Ibn Khaldun and his political activity in the Maghreb and the Mashriq



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Abstract : Ibn Khaldun was actively engaged in administrative affairs from an early age, holding various positions that reflected the diversity of his career. This allowed him to observe governance closely, particularly in the Maghreb and later in al-Andalus and Egypt. His administrative experience extended beyond mere bureaucratic tasks to encompass high-level diplomatic and political missions, reflecting his intellectual and political acumen.
Ibn Khaldun's experience as an administrator, diplomat, and scholar thus placed him at the crossroads of governance and intellectual inquiry. This period of his life raises important questions

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1- The Positions He Held in the Maghreb, al-Andalus, and Egypt

1-1- . His Work in Writing and the Hafsid Army

Ibn Khaldun was actively engaged in administrative affairs from an early age, holding various positions that reflected the diversity of his career. This allowed him to observe governance closely, particularly in the Maghreb and later in al-Andalus and Egypt. His administrative experience extended beyond mere bureaucratic tasks to encompass high-level diplomatic and political missions, reflecting his intellectual and political acumen.

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His first official role was that of a **scribe (kātib)**, a position he occupied at a relatively young age. This role was crucial in medieval Islamic governance, as scribes were responsible for drafting official documents, correspondence, and treaties. It was during this period that he honed his skills in political negotiation and statesmanship.

In 751 AH / 1350 CE, Ibn Khaldun took on his first significant government position. This role required not only administrative competence but also a deep understanding of political dynamics and court intrigues. His work in state administration provided him with firsthand exposure to the mechanisms of power, the strategies of rulers, and the intricate balance of alliances and rivalries within the ruling elite.

From another perspective, his early role as a **court official** allowed him to develop the analytical skills that later became evident in his historical and sociological writings. His observations of court life, factional struggles, and governance challenges were later synthesized into his monumental work, the *Muqaddimah*, where he theorized about the rise and fall of civilizations.

Ibn Khaldun's experience as an administrator, diplomat, and scholar thus placed him at the crossroads of governance and intellectual inquiry. This period of his life raises important questions:

How did his administrative duties influence his later theories on statecraft and the nature of political power?

To what extent did his firsthand experience with political instability shape his historical perspectives?

Did his involvement in state affairs strengthen or weaken his intellectual independence?

These questions remain central to understanding Ibn Khaldun's intellectual journey and the profound insights he offered in his historical and sociological analyses.

1-2- His Work in the Marinid Court in Fez and His Imprisonment

Ibn Khaldun traveled to the farthest reaches of the Maghreb following the death of his former patron, seeking a new political foothold. He found an opportunity in Fez, where the Marinid sultan Abu Inan appointed him to a governmental position. Ibn Khaldun strove to gain the ruler's favor and quickly rose through the administrative ranks, leveraging his political acumen and scholarly reputation. However, despite his growing influence, he soon became entangled in the intricate web of courtly rivalries and power struggles. His intellect and sharp political mind made him both a valuable asset and a potential threat to those in power.

His involvement in political affairs and his perceived ambition drew the suspicion of the sultan. Ibn Khaldun's ability to navigate the complex political landscape made him a prominent figure at court, but it also earned him adversaries among the ruling elite. In a dramatic turn of events, he was imprisoned on charges that remain subject to historical speculation. Was his incarceration a result of a personal vendetta, or was it a calculated move by a ruler wary of his growing influence?

The shifting tides of power eventually played in Ibn Khaldun's favor. Following the death of Sultan Abu Inan in 757 AH / 1356 CE, political changes at the Marinid court facilitated his release in 759 AH / 1358 CE. The new ruler, Sultan Abu Salem, recognized Ibn Khaldun's administrative talents and reinstated him to a high-ranking position within the government. Ibn Khaldun capitalized on this opportunity, strengthening his ties with the ruling elite while continuing to develop his intellectual and political theories.

However, his return to power was not without challenges. Court politics remained volatile, and his position was never entirely secure. By 760 AH / 1359 CE, Ibn Khaldun had begun contemplating a departure from the turbulent world of political intrigue, seeking instead a realm where he could engage more freely in scholarly pursuits. This period marked a turning point in his career, as he started to distance himself from the precarious nature of state affairs, laying the groundwork for his later intellectual contributions.

