Name: Nwokoro Chinwendu Ifeoma

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In about 3 pages review chapter two, ‘an historical analysis of the evolution of the Nigerian state’ in salient issues in Nigeria’s politics, pages 15-32

Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state, Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires these among others include the borono empire, the Hausa states, and the sokoto caliphates in the north; the Igbo segmentery societies in the east identities in the Benue valley, these ethnic groupings significantly differ in their historical, social and cultural make-up.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidence from different parts of Nigeria. The man who lived in Nigeria those years worked hard to cope with his environment. First, he needed food. For his purpose he began to hunt animals and to gather fruits. But he began to invent tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools.

The major land mark in early Nigeria history, information was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived In Nigeria in the very remote past. Some of the places man lives in Nigeria in the remote past Ife and Benin among others. They are usually referred to as center of ancient civilization. The history of these centers of ancient civilization present us with the scientific and technological development of early Nigeria societies.

The Nok civilization: This terracotta head of a monkey was discovered by miners in Nok in 1936, more discoveries in other places where made. The area where all of these Nok arts where found is called the Nok culture and they believed to be transitional civilization between the Stone Age and the iron objects.

The Igbo ukwu civilization: some ornaments and objects where accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo ukwu in 1939 which lead to the evacuation of the site which was called the Thurstan Shaw, some of the sites included a burial chamber, a pit and a compound wall many others where made discovered in different sites. The sites excavated at Igbo ukwu have dated to the middle of the 9th Century A.D.

The historical background of pre-colonial political system in Yoruba land, the Yoruba’s are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria and they are united by language, the Yoruba people traced their origin of to oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba kingdom, Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people

The pattern of administration was hierarchical, they formed the lowest consultative group in town affairs which assisted the head of components lineages.

The Oyo Empire: The government of the old Oyo is a typical example of the pre-colonial administration in Yoruba. The first organ was the king known as the Alaafin of Oyo.

The Alaafin Administration: `the government of the Alaafin is regarded as the lord of many lands, the Alaafin was assisted in his administration by a retinue of officials made up of priests, officials and eunuchs. Sometimes he had an autocratic tendency.

The Ogboni cult’s Administration: apart from the Alaafin cabinet, members of the oyomesi cult constituted another arm of government. It was very powerful cult. It was composed of free and prominent members of the society as well as members of the Oyomesi.

The historical background of the pre-colonial political system in Igbo land, the ancient time had no centralized states in the Igbo land, they consequently operated a kind of government without kings, the Igbos are grouped into five sub- cultures; the Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, south-Eastern Nigeria, North-eastern Nigeria, the western Igbo and the Northern Igbo.

In the Igbo traditional society, there was no centralized authority but instead, they had what they called a diffusion authority. The family was the smallest political unit in Igbo traditional society each family was headed by the ‘ofo’ tittle holder and the family sees itself as having one common ancestor. The Ofo title holder is recognized as the most senior to others, he is known as the Okpara who holds the ozo title.

The Emirate government among the Hausa people, the Emir was an absolute monarch in his emirate, he was the political, administrative and spiritual leader, and he administers his emirate in accordance with the provision of the Islamic and sharia law. The emir controlled economic activities, he maintains law and order in his domain. The emir is assisted by group of village heads, body of councilors and council of advisers. Some of the tittle holders in the emir cabinet included:

The Sarkin Fada: the spokes man of the emir and organizer of palace workers

The Waziri: the prime minister of the emirate

The Galadinma: the administrator of the capital city

The Madawaki: the head of the emirate army.

The Magaji: government treasurer in charge of government treasury