

The idea of enlightenment in the Arab philosophy is conceived in relation to two major historical cycles, whereby geopolitical factors contribute in shaping the collective consciousness at each stage of a dynamic process from the rise to the decline of states and city-states. This could be explained by means of analyzing the elements of new interpretations of both the philosophy of Arabic history and the history of Arabic philosophy. The new interpretations include the consideration of geographical structures, political events, scientific and philosophical achievements, which interact within a process-based movement. Moreover, the relations between the role of the *polis* as an urban and cultural center and the different conceptions of enlightenment in the Arabic philosophy could lead to the detection of the characteristics of the perception enlightenment in each cycle.

In order to determine the features of these developments from a philosophical perspective, one needs to elaborate a particular conception of the Arabic philosophy of history, which would be able to explain the interconnections of historical accumulations and contemporary geopolitical events. This conception rests upon the process-oriented thought of the Arab philosopher of history Ibn Khaldūn (1332-1406), and attempts to critically extend the thesis of Hegel, that the consciousness of freedom is moving from the East to the West. Within the discussion of the contemporary relevance of Ibn Khaldūn's categories of *hadara* (culture / civilization), *mulk* (ruling / reign), *'umran* (urbanization / urbanity) and *'assabiya* (tribal consciousness / identity drive), Hegel's associations of political systems to *stages of enlightenment* are reconsidered from the perspective of an Arabic philosophy of history.

The renewal of Ibn Khaldūn's *science of civilization*, which he already conceived as a philosophical science, includes new interpretations of the Arabic philosophy itself, as well as the conceptions of Arabic collective consciousness in two major historical cycles. These interpretations focus not only on the function of urban systems, but also on the general impacts of different conceptions of philosophy of history on the understanding of the rise and decline of civilizations, which are related to the dynamics of the perceptions of enlightenment in both Western and Eastern thought.