1.3- His Political Activity in the Court of the Nasrids in al-Andalus

Ibn Khaldun traveled to al-Andalus and arrived at the court of Sultan Muhammad V ibn Yusuf ibn Ismail of the Nasrid dynasty in Granada. The sultan welcomed him warmly and granted him a privileged position in his court. Ibn Khaldun's erudition and diplomatic skills made him a valuable figure in the political sphere of the Nasrid state, particularly in the delicate relations between Granada and the surrounding Christian kingdoms.

As his influence grew, the Nasrid ruler entrusted him with sensitive diplomatic missions. One of his most notable roles was negotiating a peace agreement between Granada and King Pedro I of Castile. Ibn Khaldun's success in this task demonstrated his remarkable political acumen and ability to navigate complex inter-state relations. However, his growing prominence also attracted envy and suspicion within the Nasrid court.

Tensions eventually arose between him and some influential figures at court. Sensing that his position in Granada was becoming precarious, Ibn

Khaldun chose to leave al-Andalus and return to the Maghreb. His departure marked the end of a significant chapter in his political career, one in which he had directly engaged with the challenges of governance, diplomacy, and courtly intrigue.

1.4 - His Activities in the Central Maghreb and His Political Aspirations

Upon his return to the Maghreb, Ibn Khaldun resumed his political activities with renewed ambition. He sought independence from the dominant rulers of the region and aspired to establish a political base of his own. His charisma and deep understanding of statecraft allowed him to forge alliances with tribal leaders and regional power brokers.

Unlike his previous roles in royal courts, where he had served as an administrator and diplomat, Ibn Khaldun now aimed for a more autonomous position. He saw himself not merely as an advisor but as a potential leader capable of exerting direct influence over political affairs. This phase of his life was marked by strategic maneuvering, as he balanced his intellectual pursuits with the realities of power struggles in the Maghreb.

Despite his efforts, the volatile nature of Maghrebi politics ultimately prevented him from realizing his full ambitions. His position remained precarious, and his political aspirations were met with resistance from established rulers. However, this period provided him with invaluable insights into the dynamics of power, further shaping the historical theories that he would later articulate in his *Muqaddimah*.

1.5 - Ibn Khaldun in His Final Political Phase: Withdrawal from Office and the Pursuit of Knowledge

At a certain point in his career, Ibn Khaldun found himself disillusioned with political life. He distanced himself from official positions and administrative responsibilities, choosing instead to devote himself to intellectual pursuits and scholarly endeavors. This period of introspection and withdrawal led him to contemplate a new journey—one that would take him beyond the Maghreb to the intellectual centers of the East.

Determined to leave behind the political turbulence of the Maghreb, he sought permission from Sultan Abu al-Abbas Ahmad of the Hafsid dynasty to depart. The sultan, reluctant to let him go, initially denied his request. However, Ibn Khaldun eventually managed to secure approval for his journey and set sail for the East, carrying with him a wealth of experience gained from years of political engagement and historical

observation. His departure marked a turning point in his life, as he sought new intellectual horizons in lands where scholarship flourished.

1.6 - His Migration to the East and His Political Activities There

Ibn Khaldun embarked on his journey from Tunis, setting sail towards Alexandria aboard a merchant vessel. The voyage itself was not without challenges, yet it symbolized his transition from the political intrigues of the Maghreb to the scholarly vibrancy of the Mamluk realm. Upon his arrival in Alexandria, he was struck by the city's grandeur and the intellectual dynamism that characterized it.

Shortly after, he traveled to Cairo, a city he described with great admiration, stating, *"Whoever has not seen Cairo does not know the greatness of Islam."* Cairo, the heart of Mamluk civilization, was a hub of scholarship, culture, and political power. Ibn Khaldun quickly integrated himself into its intellectual circles, gaining the favor of Sultan al-Malik al-Zahir Barquq. His reputation as a historian, scholar, and statesman preceded him, allowing him to assume esteemed positions within the Mamluk administration.

His time in Egypt was characterized by a delicate balance between scholarship and political engagement. He was appointed to high-ranking judicial and administrative roles, yet he remained ever-cautious, aware of the volatility of Mamluk politics. As he navigated this new political landscape, he continued to refine the ideas that would later be immortalized in his *Muqaddimah*, shaping the foundations of historiography and sociology.

1.7 - Ibn Khaldun's First Appointment as Chief Judge in Egypt

In 786 AH / 1384 CE, Sultan al-Malik al-Zahir Barquq dismissed the sitting chief judge and appointed Ibn Khaldun in his place. This appointment marked a significant milestone in Ibn Khaldun's career, as he assumed a role of immense legal and administrative responsibility. However, his tenure was short-lived, as he was removed from office just six months later.

Ibn Khaldun himself recorded this event, reflecting on the nature of the position and its demands:
"This judicial office in Egypt is one of the most burdensome and trying responsibilities, as it involves constant engagement with the people, their disputes, and their grievances… It requires not only legal expertise but also a strong will and steadfastness in the face of pressure."

His removal from office was not due to incompetence but rather a result of the intricate power struggles within the Mamluk court. The judicial

system in Egypt was deeply intertwined with the political landscape, and judges often found themselves caught between conflicting factions. Ibn Khaldun's principled stance and his reluctance to engage in courtly intrigues may have contributed to his dismissal.

Nonetheless, his standing in scholarly and political circles remained strong. Following a brief period away from official duties, he was reinstated to his judicial position in 787 AH / 1385 CE, once again assuming a prominent role in the governance of Mamluk Egypt.

1.8 - His Final Years and Legacy in Egypt

Despite his multiple appointments as chief judge, Ibn Khaldun's tenure in office was marked by intermittent periods of dismissal and reinstatement. His second appointment in 787 AH / 1385 CE followed a pattern of alternating between judicial responsibilities and scholarly pursuits, as he never fully abandoned his intellectual endeavors.

In 802 AH / 1399 CE, nearing the end of his life, Ibn Khaldun was once again reinstated as chief judge. This final phase of his career saw him balancing his administrative duties with his scholarly work, solidifying his legacy as both a statesman and an intellectual.

His time in Egypt was not merely a period of political engagement but also one of profound scholarly achievement. It was in Cairo that he completed his masterpiece, *al-Muqaddimah*, laying the foundations for the field of historiography and social sciences. His final years were spent in deep reflection on the nature of power, history, and human civilization—concepts that would continue to shape intellectual thought for centuries to come.

1.9 - Ibn Khaldun's Third, Fourth, and Fifth Appointments as Chief Judge in Egypt

In the late months of 803 AH / 1401 CE, Ibn Khaldun was once again appointed as the Chief Judge of the Maliki school in Egypt. However, as with his previous appointments, his tenure was short-lived, and he was dismissed in 804 AH / 1402 CE. The repeated fluctuations in his judicial career reflected the volatile nature of Mamluk politics, where court intrigues and shifting alliances frequently determined appointments and dismissals.

Despite these challenges, Ibn Khaldun continued his intellectual pursuits, but his final years were marked by personal loss and a growing sense of detachment from political life. The most profound of these losses came in 808 AH / 1406 CE when he passed away on the 26th of Ramadan. He

was laid to rest in the Sufi cemetery outside Bab al-Nasr in Cairo, an area traditionally reserved for scholars and pious figures.

His passing marked the end of a remarkable career that bridged politics, scholarship, and judicial responsibility. He left behind an intellectual legacy that far outlived his political struggles. His *Muqaddimah*—which explored themes of history, sociology, and the rise and fall of civilizations—remains one of the most influential works in historical thought. His own words, written in the twilight of his career, offer a fitting reflection on his journey:

"If I were to summarize my life, I would say that I have been tossed by fate between positions of honor and dismissal, between proximity to rulers and exile, between security and hardship. Yet through it all, I have observed, recorded, and sought to understand the patterns that govern human history."

Ibn Khaldun's profound insights and analytical approach to history continue to resonate centuries after his death, securing his place as one of the greatest intellectuals of the Islamic world.

2- Ibn Khaldun's Political Roles

After completing his education, Ibn Khaldun remained at the court of Sultan Abu Inan Faris in Fez. However, he did not initially gain a significant political role within the Mamluk administration. It was not until later that he found an opportunity, following the death of Sultan Abu Inan in 753 AH / 1352 CE. His early career was marked by a delicate balancing act, navigating the complex and often treacherous world of North African politics, where shifting alliances and court intrigues dictated the fate of many officials.

Despite his intellectual prowess, Ibn Khaldun faced challenges in securing a stable position, as he was viewed with suspicion by various factions. His ambitions and connections often made him a target for political rivalries, and his loyalty was frequently tested. During this period, he moved between different rulers and courts, always seeking a position that would allow him both influence and the freedom to pursue his intellectual endeavors.

At one point, Ibn Khaldun played a crucial role in the negotiations between Abu Salim Ibrahim and Muhammad ibn Ahmad, two competing figures for power in North Africa. His diplomatic skills and deep understanding of statecraft earned him the trust of influential leaders. In 758 AH / 1357 CE, he briefly allied himself with the court of Sultan Abu Salim, but political instability soon forced him to shift allegiances once again.

By 760 AH / 1359 CE, Ibn Khaldun found himself entangled in yet another political conflict, this time involving the power struggles within the Hafsid dynasty of Ifriqiya (modern-day Tunisia). His ability to navigate the shifting political landscape was both an asset and a liability, as his increasing influence made him a target for those who viewed him as a threat. Eventually, circumstances compelled him to leave North Africa and seek refuge in the Mamluk-controlled lands of Egypt, where he would later establish his most enduring intellectual legacy.

His political career, though marked by moments of prominence, was ultimately overshadowed by his greater achievements as a historian, philosopher, and scholar. Ibn Khaldun's deep reflections on the nature of power and governance, shaped by his own experiences, would later form the foundation of his most famous work, *Al-Muqaddimah*, in which he articulated a groundbreaking theory on the rise and fall of civilizations.

2.1 - Ibn Khaldun's Political Maneuvering and Strategic Decisions

Ibn Khaldun recounts that his decision to act in a particular manner was influenced by his perception of the deteriorating political situation of Mansur ibn Suleiman. He foresaw the inevitable downfall of Ibn Suleiman and realized that aligning himself with Sultan Ibn Salim would be a more strategic move. Thus, he carefully orchestrated his transition to the Sultan's court, presenting himself as a loyal supporter while maintaining a degree of personal agency and intellectual independence.

His political instincts were sharp; he understood the shifting nature of power and the importance of timing in securing influential positions. In his writings, he reflected on the necessity of adapting to political realities while safeguarding one's principles. He noted the fine balance required between allegiance and self-preservation, emphasizing that political survival often depended on the ability to navigate changing allegiances without compromising one's integrity.

Despite his calculated decisions, Ibn Khaldun faced significant challenges. His tenure in various courts was often short-lived due to the volatile nature of the political landscape. Between 758 AH / 1357 CE and 759 AH / 1359 CE, he experienced periods of imprisonment and exile, reflecting the precariousness of his position. However, he managed to overcome these obstacles through his diplomatic skills and his reputation as a learned scholar, which made him an asset to rulers seeking legitimacy and intellectual prestige.

Later, he sought refuge with Sultan Ibn al-Ahmar of the Nasrid dynasty in Granada. His arrival in the court of Muhammad V in 765 AH / 1364 CE marked a turning point in his career. Unlike previous rulers who

viewed him with suspicion, Muhammad V recognized his talents and entrusted him with significant political responsibilities, particularly in diplomatic negotiations and administrative reforms. His deep understanding of governance and his ability to mediate between different factions proved invaluable.

This period in Granada was one of the most stable in Ibn Khaldun's political life. His engagement in state affairs and his close relationship with the Sultan allowed him to implement some of his ideas on governance. However, his success also attracted envy and political rivals, forcing him once again to reconsider his position and future alliances.

Ibn Khaldun's ability to adapt to shifting political tides while maintaining his scholarly pursuits highlights the complexity of his career. His firsthand experience with political instability profoundly shaped his later writings, particularly his analysis of the cyclical nature of power in *Al-Muqaddimah*. His intellectual legacy thus remains inseparable from his political experiences, as both were driven by a deep desire to understand the mechanisms that govern societies and the rise and fall of civilizations.

2.2 - Ibn Khaldun and the Role of Chief Judge (Ḥisbah) in Cairo

Upon his arrival in Cairo, Ibn Khaldun was appointed as the Chief Judge (Muḥtasib), a position that held significant authority over public order, market regulations, and moral oversight. In his memoirs, Ibn Khaldun reflects on this appointment with a critical eye, indicating that he had thoroughly studied the policies of previous rulers and the judicial principles guiding his responsibilities. He recognized the challenges inherent in the position, particularly given the complexities of enforcing justice in a large and dynamic city such as Cairo.

His tenure as Chief Judge was marked by difficulties, largely due to his reformist approach and his insistence on applying legal principles with strict adherence to justice. Unlike many political roles he had previously held, this position placed him at the center of public scrutiny, requiring him to mediate disputes, regulate economic activities, and oversee moral conduct. His approach, however, did not always align with the interests of powerful elites, which led to tensions within the administration.

