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Assignment

Review chapter two

The Historical Analysis Of The Evolution Of Nigerian State

BACKGROUND: The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. It is a product of historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. The country is bordered to the south by the Bights of Benin and Biafra, which are on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. On the west 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 south to north.

The earliest people to be found inhabiting the now Nigeria date back to the Palacolithic period 500,000 -900,000BC. The artifacts found show that Nigeria did in fact participate in the stone age. During the time in which Nigeria was inhabited that is during the stone age, the early man had some achievements which were making of tools like axes and small stone tools which were sharpened from both sides for the purpose of hunting. These tools were found in places such as Iwo Eleru in Ondo state, Jos Plateau state. The early man went on ahead to produce a better tool which was known as the heavy chopper which was more efficient for cutting than previous tools. First seen at Sango Bay on the west shores of Lake Victoria. There is evidence of more advanced technology in various parts of Nigeria which was around 500BC to 200AD this was the period in which Nigeria was busiest.

The Scientific and Technological Development of Early Nigerian Societies

Information on the major land marks in early Nigerian history was made possible by the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the past. Some of these places include Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife Benin these places are usually referred to as centres of ancient civilization. The Nok culture was the era which terracotta figurines were found in Nigeria through the use of carbon dating it was seen that the Nok culture existed between the 5th and 2nd century BC. The Benin civilization was important for its art works they carved in wood and bronze it was said that the bronze casting was introduced into Benin by an Ife artist. Ife civilization is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. Objects such as stools and figures were carved on hard stone called quartz while animal and human figures were carved from granite and decorated with iron nails. Example is Opa Oranmiyan in Ile-Ife. Art historians mainly believe that the Ife art originated from the Nok culture because of the similarities between the two, especially the beaded neck, wrists and ankles. The Igbo Ukwu civilization was discovered while digging a pit in 1939 the sites discovered included a burial chamber, a pit and a compound wall.

Political institutions in pre-colonial Nigeria. First we will talk on the history of the Yoruba people we have the Oke Oramfe version on the history of the Yoruba people and this one states the history of the people from the religious and spiritual perspective. The political structure of the Yoruba land this included the Alaafin then the Oba his lesser rulers the Baale and Oloja. Under the Oyo empire we had the Alaafin of Oyo under his administration he was the head of the empire and he had a court consisting of priests, officials and eunuchs. We also had the Ogboni Cult administration which was apart from the Alaafins cabinet the oyomesi cult constituted another arm of government and a very powerful court which was capable of checking the excesses of the Alaafin himself and served as mediator between the Alaafin and the Oyomesi council. The army was another part its head had the title of Are-Ona Kankanfo was expected to live outside the capital and in the event that he should loose a battle he is to commit suicide by hanging himself.

The historical background of the Igbo people. They were mainly famous for their acephalous way of life . the main popular stoty of their origin id that they came from Israel. This assumption is based on the similarities between the ancient Hebrew and the Igbo culture.but there is another version known as The Nri version which is the religious and spiritual aspect which has been passed down by word of mouth. The political structure of the Igbo land was comprised of the smallest unit which was the family. The head of each family was an ‘Ofo’ a title holder. Among the Ofo the title holders, one of them was recognized as the most senior to others. He was known as the ‘Okpara’ who held the ‘Ozo’ title and presided over the council of elders meeting where issues affecting the lives of the people were discussed. There was the use of the Age grade system in the traditional Igbo society this age grde was used for work, war and government. The young ones that is the youths cleared paths and public places, streams, and also served as the police.

The pre-colonial political system of the Hausa’s. The Hausa land before 1804 was made up of fourteen states were known as the Hausa Bakwai states that are legitimate. The second group of states are known as the Hausa Banza states. The Hausa Bakwai states are Daura, Biram, Zaria, Katsina, Kano, Rano, and Gobir while the Hausa Banza states were Nupe, Gwari, Yauri, Bauchi, Zamfara, Kebbi, Yoruba.

Whereas the oral tradirion of the origin of the hausa people was attributed their ancestor who killed a snake that was disturbing the people in that area and got married to the queen and his seed spread round the northern Nigeria and became the now hausa people.

The political structure of the pre-colonial Hausa land was occupied by the head who was known as ‘Sarki’ which was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. He ruled with a retinue of officials in a well organized court. The name Sarkkin Kassar was given to any competent Sarki the Sarkin Kassar had both political and religious functions. Between the 14th and 15th century the adoption of islam gave way to new offices in the administration of the people such as the Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Dogari, Yari Sarki etc. The Emirate system of government was due to the Jihad of Uthman Dan Fodio in 1804 this conquest led to overthrow of the old Hausa empire after the conquest there was the introduction of centralized political system of government. The Sultan supervised the administration of the the emirate system, he arbitrates in disputes within and between the emirates he however had little to no control over the day-to-day administration of the emirates. Under him we had the Sarkin Fada, Waziri, Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Sarkin Dan Doka, Sarkin Ruwa, Sarkin Pawa and the Yari. The judicial administration of the Hausa-Fulani was based on the Islamic legal system called Sharia. The chief justice of the sharia courts were known as the Grand Khadi.

Colonial Administration and Indirect Rule in Nigeria

The British who were credited with being the creator of Nigeria were not even the first Europeans to land in Nigeria, the Portuguese were the first. The Atlantic slave trade was carried out on the Atlantic Ocean between the Europeans and Africans it became more important in the 15th century with the arrival of the Portuguese. Then there was the Trans-Atlantic slave trade was the unfortunate way we had contact with the British but this later became abolished in the early decade of the 19th century they did so through the operations of the British West African Naval Squadron. After three centuries of shameful slave trade, came the so called period of legitimate commerce. In 1861 they took Lagos as a colony but the bulk of the Nigerian territory was occupied in the 19th century. This happened through treaties that were signed with some Nigerian community leaders, and through military conquest of states and deportation of their rulers. The struggle among the European powers for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa among them in the 19th century. Britain colonized Nigeria as from 1898 the British government sought to establish and maintain a colonial state in Nigeria.

The Birth of Nigeria as a Geo-political Zone

Before the year 1900 the different parts of Nigeria that was conquered by the British were still under their original administration. But by 1900 the entire Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British government office. In may 1906 there was the first amalgamation of lagos and southern protectorate to form the southern protectorate of Nigeria then the second amalgamation took place in January 1914 which was the amalgamation of the northern and southern protectorates and our first Governor General was Sir Fredrick Lugard he governed Nigeria through a means of indirect rule.