these values in order to achieve the desired social change. In a society faced with pressures and challenges, ideas can create a cooperation and participation friendly environment.

- In the end, Bennabi's theory is also one way to highlight the importance of creativity and innovation in addressing contemporary issues. Our societies need new ideas and creative strategies to deal with the rapid changes occurring at the global level. Experience has shown that communities that embrace creativity and intellectual development are best equipped to face challenges.

Based on all the above, it is paramount to delve into the theory of Malek Bennabi of social change, in order to understand the complex dynamics that face our contemporary communities. This study reflects the urgent need to reinforce the role of the social actor, encourage individual responsibility and rely on religious and cultural values to launch the process of the desired change. It could be said that discovering "the man" is an important milestone to take towards building a more conscientious community, able to drive positive change.

5. The Intellectual Background and Upbringing of Malek Bennabi

Malek Bennabi was born in Algeria in 1905; a period during which Algeria was scourged by French colonialism. He was a witness to a number of sociopolitical crises that shaped his conscientiousness and thinking. Similarly, to his compatriots, Bennabi endured all forms of oppression and injustice. These conditions helped him develop strong social awareness and get to the idea that change is a prerequisite to freedom and independence. This conclusion was crystal clear when he considered that change could only be achieved by reshaping the individual's sociocultural identity.

Bennabi studied various disciplines, which contributed to shaping his comprehensive idea of change; His ideas were deeply influenced by the meticulous details of his social reality as well as the outputs of his studies in France, where he was introduced to different intellectual currents. In result

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of these experiences, Bennabi was able to establish ideas that transcended geographical boundaries to interact with global issues (entv.dz, 2020).

6. The Qur'anic Phenomenon as a Source of Change

Malek Bennabi considers the Qur'an as a major source of social change because it encompasses a number of values and principles that enhance individual and collective conscientiousness. The Qur'anic teachings, in his opinion, enhance the concept of identity and direct the individuals' behaviors towards cooperation and brotherhood, which helps build a tight-knit community. Reading the Qur'an from a social perspective means reading the verses as texts that call for critical thinking and deep understanding (بن نبي، 2014، الصفحات 51-69).

Qur'anic teachings can also be used in designing educational curricula, which enhances religious and cultural awareness and helps build strong identities amongst individuals. Integrating Qur'anic values into education is one way to raise a generation able to counter challenges in a way that guarantees respect to human values. This integration is an effective method to build a community that stands on strong cultural foundations and increase social awareness (بن نبي، 2014، صفحة 208).

Malek Bennabi believes that the Qur'an is a constant source of inspiration to Muslims because it provides them with moral values and directions that foster their desire to change. Qur'anic ideas such as justice, mercy and equality motivate individuals to actively work on building a better society, which reflects a true desire for change and improvement.

Additionally, Malek Bennabi stresses on the importance of critical thinking, which is heavily encouraged by the Qur'an. He maintains that it encourages Muslims to consider the meaning of the verses and implement them in their day to day life, which fosters social awareness and harness the individuals' capacity to decipher contemporary issues. This ability will train individuals in dealing with challenges and striving for change for the better.

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In the same vein, Bennabi insists that true change can only stem from a correct interpretation of the Qur'an and its implementation in practical life. He points out that the superficial interpretation of the Qur'an does not entail positive changes and that it takes a deep understanding of the verses and how to implement them in order to face socioeconomic issues.

Under the directions of Qur'anic verses, the individual can change negative habits and values that may hinder his progress. He notes that the Qur'an calls for innovation and change of habits and practices, which helps the individual dispose of negative legacies and strive for improving his conditions.

Malek Bennabi believes that the Qur'an fosters the sense of cooperation and participation amongst individuals, which helps build a strong-knit community. Under Qur'anic directions, one can understand the important role of collective action in driving social change, which reinforces the community's ability to face challenges. The Qur'anic phenomenon, according to Malek Bennabi's thought, is a prerequisite to bring about intellectual and social change. By referring to the Qur'an for values and directions, individuals and communities can acquire the courage and vision necessary for change. Accordingly, the deep understanding of Qur'anic scriptures and their implementation in real life reinforces the individuals' ability to face challenges and build better communities.

7. The Concept of the “Social Actor”

The social actor is a pivotal concept in Bennabi's works. It refers to the individual or community that effectively participates in driving change. The social actor is cardinal in achieving positive change; Bennabi focuses on the importance of self-awareness in motivating individuals to engage in the change process. Understanding the role of the social actor requires an awareness of social and psychological factors that have an effect on the individuals' behavior (بن نبي، شروط النهضة، 2014، صفحة 84).

Bennabi has also stressed on the importance of improving the skills of social actors through education and community participation. An effective

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social actor can orient his community towards positive change through individual and group-led initiatives. The latter are essential to achieve sustainable development and foster social awareness.

The social actor is a pivotal element in driving positive change according to Malek Bennabi. This can be seen in his focus on the individuals' role as a turning point to drive change within their communities. Bennabi insists that each individual should bear responsibility towards his community, which essentially means that he is able to bring about change through daily acts and engagement in social issues.

Social awareness is a prerequisite for individuals to be able to identify the issues that require change; This requires a deep understanding of their socioeconomic context.

Malek Bennabi has also highlighted the importance of intellect and science in reinforcing the individual's capacity to think critically and provide creative solutions. Although he focuses on the individual, Bennabi equally underscores the value of collective action as it fosters cooperation between individuals which enhances their impact in the community. He also stresses on the importance of encouraging individuals to challenge traditions and customs that are at the disservice of change and to provide new alternatives.

All in all, these elements combined form Bennabi's vision of the social actor a vehicle to achieve effective social change.

8. Individual Responsibility

Individual responsibility is cardinal in Bennabi's works. It is essentially linked with personal commitment to social issues. Malek Bennabi underscores that self-awareness is the foundation of change and that individuals must take responsibility towards their communities. This idea reflects the importance of collective action to achieve common goals within a community because collective awareness reinforces the efficiency of individual efforts.

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The practical dimensions of individual responsibility extend to include the daily acts led by individuals such as engaging in social activities, contributing to education and fostering cooperation. Therefore, it is elementary to encourage individuals to take effective steps in their own niche in order to bring about real change as individual contributions can trigger a big impact on the society as a whole.

Communities whose members are actively working on the values of individual responsibility tend to score positive results in sustainable development. In addition, reinforcing individual responsibility helps build a conscientious community that is able to confront challenges, which fosters solidarity and cooperation amongst individuals.

Individual responsibility is a key focus in Malek Bennabi's thought. He stresses on the importance of the individuals' role in driving social change, noting that every single person can have an impact on his community through his daily choices and acts. As individuals are not merely passive bodies that receive change through instruction, but rather active members that can take decisive measures to improve their socioeconomic conditions. To achieve this level of awareness, their actions must entail direct consequences, which encourages these individuals to take conscious decisions.

On the other hand, Bennabi sheds the light on the importance of activating individual initiatives and calls individuals to engage in forms of voluntary and social activities to reinforce their role as active members of society. Consequently, each small initiative they take will reflect positively on building a better community which counts as a true incarnation of individual responsibility. The accumulation of these initiatives will show individuals that they can actually make a difference, even in times when change seems impossible. (بن نبی، میلاد مجتمع، 2012، الصفحات 26-53)

Based on the idea that intellectual and social awareness are essential components of individual responsibility, Bennabi stresses on the importance of education in awareness raising with the aim of helping individuals

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understand the issues that face their communities and how to contribute in countering them. He also insists on the fact that small individual acts accumulate to drive massive long-term effect in the community. Through this approach, Malek Bennabi motivates individuals to become social leaders and engage in shaping the future of the community.

9. Afro-Asianism

Malek Bennabi illustrates Afro-Asianism with the need to strengthen the shared ties and cultural identity amongst Afro-Asian nations, stressing the importance of achieving a high degree of cooperation and coordination as one way to attain sustainable development. This idea reflects the importance of intercultural communication and positive interaction.

Afro-Asianism came in response to the challenges that were faced by developing nations and aimed for cooperation enhancement to achieve development. This cooperation presents an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences, which contributes in developing effective strategies to counter crises. As for the practical implementation of the idea of Afro-Asianism, it manifests in the realms of economic and cultural cooperation through the enhancement of trade and scientific cooperation. The Afro-Asian cooperation is one way to promote local economies, reinforce local economies and improve living conditions in the long run.

Afro-Asian cooperation models encompasses various initiatives such as the Non-Aligned Movement which seeks to reinforce cooperation between developing nations and stand away from the conflict between the Eastern and Western Blocks. This model illustrates how can international cooperation contribute to achieve sustainable development and shared objectives. The importance of these models lies in directing public policies towards development goals. In brief, the roles and functions can be summarized in the following points (بن نبي، الفكرة الافرو اسيوية، 2001، الصفحات 199-224):

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A- Promotion of a Shared Cultural Identity

- Afro-Asianism focuses on the need of reinforcing the shared cultural identity amongst Afro-Asian nations.
- Afro-Asianism seeks to reinforce mutual understanding and communication between different cultures.

B- Cooperation as a Means of Promoting Sustainable Development

- Malek Bennabi insists on the importance of cooperation between Afro-Asian nations in order to achieve sustainable development.
- Cooperation contributes to experience and ideas exchange, which reinforces the Afro-Asian nations' ability to face challenges.

C- A Response to Shared Challenges

- Afro-Asianism is a response to the challenges that were faced by developing nations, such as poverty and unemployment.
- The cooperation seeks to develop effective strategies in countering crises.

D- Practical Applications in Various Sectors

- The practical application of the idea of Afro-Asianism manifest in the realms of economic and cultural cooperation.
- Reinforcing trade and scientific cooperation is one way to promote local economies.

E- Models of International Cooperation

- Afro-Asian cooperation models include initiatives such as the Non-Aligned Movement.
- These models demonstrate how can international cooperation enhance sustainable development and achieve shared objectives.

F- Improvement of Standards of living

- International cooperation leads to improving the standards of living through the support of innovation and the promotion of economic growth.
- International cooperation supports the development of solutions that meet the needs of local communities.

From the above, it could be said that Afro-Asianism, as put forward by Malek Bennabi, is a centerpiece to understand recent international

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interactions. Bennabi realized early the importance of cooperation amongst Afro-Asian nations and using that as a strategic instrument to counter shared challenges, including colonization and economic hegemony.

In addition, contemporary crises, such as climate change and rising poverty, require a collective approach that transcends geographical boundaries. In the same vein, Afro-Asianism advocates to increase partnerships between nations which will contribute to the exchange of views and experiences and promotes sustainable development.

Even if the conflict between the Eastern and Western blocks dissolved and the impact of the Non-Aligned movement declined, the peoples' need for social justice and economic development is now stronger than ever. In this contemporary context, there is an urgent imperative to develop new strategies that can face the complex nature of the international system and the regional geopolitical volatility that follows.

Afro-Asianism still offers a strategic vision for more balanced international relations that reflect our contemporary reality and meets the aspirations of peoples for a brighter future. Moreover, the end of the Non-Aligned Movement' role does not necessarily mean the end of Afro-Asianism, but rather constitutes a motive to summon a new model that corresponds to contemporary requirements.

10- The World of Ideas

Malek Bennabi attached primary importance to ideas for they form the key driver of social change. He considers ideas to be a source of energy for both individuals and communities, that transcends time and space and maintains that strong ideas alone can drive a big impact on the individuals' behavior . According to him, abstract ideas can contribute in building social movements that advocate for change and manifest in the form of driving forces in various sectors, such as education, politics and economy. In the same vein, creative ideas are a means to promote development and innovation within a community.

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On top of the above, Bennabi stressed on the importance of critical thinking in achieving positive change; he maintains that the thought has a positive and vital role in promoting social renaissance because social change always requires new ideas that transcend traditional constraints. In light of the above, it could be said critical thinking reinforces the ability to counter socioeconomic challenges and prepares the ground for renaissance innovation by developing new ideas that go in line with contemporary circumstances. In the end, we conclude that success rests on two factors: innovation and adaption (بن نبي، مشكلات الافكار في العالم الاسلامي، 2014، الصفحات (67-49).

The role of ideas, according to Malek Bennabi, can be summarized as follows:

- Ideas are the driving force of every movement because they are a source of inspiration that drives individuals and communities towards positive change.
- Ideas help build collective awareness through critical thinking, which encourages change for the better.
- Ideas drive individuals to innovate and search for new solutions to various societal issues.
- Ideas encourage to constantly review prevailing values and principles, which helps to overcome negative customs and outdated traditions that obstruct change.
- Ideas should be applicable, which increases their efficiency to achieve change.
- The intellectual elite has different responsibilities than those of other community members, especially those in relation to creating and promoting ideas amongst individuals.
- Ideas inspire individuals to participate in economic and community activities, which reinforces change efforts.

In parallel, Malek Bennabi warns of the shortage of ideas which inevitably entail a lack of vision and miscalculation that put individuals at risk of unconsciously idolizing people or objects. The former triggers

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intellectual stagnation, evolution and innovation disruption as well as blocks all forms of creativity. In addition, it rejects every attempt of reviewing the prevailing values and restrain every possible way of confronting challenges.

11. Social Change: a Dynamic Process

Bennabi presents change in an integrated vision. It refers to a dynamic process which requires continuous interaction between individuals and communities, that can only be attained after fully understanding the combination of cultural, social and political factors that affect individuals' behavior. This understanding highlights the importance of awareness and creativity as key drivers of change-30 (بن نبي، من اجل التغيير، 2014، الصفحات 30-43).

Ghanem clarifies that Bennabi's vision of change revolves around the full understanding of the factors that affect society, such as cultural values, education and economy. To attain this level of understanding, we must establish short and long-term plans that collectively form an effective strategy and addresses these factors in an optimal way in order to achieve the desires outcomes.

In this regard, Bennabi proposed a set of mechanisms that focus primarily on promoting education, supporting small businesses and reinforcing community participation by activating the role of every individual. This requires concentrated efforts between various sectors of society so as to achieve tangible results.

In light of all the above, it could be said that social change, according to Malek Bennabi, is a dynamic process, encompassing a combination of interacting economic, political and social factors that lead, in their turn, to a transformation of structures and social values. This dynamic is one way to evaluate the communities' ability to adapt and evolve in direct response to internal and external changes. In the same vein, changes require individuals to continuously re-evaluate their positions and values, which creates new

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ideas and a new intellectual elite that embraces these ideas and perform its essential role in forming and reshaping people's behaviors.

Social change is accumulative. Small changes collect over time and eventually trigger big changes that burst at the moment of change. This particular moment highlights the fact that societies are not static, but rather constantly evolving by confronting challenges and seizing opportunities.

12. Pratical Applications of the Ideas of Malek Bennabi

12.1. Education

The education is one of the major sectors in which Malek Bennabi's thoughts stand out prominently. The latter advocates to design curricula based on the promotion of social values and development of critical thinking amongst community members. Therefore, education is a fundamental means to raise social awareness.

Bennabi considers education an effective tool to achieve social change, provided that it transcends the traditional roles of education, related to knowledge transfer and inculcation to become an instrument for human values development and social responsibility reinforcement.

In the same theme, Bennabi called for building an integrated educational system that focuses on the development of critical thinking and innovation; he adds that education must enable individuals to understand their socioeconomic surroundings in order to be able to effectively participate in the change process. Bennabi also urged to introduce curricula that reinforce cultural identity and respond to community needs in order to raise conscientious generations that can think independently and come up with creative solutions to their challenges.

12.2. Economic Development

Economic development is a central piece of Bennabi's vision of social change, in which he insists on activating economic development strategies that focus on small business and support entrepreneurs as an effective approach to boost local economies. These strategies reflect the importance

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of enhancing the movement of funds by promoting a commercial spirit within a given community(89-85 الصفحات، 2014، مشكلة الثقافة، بن نبي).

Communities can only increase the efficiency and effectiveness of economic development by expanding the scope of trade and exchange of experiences. Therefore, Malek Bennabi maintains that Afro-Asian cooperation is one way to reinforce development because the exchange of experiences and resources between the Afro-Asian countries could contribute to building strong economies that are able to counter crises. He also encouraged to develop joint projects that aim to improve living conditions and increase job opportunities, considering the fact that Afro-Asian cooperation is not optional, but rather a necessity to face socioeconomic challenges in light of globalization and economic blocs.

12.3. Community Participation

Community participation is a major element of social change. By encouraging individuals to participate in social activities, we reinforce social values and achieve sustainable development. Community participation could also build a network of cooperation and communication between individuals which is the reason why Bennabi insisted on the importance of individuals' interaction with their community issues and called to activate voluntary initiatives to increase social awareness and effective participation. He considers that every individual has responsibilities towards his community and that voluntary work helps improve socioeconomic conditions. Through participation, individuals could contribute in improving their surroundings and achieve positive tangible results.

