

A Comparison of the Views of Ibn Khaldun and Montesquieu in Terms of the Effect of Climatic Conditions on Human Life

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ABSTRACT There is a significant similarity between Ibn Khaldun, having lived in the Northern Africa in the fourteenth century and Montesquieu in terms of their ideas concerning the direct effect of geographical conditions and climate on human life. According to Ibn Khaldun, who divided the world into seven climatic regions from the south to the north, the fourth climatic zone located just in the centre is the most suitable place to live. The moralities and personality features of the people living in these regions are more moderate compared to other regions. Similarly, Montesquieu indicated that climate has an effect on the personalities, behavioural forms of people and the laws they enact. According to him, those living in the cold climatic zones are coldblooded, proud and keen on their security and freedom. As for the ones living temperate zones, it changes. In this study, the ideas of the two thinkers suggesting that natural conditions have an effect on people and communities were compared.