

Chapter Two

An HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE

This historical background of Nigerian government involves the pre-colonial period which is before the coming of the colonialists to Nigeria while the colonial period is the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria. The pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires which includes the Borno empire, the Hausa states and the Sokoto caliphate in the North; the Igbo segmentary societies in the East; Benin Kingdom and Oyo Empire in the West and several ethnic identities in the Benue valley and they differ in their historical, social and cultural make-ups.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but archaeological evidences pointed that man had settled in Nigeria since the palaeolithic period 500,000 - 9000 BC. The artefacts mostly stone tools found by archaeologists confirmed that Nigeria took part in the stone-age civilization. The stone age can be divided into: Early stone age: 3,000,000 - 35,000 BC; middle stone age, 35,000 - 15,000 BC and; late stone age, 15,000 - 5000 BC. The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment but soon began to invent tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. Archaeologists called the tools the Oldowan-type tools. This tools were made during the early stone age but were refined during the middle stone age and late stone age. He began to make hand axes and proceeded to invent another type of tool which is heavy chopper. The active periods of technological efforts in Nigeria was during 500 BC to 200 AD and were people who lived in Nigeria who made sculptures. Many were of human heads and figures which varied in size. The figures were made of terracotta and the site in which the figures were found was

The scientific and Technological Development of Early Nigerian societies.

Nok culture/civilisation is believed to be a transitional civilisation between the stone Age and Iron Age in Nigeria. It existed between the 5th and 2nd Century BC.

Benin civilisation was important for its art-work, Ife civilisation is important for its terracota and bronze heads (example is Opa Oranmiyan in Ile-Ife), Igbo Ukwu civilisation: some bronze object and ornament were discovered while digging a toilet pit in 1939, The sites included a burial chamber, a pit and a compound wall.

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 Yoruba Kingdom and Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. Oke Oranfe is located in Ile-Ife believed to be the centre from which the world was created.

The political structures of Yoruba Kingdoms consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands. Each town has a king known as 'Oba' who resides in the palace called 'Aafo'.

The king also had other rulers of lesser rank and status.

The Oyo Empire: The Aafo administration. Oyo was one of the rare empires that had in-built checks and balances and contributed to its stability for centuries. The Aafo was the head of the empire and was regarded as "lord of many lands".

- The Ogboni Cult's Administration which was a very powerful cult and had a very vital position in Yoruba society.

- The Army functions included stability of the empire and expansion.

The Historical background in Igbo land which has five subcultures

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 political structure of Igbo land is that there was no highly centralised authority but are called diffusion

of authority into different groups. They believe in re-incarnation

The religious lives of the Igbos were surrounded by mysticism

and superstitions.

Historical background of Hausa Land

Hausa land before 1804, they were two distinct groups which are: The Hausa bakwai state (Hausa legitimate states) and second group is Hausa banza state (illegitimate states).

The government was modelled after the national level. Between 14th and 15th centuries, the socio-political organization of Hausa states took another shape. The important title holders in the Emir's cabinet included: 1) Waziri - The prime minister of the Emirate 2) Galadima - The Administrator of the capital city. 3) Yari - Chief superintendent of prisons in the Emirate and so on.

The Atlantic slave trade was the trade carried on across the Atlantic ocean between the Europeans and ~~Portuguese~~ ^{Africans} which became more important in 15th century with the arrival of the Portuguese. The Trans-Atlantic slave trade put the British in contact with Nigerians. The struggle among the European powers for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa in the 19th century. British government amalgamated Lagos colony and ~~protectorate~~ ^{protectorate} with the Southern Nigeria to form the new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. The British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria in January 1914.

Sir Frederick Lugard is the father of January 1914 amalgamation. Britain governed Nigeria by means of Indirect Rule. British officers defined policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel.