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### **SUMMARY OF CHAPTER TWO OF SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA'S POLITICS**

The historical background of Nigerian government are divided into two periods which was the pre colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The pre colonial period is all about the period before the colonial masters came to Nigeria and the colonial period is about the era or the reign of colonial masters in 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. The pre colonial period consists of the emergence of Nigerian state and other entities like the borno empire, the Hausa states , the sokoto caliphate , etc. The ethnic groups differ from each other in both cultural and historical background.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown, but there are some evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that men have settled in regions now known as Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period 500,000- 9000BC .It is confirmed that Nigerians took part in the Stone Age civilization. The early man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with this environment. First, needs food. This is when he Began to hunt for animals and gather fruits with, but also insert inventing other tools from pebbles and stones So that he can have some tools for chopping and cutting. The early man in Nigeria advanced from Early Stone Age. He began to make hand axes. They have a cutting edge which is used to cut and trim stuffs. It seems like this tools is used for different purposes by the man who made them. Small stone stools, believed to be used for hunting. Have been located in jos , plateau state and iwo eleru in ondo state . Element then preceded in inventing another type of tool, which is known as heavy chopper. This is more of efficient than the other tools he made before.

One of the most active periods of technological efforts, Nigeria was During this. Around 500 BC to 200AD. You need spiritual people. Nigeria, who made sculptures. Many human being heads and figures. They were also in different sizes. The state in which the figures were found was the village of Nok. These figures were made from Both clay, also known as Terra cotta.

Ife Is important because of its terracotta and Bronze heads. Objects such as tools and figures were carved on hard stones called quartz while animal and human figures were carved from granite and decorated with iron nails. In ife It is one of their cultures that These figures are decorated with facial Marks and natural hair. Some of the figures were said to be portrait of some of the rulers. Act historians believe that ife art is originated from the nok culture Because of their similarities in the two Especially the beaded neck, wrist and ankles. They also believe that it was from the ife that Benin probably learned bronze sculpture.

The Yoruba one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria And are united by language. The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa Who was the Founder of the Kingdom. Ile Ife Was regarded as ancestral home of the Yoruba kingdom . There are different versions of the traditions of The origin. One of it is that Yoruba originally came from the north-eastern area of Africa. Which with them their East is Mecca and Mecca, is the East. It is from Egypt after several years of journey that the Yoruba people settled down in Ile Ife in Nigeria. Oduduwa Is believed to be the first leader that lead the people to Ile Ife and subsequent Sent his sons and grandsons so found other Yoruba kingdoms.

Another version of the story of creation is that God sent some of his messengers to the world and they included Obatala as the leader and sixteen immortals. They were given 5 pieces of iron, A lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth and a cockerel . Leader became drunk with palm wine . Oduduwa took over the mission, I came to the world with the other Immortals. They landed in Oke Oramfe in Ile Ife. Oduduwa Shut down the five pieces of iron and place the Lump of it on on them. The cockerel Despite the lump of earth with its feet throughout the Earth. This is how the world was formed and Oduduwa became the leader.

There were many Pre colonial empire in Nigeria. For example, the Oyo empire. In the Oyo empire, there is the king known as the 'oba' which lives the palace called the 'aafin'.The King was assisted in his administration by some officials made up of priest, officials , and eunuchs. He had well

organized court as well. The Alaafin Was the Fountain of authority, and was therefore regarded as the Companion of the gods. Down. Sometimes he had an autocratic tendency But his powers are limited. powers are limited. In the Alaafin 's cabinet, there is a cult group known as the Ogboni . They hold a vital position in the society. It played a mandatory role in any conflict between the king and the Oyomesi . The Oyomesi are the king makers and have the power to choose or dethrone the king . In the Oyo empire, the is the army and the army commander is Are – Ona -Kankanfo.

Another Empire is the Igbo empire. The Igbo people have their own creation story. There are also different versions of their creation story. One of it is that there are Ancestors descended from the sky And shut down the River Anambra. When he arrived at. Aguleri, Image some other groups of people who had no living memory of their own and settled down with them. Their population increased. Some goods migrated to other parts of the land to establish their own settlements. The empire is divided into sections just like the Yoruba empire. They too have the King That they call Oba. Apart from the King, we have a title Holder called Ofo age grade was part of the basis of the village or the empire. Other features of the empire include secret society ,women association, etc.

Last Empire. in pre colonial Nigeria is the Hausa era. The Hausa empire just like the other empire has the king called Emir ,and some other officials like the madawaki ,waziri, yari , etc. The British government operated in the indirect rule system in Nigeria. This means that they didn't eradicate the culture of Nigeria. Instead, they built or dwelled on it. Before the year 1900. All different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British Rusty under their original administration. But after the year 1900. India was under the responsibility of the British colonial Office. The 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914. The British government amalgamated Northern and southern Nigeria. The principal reason for this was at the same of that of 1906. The Northern Protectorate was not as economically buoyant as the Colonies of southern Nigeria. This is why the British government. Since the southern trade was Booming? It's allowed the surplus acquired from the South To also flow to the North. British officials defined the framework of the policies to be adopted than left their implementation to local personnel or the rulers.