The aforementioned practical applications demonstrate how the thoughts of Malek Bennabi can be translated into field practices that lead to the full improvement of society. Through education, we could raise conscientious generations; Through economic development, we could build leading economies whilst community participation takes care of strengthening the

13. Challenges and Perspectives

It is natural for any attempts at change within a society to encounter various forms of resistance on all aspects. Economic changes inevitably entail a reevaluation of cultural values with a direct impact on development. Therefore, cultural strategies must value traditional values while opening up to modernization. Besides, socioeconomic challenges might require radical changes in values and concepts. Both the present and the past are witnesses to the fact that societies which refuse to change face great difficulties. Thus, it is paramount to raise individual's awareness of the need for change as a part of the change process.

Community cooperation is one of the fundamental elements that Malek Bennabi focuses on in his works, by insisting each time on the need to reinforce the culture of cooperation in order to achieve comprehensive development. Community cooperation shows individuals how it is possible to work together so as to achieve their shared objectives. he considers community participation a key factor in bringing about social change and emphasis on the individuals' participation in decision making and the promotion of collective action within a community.

The ideas of Malek Bennabi provide a solid framework to understand social change in the Arab world. Bennabi's thought demonstrates that it is important to integrate religion and culture to drive change. On the other hand, in order to implement his ideas, it is necessary to promote social actors, develop individual responsibility and promote community participation. In light of the rapid social changes, no society could thrive without creativity and innovation as well as creating a welcoming space for exchanging ideas and accepting change. Developing creativity-friendly environments in an integral part of the change process.

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14. Conclusion

the study of Malek Bennabi's theory of social change is an important milestone to understand the complex contemporary dynamics that face Arab and Muslim communities. This study presents a number of key concepts that explain how individuals can play an effective role in driving positive change, starting by the concept of "the social actor" that stresses the importance of individual responsibility and ending with the role of ideas and culture in shaping communities' behavior.

The study shows that the ideas put forward by Malek Bennabi cannot be implemented through economic and political initiatives alone, but rather require a cultural and intellectual transformation. In the same vein, Bennabi advocates for reinforcing individuals' responsibility in effective participation as well as developing critical thinking and the spirit of creativity to encounter challenges. Each individual, according to Bennabi, has the power to affect his environment, which increased the individual's role within the communities that strive for innovation and growth.

On top of that, the study concludes that community cooperation is a pivotal factor in driving change as cooperation between individuals and groups can help create a social environment that encourages innovation and leads to building a strong, tight-knit community. In an age characterized by growing challenges, it is imperative for individuals to embrace the values of cooperation and participation which will, in their turn, strengthen social cohesion.

Furthermore, ideas are influencing factors in the process of desired change as beliefs and cultural values shape the behavior of individuals. This is the reason why it is crucial to develop critical thinking and innovation to deal with social challenges and achieve positive, sustainable change.

In conclusion, the ideas of Malek Bennabi provide a rich guideline for scholars and policy makers in the Arab world. His ideas advocate for the need to focus on education and cultural awareness promotion to achieve the desired social change. The future urges us to reconsider using his ideas in

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shaping stronger communities that are capable of change. Thus, it is important to focus on how to implement these insights in our contemporary contexts and to develop strategies that reinforce the efficiency of the social actor and contribute to sustainable development.

15. Recommendations of the Study

The recommendations of the study encompass a set of practical guidelines and recommendations that aim to translate the outcomes of this study into applicable procedures. In their turn, these recommendations aim to achieve the previously-set aims by providing clear steps that can contribute in implementing the ideas of Malek Bennabi within our contemporary communities. Accordingly, the main objectives of these recommendations in relation to implementing the theory of social change of Malek Bennabi could be summarized in a set of procedures that promote sustainable social transformations and contribute to countering socioeconomic challenges faced by Arab and Muslim communities.

1. **Explore the Dimensions of Bennabi's Theory:** it is recommended that researchers explore the various dimensions of Bennabi's thought, including its implications on other realms such as education, economy and culture, to deepen the understanding of its practical applications.
2. **Study the Social Actor:** expanded focus should be placed on the concept of "the social actor" by analyzing the experiences of both individuals and communities that led effective changes within their communities and draw lessons from their experiences.
3. **Promote Individual Responsibility:** it is suggested that researchers study how to reinforce the concept of individual responsibility within Arab communities, by developing cultural and educational strategies that encourage individuals to participate effectively in their communities.
4. **Analyze the Impact of Culture and Religion:** it is recommended that researchers conduct studies on the impact of cultural and

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religious values on social change and how to use these values to enhance positive initiatives.

- 5. Explore Community Collaboration:** it is suggested to analyze successful community collaboration models to study the impacts that led to the success of such initiatives, and how to expand them to include other communities.
- 6. Assess the Impact of Technology:** it is recommended to investigate how to use technology and social media to reinforce community cooperation and support the social actor in the process of change.
- 7. Develop Practical Strategies:** researchers should work on developing practical strategies based on the ideas of Malek Bennabi in relation to the ways to implement effective social change within contemporary contexts.
- 8. Encourage Academic Discussions:** it is recommended to organize forums and workshops that group researchers and practitioners together to exchange views and ideas on the theoretical applications of Bennabi's theory in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

By following these recommendations, researchers could provide valuable contributions that help increase understanding and awareness about the ideas of Malek Bennabi and their impact on social change.

16. Future Research Prospects

The study of Malek Bennabi's theory of social change provides a wide scope of scientific research, which gives researchers multiple opportunities to explore a number of important topics that increase understanding and effective implementation of these ideas in contemporary contexts. The theory of Malek Bennabi with its own insights on the social actor and individual responsibility could offer a solution to the challenges that trouble societies. The following are some of the proposed future research prospects:

- 1. Analysis of Reciprocal Influences between Culture and Religion:** by conducting research on how different religious and cultural values influence the behavior of individuals and communities within Arab

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and Muslim communities. Understanding these dynamics allows us to promote social change strategies that compatible with various cultural contexts.

2. **Theoretical Applications of Bennabi's Theory of Sustainable Development:** exploring how to integrate the idea of Malek Bennabi in sustainable development policies opens a promising area of research. It enables to study the ways to use Bennabi's principles in order to enhance socioeconomic development in communities that are challenged by crises, which contributes to providing practical and sustainable solutions to current challenges.
3. **Study the Social Actor in the Digital Age:** in light of the growing role of social media and digital technology in our life, studies could be conducted on how individuals interact with these tools to promote the social actor and build more connected and efficient communities.
4. **Assess the Educational Programs Based on Bennabi's Ideas:** researchers could develop and study the educational programs that aim to strengthen critical thinking and individual responsibility amongst young people, and then analyze the impact of these programs on their behaviors and participation in the community. These programs could be a long-term solution to boost the culture of efficient participation.
5. **Explore Successful Experiences of Social Change:** researchers could explore case studies on successful initiatives that adopted the ideas of Malek Bennabi and were led in different communities, Malaysia, for instance, to analyze the factors that contributed to the success of these initiatives. In addition, researchers study how to reproduce these initiatives in other contexts, which fosters the hope of the possibility of positive change.
6. **The Role of Institutions in Driving Change:** studying the role of institutions, namely educational, religious and cultural ones, in promoting the social factor and individual responsibility is an important field of research. We could study how to empower these institutions to disseminate and implement the ideas of Malek

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Bennabi. This creates a foundation to provide effective solutions to various societal challenges.

7. **Explore Obstacles and Challenges:** it is paramount to understand the challenges and obstacles that might confront societies whilst they implement the ideas of Malek Bennabi, such as political and economic conditions, and how to surmount them by recurring to creative strategies. These researches could contribute to providing solutions to current difficulties.
8. **Expand the Scope of Research to Global Contexts:** researchers could explore how to implement the ideas of Malek Bennabi in different global contexts, which increases mutual understanding and help open discussions on social change in various countries and cultures.

Through these research prospects, scientists and researchers could contribute to critical thinking and innovation promotion as well as provide an inexhaustible reserve of new insights and pathways to achieve sustainable and effective social change. Exploring the mechanisms of activating the theory of Malek Benabi is one of the solutions that could break the state of stagnation and degradation that characterizes our reality.

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