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**ASSIGNMENT** : Review chapter 2 of the *SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS.*

**Analysis of chapter 2**

This chapter is generally talking on the historical background of Nigerian government and politics during the pre-colonial and colonial period. The pre colonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialists into Nigeria While, the colonial period refers to the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria. Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state, pre colonial Nigeria comprised of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. These among others, include the Borno empire, the Hausa states, and the Sokoto Caliphate in the north; the igbo segmentary societies in the east; the Benin kingdom and the Oyo empire in the west and several ethnical identities in the Benue valley. The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from the different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the palaeolithic period 500,000 – 9000BC. The artefacts, mostly stone tools, found by archeologists further confirmed the Nigerians also took part in the stone age civilization. The Stone age can be divided into several period.

The early man has some recorded achievements which were found in various places after the age. The man who lived here in that age, worked very hard to cope with his environment around him. Firstly, he started scavenging for food in different locations and when it was found, he began to hunt for animals and gather fruits. Shortly after, he began to make simple tools. The tools consisted of pebbles used to make chopping and cutting tools. The first type of tools found was in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania and was called the Oldowan-type tool. Many other tools like the Sagoan was found in Uganda, East African and other tools found in Acheul in Northern Nigeria, Jos, Plateau state and in Iwo eleru in Ondo state.

The Scientific and Technological Development of Early Nigerian society

The centres of ancient civilization came from places in the very remote past in; Nok, Igbo ukwu, Ife, Benin among others. Information on the major land marks in Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done on places where men lived listed above.

Nok civilization involved the discovery of terracotta (burnt clay) head of a monkey by tin miners in Nok 1936, the Nok culture is believed to be a cicilization between Stone Age and the Iron Age in Nigeria as a result of the combination of stone and iron objects.

Benin civilization was all about its art works. Craftsmen carved wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass. Art historians claim that bronze cast was introduced in Benin by an Ife artist.

Ife civilization involved majorly its terracotta and bronze heads figures carved on hard stone or granite and decorated with iron nails. A valid example is Opa Oramiyan in ile ife and the terracotta and bronze heads were life sized decorated with facial marks and natural hair. The ife art is believed to have orinitaed from the Nok culture and Benin because of their similarities.

Igbo Ukwu civilization occurred when bronze objects and ornaments were discovered in 1939. This led to the excavation of three sites in the area by the archeologist, Thurstan Shaw. The sites excavated by igbo ukwu can be dated to 9th century A.D.

History of Pre-colonial political system in Yoruba land

The Yoruba ethnic group is definitely the second largest group in Nigeria and are united by merely their language. The Yoruba people can trace their origin to Oduduwa, the founder of the Yoruba kingdom. Il ife, the ancestral home of the yorubas’. There are vary versions of the tradition of its origin but Johnson traced the origin to Yorubas from the east, North-eastern area. The other version of the origin is according to Oke Oramfe’s version on the origin of Yoruba. Political struction of the pre colonial Yoruba land. This is basically talking about the Yoruba kingdoms and their similarities to each other. They all consist of capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands. Every town has Oba who reside in the palace known as Aafin. The Oba is both their religious and political leader, the king had rulers of lesser ranks. The Old Oyo empire is a typical good example of Pre colonial administration in Yoruba land. The organs under the Oyo empire is the; Alaafin administration, the Ogboni cult’s administration and the Army.

History of Pre-colonial political system of the igboland

The igbo people are well known for their segmentary or acephalous nature and way of nature, from the ancient times they had no centralized states. The basically operated a government without a king or major ruler. The igbo system is grouped into Five sub-cultures; The igbo of eastern state, The igbo of south-eastern state, The igbo of North eastern state, The western igbo and the Nothern igbo. One of the most popular versions of migratory stories of origin of the igbo people is not tht points to isreal. The assumption is based on the so-called similarities between the culture of the igbo and the ancient Hebrew. The next version in the origin of igbo people is the Nri version which sheds light on the ancestor, Eri who descended from the sky and sailed on the river Anambra. The groups found in the igbo pre-colonial era are the; Ofe title holders, Ozo title holders, Age graders, oha-na-eze, elders, etc. These groups had their roles to play in the development of the pre-colonial society of the igbo people and all contributed to the ruling government as it was a decentralized system.

History of Pre-colonial political system of the Hausa Land

Hausa is located at the Northern region of Nigeria. Hausa land before 1804 was made up of a total of fourteen states. There were two distinct group consisting of seven states each called the Hausa Bakwai and Hausa Banza. The story of its origin was about a young Arab prince who defeated a monstrous snake oppressing the people of Daura. The Queen was givien to the prince as a reward for his rescues from the snake and that is how the history of hausa region was formed. In the Hausa system, there are official who regulate activities of the government like; Sarki, Galadima, Madawaki, Dogari, etc.

NOTE; The british who are often given the accolade of colonizing Nigeria were not the first Europeans to land in Nigeria. The Portuguese were first here from the Bini kingdom. Before 1900 all areas were colonized by the british and the first ever amalgamation was in 1906. It was purely economical on their part which is why it wasn’t valid.