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**HISTORY OF TELEVISION IN NIGERIA**

TV is very popular among children and adults nowadays. The colorful pictures, various entertaining TV shows, cartoons, news, TV series, and movies give us many fun moments to share and enjoy. Do you know the history of television in Nigeria? Let us recollect how it all began and what the first local TV station was.

**First TV station in Nigeria**

The story began in 1959. It was the end of October (the very last day of the month, October the 31st) when the regional Nigerian government revealed the first TV station in Nigeria. The first TV station in the country was called WNTV. These four letters are an abbreviation that stands for Western Nigerian (WN) Government Broadcasting Corporation (TV). This broadcasting company was located in Ibadan. WNTV was not only the first TV station in Nigeria. It was also the 1st TV station in Tropical Africa! Western Nigerian TV was created with a goal to promote education and introduce citizens to the whole world, but the station became the voice of the opposition who needed to broadcast its ideas to Western Nigerians.

**Development of television in Nigeria**

The example of WNTV was contagious. Governments of other parts of the country also wanted to broadcast their ideas so they established regional television stations in the 1960s. The country, independent since 1960, saw the rise of RKTV (Radio Kaduna Television) and NBC (Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation) in 1962. Two more stations were established 10 years later: BPTV (Benue-Plateau Television Corporation) and Mid-west television. All these regional broadcasting companies were mostly used by politicians and served the government needs. The division of Nigeria into states in 1973 gave the way to forming a TV station in each state.

**Nigerian Television Authority**

The situation changes in late spring of 1977. All the regional stations were combined into one station. It got the name Nigerian Television or the simple abbreviation NTV. Later NTV was turned into NTA or Nigerian Television Authority. This organization was created by Nigerian military regime and was meant to coordinate all the TV coverage in the country. Today NTA is broadcasting in all 18 states of Nigeria. It works with UNESCO to create educational TV programs for institutions and high schools. NTA works with some of the most popular broadcasters that release TV programs loved by millions, such as Panorama, You and Your Rep, One O’clock Live and others. TV stations in Nigeria Modern Nigeria boasts nearly 100 TV stations all across the country. Some of them are government-owned (federal and state), others are private.

Here are some of the most popular TV stations in Nigeria in 2018: Channels TV (privately owned, exists since 1995) , AIT (privately owned, airs since 1996), Silverbird TV (privately owned, exists since 2003), CNN (American-based news channel aired in different countries across the world) , Galaxy TV (privately owned, exists since 1994) ,TVC (privately owned, airs since 2002), Africa Magic Yoruba (paid TV channel), onTV (independent station), Africa Magic Epic (paid TV channel) , Africa Magic Urban Movies (paid TV channel)

There is a strong competition between television channels in Nigeria today. The number of TV stations keeps increasing, although government stations have wider national coverage

**BRIEF HISTORY OF RADIO IN NIGERIA**

Nigeria can boast a big number of radio stations. Some of them are owned by the government, others are privately owned. A good number of radio stations air programmes in the local languages and this is a big advantage to tribes and communities. Let’s get into the brief history of radio in Nigeria to understand how this telecommunication method was introduced and developed through decades.

History of radio Radio technology uses special ‘radio waves’ transmitted through space. Its background goes back to the 1830s when scientists and innovators used wireless telegraphs and improved them. It took several decades to figure out all the forms of electromagnetic waves to deliver a signal at distances. The theory was proved in 1888 (by Heinrich Hertz who conducted an experiment to transmit the future ‘radio waves’), but it still wasn’t until 1893 when ‘Hertzian waves’ could finally become the basis for transmitting signals wirelessly.

The first system that could transmit signals was proposed by Tesla in 1893, and a year later Guglielmo Marconi (the genius from Italy) began working on the world’s first wireless telegraph which became the first radio transmission. Radio was used in communications between marine and military workers before it reached the public.

**Radio broadcasting in Nigeria before independence**

Nigeria was introduced to radio broadcasting in 1933 with the presentation of the first Radio Distribution System (the short term was RDS) in Nigeria. The country was a British colony at the time. RDS was transmitting the signal from BBC to Lagos state. It took 6 years to increase the number of receivers to approximately two thousand. The number of RDS receivers reached about a thousand people in 1939, however, it grew to 74 thousand by 1960

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**First radio station in Nigeria**

The first radio station in Nigeria was established in Ibadan in 1939. The next station was created in Kano in 1944. This means that Ibadan station was the only one in colonial Nigeria for 5 years. And five years later, in 1949, it was suggested to create Nigerian National Broadcasting Service (NBS) instead of RDS. This idea came to life in 1951. The NBS operated in Lagos. The new National Broadcasting Service was a useful organization. It gave a start to several regional radio stations. They were launched in different states, including Kaduna, Jos, Enugu, Ilorin, Jos, and Maiduguri. The Parliament decided to reorganize NBS into NBC (the new three letters meant Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation) in 1957, three years before the independence.

**HISTORY OF FILM IN NIGERIA**

**The Video film era**

The adaptation of several books into motion pictures and the television boom in the late 1980s, including some of the factors that led to the decline of the previous era paved way for the video film era.

This era also known as the Home video era started in the late 1980s — early 2000s. It was a major era that drastically changed the Nigeria movie industry. The video film era was inspired by the Yoruba Travelling Theatre practitioners and adopted by Babatunde Adelusi (Adamson) and distributors at Alaba market to reinvent a dying industry.

The first home video produced was Ade Ajiboye’s Soso Meji in 1988, It was first screened for a little token at Tinuade Cinema in Oworonshoki before it was released in videos and sold across the country, another movie that followed in this stride was Ekun (1989) produced by Alade Aromire. Ekun was screened at the National Theatre, Orile Iganmu.

One of the most prominent movies of that era was Living in Bondage which many believed kick-started the boom of the Video Era. Living in Bondage was produced by Okechukwu Ogunjiofor, directed Chris Obi Rapu and written by Kenneth Nnebue. Other films released in the early period of this era also include Circle of Doom (1993) and Glamour Girls (1994).

 In the early 2000s, the movie production had doubled compared to what was being produced in the 1990s with over 1000 movies produced yearly. According to the Filmmakers Cooperative of Nigeria, every film in Nigeria had a potential audience of 15 million people in Nigeria and about 5 million outside Nigeria.

With Nollywood movies setting the pace for Africa, there was a large number of influx of actors from other African countries especially Ghana into Nollywood. The wave was so strong that it went on to influence the cultures in different African countries which caused the leaders in some African countries to fight back stating that they were trying to prevent the Nigerialization of Africa.

Movies in this era were produced with an extremely low budget which could never have met international standards. They were shot using cheap video cameras without the required cinematic quality and edited with basic VCR machines. Some of the movies take as short as 3 days for the production of an entire movie with some filmmakers and actors complaining about the unprofessionalism and lack of structure in the industry.

By 2005–2008, there was massive copyright infringement and piracy in the industry, so much that the World Bank estimated that about 90% of the DVDs circulating Nigeria were illegal copies, with new releases enjoying only two weeks window, before the sales of pirated copies. At this time, many Nigerians had started to yearn for better movies with higher quality.

**The New Nigerian cinema**

This is an emerging phase in Nollywood which started in the mid-2000s. It was a subtle move from the Home Video film era to this emerging phase. In the early 2000s, several conferences, meetings and workshops were held to restore professionalism in the industry. Some filmmakers and producers took bold steps to actualise this that they produced films such as Thunderbolt, Madam Dearest and Dangerous Twins that are different from what was known as the norm at that time.