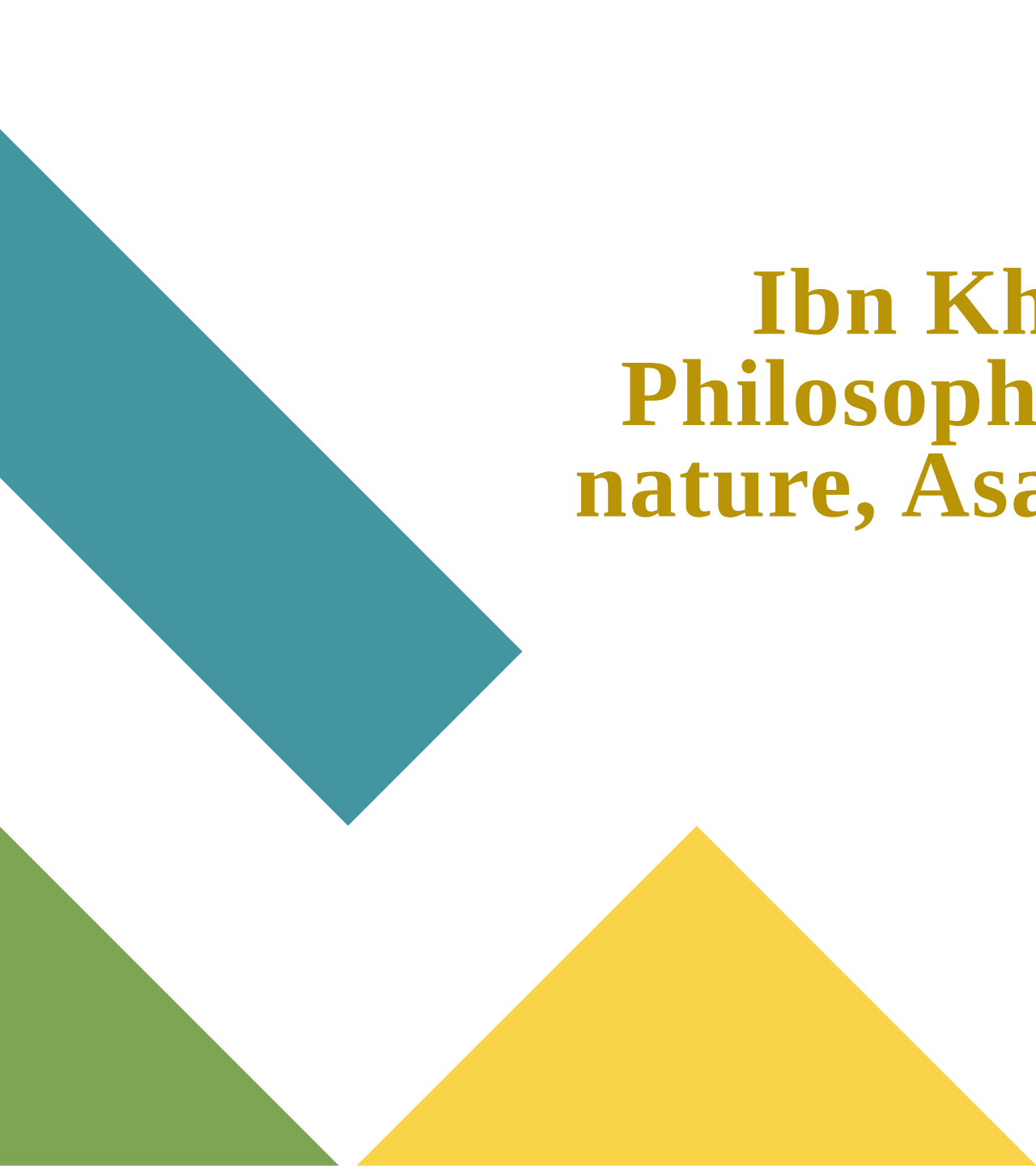




Ibn Khaldun's Political Philosophy: Man is citizen by nature, Asabiyah, and theory of state

Introduction

Ibn Khaldun, a 14th-century scholar, is often regarded as a pioneer in sociology, historiography, and political philosophy. His ideas on human nature, social cohesion, and the state are particularly influential.





Man as a Citizen by Nature

Man as a Citizen by Nature

- Ibn Khaldun believed that humans are inherently social beings. He argued that individuals cannot survive in isolation and are naturally inclined to form communities. This idea aligns with the Aristotelian notion that "man is a political animal," emphasizing the necessity of cooperation and organization for survival and progress.



Asabiyah (Social Cohesion)

Social Cohesion

Central to Ibn Khaldun's philosophy is the concept of *Asabiyah*, which refers to social solidarity or group cohesion. He observed that strong *Asabiyah* is the foundation of successful societies and dynasties. It fosters unity and collective action, enabling groups to achieve dominance. However, he also noted that as societies grow wealthy and complacent, their *Asabiyah* weakens, leading to decline.

Theory of the State



Ibn Khaldun's theory of the state is deeply intertwined with his views on *Asabiyah*. He proposed that states rise and fall in a cyclical pattern. Initially, a group with strong *Asabiyah* establishes dominance and forms a state. Over time, as luxury and corruption set in, the group's cohesion diminishes, making the state vulnerable to conquest by another group with stronger *Asabiyah*. This dynamic is detailed in his seminal work, the *Muqaddimah*.

Theory of the State



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