Despite his experience in governance and diplomacy, Ibn Khaldun faced opposition from entrenched bureaucratic factions resistant to change. His tenure was further complicated by rivalries within the judiciary and conflicts with influential figures who sought to undermine his authority. Consequently, his position as Chief Judge was short-lived, as his reformist stance made him a target for political maneuvering by those who wished to maintain the status quo.

Later, as his political fortunes shifted once again, Ibn Khaldun sought refuge in scholarly activities, deepening his engagement with historical writing and refining his theories on governance and social dynamics. His reflections on justice, leadership, and the responsibilities of rulers became integral to his intellectual legacy, culminating in *Al-Muqaddimah*, where he examined the interplay between power, economics, and law in sustaining a stable society.

His departure from the judiciary did not mark the end of his influence; rather, it provided him with the intellectual freedom to analyze the very structures of governance that had constrained him. His experiences as a judge reinforced his broader understanding of human societies, contributing to his lasting impact as one of history's foremost scholars in political thought and historiography.

2.3 - Ibn Khaldun's Judicial Approach and His Perception by Contemporary Historians

Several contemporary historians have commented on Ibn Khaldun's tenure as a judge, noting his strict approach to justice and governance. Some chroniclers described his judicial conduct as characterized by severity, firmness, and an unwavering commitment to righteousness. His rulings were reportedly marked by a profound sense of authority and determination, which occasionally resulted in disputes and tensions with the political elite and the established judicial order.

Ibn Khaldun's firm stance on justice extended beyond the courtroom. He is said to have refused to accept bribes or political influence in legal matters, which, in a society deeply entangled in patronage and favoritism, often put him at odds with powerful figures. His adversaries sought to discredit him, framing his judicial style as overly rigid and uncompromising. However, his defenders viewed his judicial philosophy as an extension of his broader intellectual framework—one that emphasized the necessity of moral order and institutional integrity in the governance of society.

One of the key criticisms leveled against him was his interpretation of justice as an almost mathematical pursuit, devoid of flexibility or leniency. According to his critics, this rigid application of the law occasionally led to harsh verdicts, which made him a controversial figure in the judicial sphere. His unwavering commitment to applying legal principles without yielding to political pressures was seen as both an asset and a liability.

Ibn Khaldun's approach to justice was also deeply influenced by his broader historical and sociological insights. He viewed law and

governance as integral components of civilizational stability, arguing that corruption in the judiciary was often a symptom of a declining state. This perspective, which he articulated in *Al-Muqaddimah*, framed justice not merely as an administrative function but as a foundational pillar upon which the endurance of a state depended.

Ultimately, Ibn Khaldun's judicial career was short-lived. The political intrigues of the Mamluk court and the resistance of entrenched elites led to his removal from office. However, his experiences as a judge profoundly shaped his intellectual contributions, reinforcing his theories on the cyclical rise and fall of states and the intricate relationship between governance, morality, and social cohesion.

2.4 - Ibn Khaldun's Political Experience and Its Consequences

Ibn Khaldun's political career was marked by diverse and complex engagements. He held various administrative, diplomatic, and advisory roles, operating within the intricate political landscape of the Maghreb and later in the Mamluk court in Egypt. His tenure in these positions was characterized by a combination of intellectual rigor and pragmatic maneuvering, as he sought to balance personal survival with his philosophical convictions.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Ibn Khaldun did not perceive political office merely as a means to accumulate wealth or secure personal influence. Instead, he viewed governance as a crucial component of civilizational development, a perspective deeply rooted in his broader sociological and historical theories. However, his intellectual approach often clashed with the volatile realities of political life, leading him to experience both favor and persecution under different rulers.

One of the defining moments in his political trajectory occurred when he was summoned by a ruler who sought his counsel and administrative expertise. Ibn Khaldun, aware of the risks inherent in political service, hesitated to accept the invitation. His reluctance stemmed from previous experiences in which his independence and commitment to truth had brought him into conflict with powerful figures. Nevertheless, he ultimately yielded to the king's request, motivated either by a sense of duty or the practical necessity of securing his own position in an unpredictable political environment.

His political engagements exposed him to both the mechanisms of statecraft and the perils of courtly intrigue. He witnessed firsthand the fragile nature of power, where alliances were transient and loyalty was often dictated by expediency rather than principle. This exposure reinforced his belief in the cyclical nature of history—an idea he would

later elaborate in *Al-Muqaddimah*, arguing that states, like individuals, undergo predictable phases of rise, consolidation, and decline.

However, Ibn Khaldun's direct involvement in governance also made him a target for political rivals. His growing influence provoked jealousy among the ruling elite, leading to accusations that he harbored ambitions beyond his designated role. The general atmosphere of political instability, coupled with the ever-present danger of factional disputes, made his position increasingly precarious. Eventually, sensing the growing hostility around him, Ibn Khaldun opted to distance himself from active political life, marking a transition from practical engagement to intellectual reflection.

His departure from politics did not signify a retreat into obscurity; rather, it allowed him to synthesize his experiences into a coherent historical philosophy. By the time he withdrew from official duties around 1375-1377 CE (776-780 AH), he had accumulated a wealth of firsthand knowledge that would inform his groundbreaking analysis of history, governance, and the evolution of societies.

2.5 - Ibn Khaldun's Perspective on Political Engagement

Ibn Khaldun approached historical events with the keen eye of an observer, a reflective thinker who carefully analyzed the complexities of political life. His extensive travels across the Arab Maghreb and his involvement in various political circles granted him direct exposure to the inner workings of governance, administrative structures, and the shifting alliances that characterized medieval Islamic politics. This practical experience, however, also led him into a realm fraught with political struggles, ideological conflicts, and the inevitable rivalries that made political engagement a perilous endeavor.

Despite his intellectual inclinations, Ibn Khaldun was frequently drawn into political service, where he occupied administrative positions that brought him into close contact with ruling elites. He was deeply aware of the inherent tensions between intellectual autonomy and the demands of political loyalty. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he was not merely a court historian or a passive advisor; rather, he saw governance as an arena where ideas about justice, economy, and social organization could be tested and refined.

Ibn Khaldun's interactions with rulers and political figures revealed to him the unstable nature of power—where rulers often prioritized immediate political survival over long-term state stability. He observed how policies were dictated by personal interests and how governance frequently relied on force, deception, and opportunistic decision-making

rather than reasoned strategy or moral principles. These experiences shaped his theories on the rise and fall of dynasties, as he recognized patterns in the way power was gained, exercised, and ultimately lost.

One of his most profound realizations was the recurring cycle of political decay. He noted that states, much like individuals, go through stages of strength, consolidation, and decline. This observation was not merely theoretical but rooted in his firsthand experience of witnessing dynasties rise to power only to collapse under the weight of internal corruption, mismanagement, and the inevitable disintegration of social cohesion.

Ultimately, Ibn Khaldun sought to distance himself from direct political involvement, preferring instead to document his observations and refine his historical and sociological theories. His works, particularly *Al-Muqaddimah*, reflect his deep conviction that history should not merely be recorded but understood in terms of underlying principles and patterns. For him, the study of history was not an act of passive narration but an analytical discipline that revealed the universal laws governing human societies.

His legacy as a historian, philosopher, and political thinker endures, as his writings continue to inspire scholars and policymakers alike. In a world where political instability remains a recurring theme, his reflections on governance, power, and social transformation offer timeless insights into the nature of political authority and the fate of civilizations.

Ibn Khaldun inclined toward political engagement early in his career, as evident in his role during his twenties when he served as a scribe for the chancellery of Sultan Abu Inan of the Marinid dynasty. He later held a position in the administration of one of the Marinid vassal states before assuming the office of chief secretary and overseeing the drafting of official decrees. His career took a significant turn when he was entrusted with sensitive diplomatic missions and high-ranking administrative responsibilities.

Despite his initial involvement in governance, Ibn Khaldun's fortunes fluctuated, and he found himself at odds with Sultan Abu Inan. However, he soon realigned himself with the succeeding ruler, Sultan Abu Salem, with whom he established a strong rapport. Ibn Khaldun's adaptability allowed him to maintain his status in the political sphere, securing key positions within the Marinid administration.

His relationship with Sultan Abu Salem flourished until the latter’s assassination, after which Ibn Khaldun shifted his allegiance to Sultan Abu Zaid. This period marked his increasing prominence as a statesman,

as he navigated the turbulent political landscape with strategic acumen. He later aligned himself with Sultan Abu al-Abbas, whose court became a pivotal stage for Ibn Khaldun's political and intellectual contributions.
Ibn Khaldun's political trajectory ultimately led him to Mamluk Egypt, where he served under Sultan al-Nasir Faraj and later became a close associate of the Mamluk ruling elite. His career was characterized by intricate political maneuvering, reflecting his deep understanding of power dynamics and statecraft. These experiences, coupled with his theoretical insights, informed his later writings, in which he analyzed the structures of governance and the cyclical nature of political authority.

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