REFLECTING ON 10 PHILOSOPHERS

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Ibn Khaldun

Ibn Khaldun was an acknowledged North African Arab historiographer and philosopher. He has made a great contribution to the development of not only the philosophical science but also sociology and demography. The ideas explored by Ibn Khaldun in his main work *The Muqaddimah (Introduction to History)* greatly influenced the following philosophers. In particular, he claimed that the government should not impose the high taxes since it will lead to reducing the outcomes of the manufacturing industry. Ibn Khaldun believed that the law should be protected by the government. He realized that poor motivation and training did not allow the bureaucracy to manage the commercial activities efficiently. Besides, the philosopher supported the right for the property of every organization, defining it as the main condition for the successful development. The enforcement and protection of the rights to the property should also be defined by the law. For his progressive statements, Ibn Khaldun is considered one of the wisest economists.

Malik Bin Nabi

Malik Bin Nabi was a famous Algerian philosopher who dedicated his life to the analysis and exploration of the Muslim identity. He was the first philosopher who described the concepts of civilizational bankruptcy and coloniability. Thus, he believed that there were the nations which were attractive for the more powerful states. Analyzing this issue, Malik Bin Nabi believed that the greatest problem of society was "the colonization of minds." In order to avoid such a fate, he believed that the certain society needed to

understand its essence and follow the national culture. In his famous works *Conditions of a Renaissance* and *The Question of Culture,* Malik Bin Nabi wanted to prove that the culture is the inevitable part of the human personality. Following his ideas, Bin Nabi often criticized the Muslim society for its falling into the apologetic state. Also, the philosopher believed that the nation should not only focus on its past achievements but also work hard to achieve the progress.

Al Farabi

The philosophy knows Al Farabi as the talented mathematician, musician, and philosopher. The philosopher is also famous for his active position in the division of theology and philosophy. "Al Farabi has combined the studies of ancient philosophy in order to present his picture of the universe and interpretation of deity". He believed that the principles of the balanced intelligence helped some Supreme Being to create the world. The philosopher believed that getting happiness is the ultimate goal of every individual. To reach this goal, people should live in peace with each other. What is more, Al Farabi analyzed the key qualities of the leader pointing out that he should possess good personal traits and honorable behavior. Besides, Al Farabi contributed to the music science explaining the significant peculiarities of the East and the ancient Greek musical systems. Overall, the works of Al Farabi influenced a lot of other famous scientists including Avicenna.

Ibn Rushd

Ibn Rushd was an influential Muslim philosopher who was famous for his

ground commentaries of Aristotle`s works. The world also knows him by his second name, Averroes. Indeed, his works were particularly important for the development of the contemporary medicine, grammar, astronomy, theology, and many other disciplines. Acknowledging the significance of Aristotle`s work, Ibn Rushd tried to unite it with the unique Islamic beliefs. Unlike other philosophers, Ibn Rushd did not recognize the differences between philosophy and theology since both sciences had the same purpose – to help the individual to achieve the harmony with himself and the surrounding world. Thus, he believed that if the common truth does not coincide with the one in scripture, the scripture should be interpreted allegorically. Ibn Rushd believed that the good state ruler should be a philosopher and his rhetoric should be understandable for any citizen. Ibn Rushd died in 1198 in Marrakesh and "his body was buried in his family in Cordoba".

Al-Ghazali

Al-Ghazali was a famous philosopher and one of the first theorists of Sufism, the particularly important concept in the Muslim world. Al-Ghazali wrote approximately 70 books, in which he discussed various philosophical issues. It should be noted that the works of an acknowledged philosopher influenced not only the Muslim world but also the medieval Christian scholars. The philosopher believed that the moral principles of every individual should be based on his relations with God as well as his personal experiences. Al-Ghazali was the first philosopher who managed to question the cause and effect relationship, which is considered as the main principle of the modern skepticism. Also, Al-Ghazali achieved significant progress in uniting the concepts of Sufism and Sharia law. As well as many other great thinkers, Al-Ghazali had his personal receipt for reaching happiness and inner harmony. Thus, he believed that people should search for the divine grace

and enlightenment.

Socrates

Socrates was the first Greek philosopher who failed to leave some written evidence of his work. Therefore, the humanity knows him from the testimonies of his followers. "Socrates was born in 470 BC and died in 399 BC in Athens. He is considered the first public philosopher. Socrates dedicated the entire life to giving the essential knowledge to the people who could benefit the country. Although his students were very rich, Socrates lived in very modest conditions. He believed that the world is the creation of God and the humans should strive to understand its essential laws. Socrates worked hard exploring the issues of ethics because "a human as a moral being was the focus of his philosophy". Socrates is also famous for his attempt to classify the main forms of the state. In his classifications these forms were divided into "tyranny, monarchy, aristocracy, democracy, and plutocracy". It should be noted that Socrates respected monarchy most of all.

Machiavelli

Nicola Machiavelli was born in Italy, in 1469. He was a well-known philosopher, thinker, and a political activist. Although he never considered himself as a philosopher, his works became the guidelines for the greatest kings and emperors. Machiavelli lived in Florence, in the era of instability, and it defined his views to a major extent. Thus, he believed that to strengthen its power, the government could utilize various methods, even the cruelest ones. He opined that to impose the power, the authorities could even break the norms of morality and ethic. Thus, Machiavelli believed that to bring the

benefits to the state the ruler should not be weak, but strong and charismatic. Machiavelli`s work *The Price* is considered the best example of political science. This book was dedicated to the careful and multifaceted analysis of the concepts of power, government, state, as well as their relations. Machiavelli gave the recommendations which turned to be useful not only for his contemporary politicians but many following generations.

Confucius

Confucius was the philosopher and political activist who managed to influence China and East Asia by his wise teachings. Significantly, the contemporary Chinese people live according to the laws set by Confucius. His teachings became the basis of Confucianism, a philosophical system which had nothing common with religion. The aim of this philosophy was the creation of a harmonious society where everyone would live in love and peace. To achieve this ultimate goal, Confucius taught that the young people should respect the elderly ones and the family members should love and respect each other. "Confucius taught his flowerers that the state is the one big family; where the power of the emperor resembles the power of the father in a family". Without any doubts, Confucius`s model of government could exist only under the condition of high ethics and morality in the state apparatus. Chinese people highly appreciate the contribution made by Confucius` in their culture and history. "That man was like a great stretch of mountain and forest". Thus, his tomb became the place of pilgrimage.

Malcolm X

Malcolm X or Malcolm Little was one of the key figures of the struggle of

African Americans against the oppressive politics and racial segregation. He became the spiritual leader for many generations of Black people supporting their rights and respecting them as the equal members of society. He was born in Nebraska in 1925 and managed to gain worldwide popularity. For his active position, Malcolm X was sentenced to prison where he realized the importance of religion in human life and turned into the Islam representative. "Malcolm X was a charismatic member of the Nation of Islam and after his release from prison, quickly became one of its leaders". Acquiring the life wisdom, Malcolm X denied all the principles of the division of black and white people and focused on the politics of integration. He believed that two nations could exist in peace respecting each other. Malcolm X was killed in February 1965.

Mary Wollstonecraft

Mary Wollstonecraft was a famous British feminist writer and philosopher. She dedicated her life to the struggle for the women`s rights. Wollstonecraft wanted to prove that women deserved to have the equal status in the society with men. Her famous works *Thoughts on the Rights of Women* and *Vindication of the Rights of Women* have made a true revolution since they were filled with the progressive ideas about the place of a woman in society. Also, in these works, Mary Wollstonecraft emphasized the importance of education for the children from the middle class. The philosopher believed that the women seem silly and superficial because the men do not allow them to get the appropriate level of education. Having access to education could solve a lot of problems for women and help them to overcome the masculine stereotypes. The teachings of Mary Wollstonecraft had a lot of followers and made her the pioneer of the feminist movement.

The course of philosophy is particularly important for every student. It helps to acquire a solid knowledge base, which helps in further education. This course made me a better thinker. I realize the importance of understanding the essence of the things and processes, apart from the obvious information known for everyone. Philosophy taught me that the world and its laws are more complicated than we used to think. Therefore, it is necessary to apply the logical and critical approach analyzing various issues.

Moreover, this course gave us a wonderful possibility to get more knowledge about the greatest minds in the world history. We learned about their significant achievements and contributions into the philosophical thought. These philosophers became the founders of medicine, music, history, astronomy, sociology, and many other disciplines. They were not afraid to question the existing order and express the progressive ideas. Therefore, they suggested the brand new vision of God, philosophy, love, peace, state, power, mind, and many other concepts. All of them wanted to explore the laws which would help people to facilitate their lives.

Looking back in the course, I can say that philosophy is not just the part of the system of knowledge. It is the human wisdom and experience gained for many centuries. The laws of philosophy can help the individual to reach the inner harmony and consensus with the surrounding world. Philosophy helps the individual to investigate the ways that lead to happiness. The human life if full of challenges and hardships, however, I am sure that understanding the philosophical laws can help the individual to face them with patience and dignity. Studying philosophy is crucially important because it teaches that to live a happy and balanced life, the individual should overcome all the barriers between his personality and the surrounding world.