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Assignment

Write a review on chapter 2.

Assign. Answer

An Historical Analysis Of The Evolution Of The Nigerian State

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The pre-colonial period is the period before the coming of colonialists to 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; Benin Kingdom and the Oyo Empire in the West and several ethnic identities in Benue Valley. On the west, Nigeria is bordered by Benin, on the north, by Niger, and on the east, by Cameroon. Nigeria stretches roughly 700 miles from west to east and 650 miles ^{from} 650 miles from south to north, covering an area between 3° and 15° E longitude and between 4° and 14° N latitude.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different part of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the palaeolithic period 500,000 - 7000 BC. The presence of stone tools found by archaeologists confirmed that Nigeria also took part in the stone-age civilisation.

Traditional Political Institutions in Pre-colonial Nigeria Yoruba Land.

The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic group in

Nigeria and are united by language. The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba kingdom. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. Stories about the origin of the Yoruba people are diverse. There is the story of their migration from the East. This is the belief that the Yoruba people migrated from the North East, so from Mecca, through Egypt leading to a final settlement in Ile-Ife. There is the Oke Orange version: that the earth was full of water, and God, Olodumare, sent servants who were given some object with which the world was created.

Igbo Land

The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. This is because from the ancient times, they had no centralised states. Consequently, they operated a kind of government without kings.

Origin of the Igbo has a popular version of the migratory stories of the Israelites. This assumption is based on the so-called similarities between the cultures of the Igbo and the ancient Hebrews.

The Nri version is the only authentic version of origin in existence in the oral tradition of the Igbo. According to Nri version, the ancestor of the Igbo, Eri, descended from the sky and sailed down the River Anambra. When he arrived at Aguleri, he met some autochthonous group of people who had no living memory of their own and settled with them. As their population increased, some group migrated to other parts of Igboland to establish their own settlement.

Political structure of the Igbo

- There is no highly centralised authority
- What they have is a diffusion of authority into diverse groups.

Hausa Land

Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. Hausa Land, before 1804 was made up of fourteen states, and they were in two distinct groups. The first group consist of seven states called "Hausa Bakwai" states, that is Hausa legitimate states. Oral tradition attributed the origin of the Hausa states to a man named Bayajidda, an Arab prince who travelled to the Sahel from Baghdad. He killed a monstrous snake that oppressed the people of Daura, and he married the queen. The queen had six sons already, and she produced another son with Bayajidda, and each of these sons ruled one of the seven Hausa city-states, becoming the first kings. The combined kingdoms of Hausa land were sometimes called the Daura, since Daura is the place where Bayajidda supposedly founded the Hausa people.

Colonial Administration of Nigeria

- * The trans-Atlantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the British in contact with Nigeria.
- * The trans-Atlantic slave trade was ~~also~~ abolished in the 19th century.

The birth of Nigeria

Before the year 1860, all ^{the} different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration. But by 1860 the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British colonial office. The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914. In January 1914, the British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria.