**HISTORICAL ANALYSISOF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE**

The history background of Nigerian government and politics involves the precolonial period and colonial period in Nigeria .The pre-colonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialists to Nigeria while the colonial period refers to the era that colonial administration was established in country Nigeria .The Nigerian state is a colonial creation .It is a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the Colonisation of Africa .prior to the emergence of Nigerian state,pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of differennt independent chiefdoms,states,kingdoms and empires .Nigeria stretches roughly 700 miles from west to east and 650 miles from south to north ,covering an area between 3 degrees and 15 degrees E longitude and between 4 degrees and 14 degrees N latitude .The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of the Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in a region now known as Nigeria since the palaeolithic period 500,000-9000BC .

The excavation of a stone age skeleton at Iwo Eleru near Akure in Ondo state has thrown more light on the earliest occupation of Nigeria .The skeleton was dadted some 12,000 years ago , and this suggests that the country has been long inhabited .The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment .First ,he needed food.For this purpose has began to hunt animals and gather fruits .But he soon began to invest tools consisting of pebbles made into shopping and cutting tools,archaeologists called the tools the Oldowan-type tools .The tools were made during early stone age ,but they were later refined during the early stone age and late stone age .There is evidence of more advanced technology in various parts of Nigeria during the bronze and metal age .Indeed,one of the most active period, around 500BC to 200AD.During this period there were people who lived in Nigeria who made sculptures .The British who have often been credited with creation of Nigeria in the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past .

The discovery of terracotta (burnt clay) head of monkey by tin miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as Wamba,Katsina -Ala and Jema..Through the use of carbon dating, It was discovered that Nok culture exsisted between the 5th and 2nd century B.C.Benin was important for its art-work .The craftsmen of Benin carved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass. Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads.The Igbo objects and ornaments were accidently discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo ukwu in 1939.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN YORUBA LAND.**

The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language language. The yoruba people trace their origin to oduduwa who was the founder of yoruba kingdom .Oke oramfe is located in ile-ife .it is belived to be the centre from which the world was created . In their paper yorubaland up to 1800, Akinjogbin and ayandele (1980) gave a full picture of what Oke Oramfe is all about .The political structure of the pre-colonial Yoruba land, the pattern of administration was hierarchy .At the lowest level were the compound heads called the Baale ,next in line was the ward head who administered his ward on behalf of the king,at the apex was a group of civil chiefs headed by the king .

The goverrnment of the old empire is a typical example of the pre-colonial administration in Yorubaland .The first origin of government in oyo empire was the king known as Alaafin of Oyo .There’s the Alaafin of oyo administration, the ogboni cult administration by their secret cult ,then the army.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN IGBO LAND.**

The igbo people are best known for segmentary or acephalous way of life .This is because from ancient times , they had no centralized states .Consequently,they operated a kind of government without kings .The Igbo are grouped into five cultures :

-The igbo of eastern Nigeria

-The igbo of south eastern Nigeria

-The igbo of North eastern Nigeria

-The western Igbo and

-The Northern igbo

The igbo society has alwyas been acephalous .Moreover, there were very limited professional historians as at that period .There were no equivalents of Oba and Alaafin or palaces over most parts of Igbo land .In the Igbo traditional society, there was no highly centralized authority like the Yoruba and Hausa but instead they had what could be called a diffusion of authority into different groups which include the family, council of elders , age grades and secret societies.

The family was the smallest political unit in Igbo traditional society .Each family was headed by an “Ofo” title holder .The family sees it as haing one common ancestor.He was known as the “okpara” who held the “Ozo” tittle and presided over council of elders meeting where issues affecting the lives of people were discussed .Age grade was organised on a village basis .The association or age grade took a common name to commemorate an event associated with the time of their birth .Oha-na-eze was a form of general assembly in traditional Igbo society .All the male adult members usually met in this assembly in traditional igbo society.