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**REVIEW OF CHAPTER 2**

The historical background of Nigeria 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 a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. Pre-colonial Nigeria comprise of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. These among others include the Borneo 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 the Benue valley.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the palaeolithic period 500,000 – 9,000BC. Nigerians also took part in the stone-age civilization. The stone-age can be divided into several periods. These are: Early stone-age 3,000,000 – 35,000BC, Middle stone-age 35,000 – 15,000Bc and; Late stone-age 15,000 – 500BC.

The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. First, he needed food, for this purpose he began to hunt the animals and to gather fruits. He soon began to invest tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. Archeologists called the tools the **Oldowan-type** tools because this type of tool was first identified by the archeologists in the **Olduvai Gorge in Tanazia.** Early man advanced from the early stone-age, he began to make hand axes. Early man then proceeded to invent another type of tool, which is a heavy chopper. There is evidence of more advanced technology in various parts of Nigeria during the bronze and metal age. One of the most active periods of technological efforts in Nigeria was during the period around 500BC to 200AD. During this period there were people who lived in Nigeria who made sculptures. The site in which the figures were found was the village of Nok. The figure was made of **terracotta** and they all possessed a distinctive artistic style.

The scientific and technological development of early Nigerian societies involves:

* Nok culture/ civilization
* Benin civilization
* Ife civilization
* Igbo ukwu civilization

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

The Yoruba’s 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. The oke oramfo is located at Ile-ife. It is believed to be the center from which the world was created. It was from Ile-ife that oduduwa who formed the earth extended his authorities to other Yoruba towns and villages. The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature. Each consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands. Each town has a king known as “Oba” who resides in the palace called “Aafin”. His paraphernalia of office included a beaded crown (Ade), a slippers (bata), horse tail (irukere) and the scepter (Ase). The oba is both the spiritual and political head.

The king also had other rulers of lesser rank and status. The lesser rulers were in charged of the subordinate towns and wore crowns maxes of white beads known as “sese ofun”. Another group of rulers were the Baale and the Oloja, the Baales were the third rank of rulers and they were in charge of the villages. The Olojas were the fourth rank of leaders and they ruled over the farmlands.

The government of the old Oyo empire is a typical example of the pre-colonial administration in Yoruba land. The hierarchy is as follows in the Oyo empire:

* The Alaafin of Oyo administration
* The Ogbomo cult’s administration
* The Army

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

The Igbo people are best know for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. The Igbo are grouped into five sub-cultures:

* The Igbo of eastern Nigeria
* The Igbo of south-eastern Nigeria
* The Igbo of north-eastern Nigeria
* The western Igbo
* The northern Igbo

In the Igbo traditional society, there was no highly centralized authority. They direct democracy and/or decentralized system of government because there were no traditional rulers in the form of obas in the case of Yoruba and so no hereditary claims to the traditional stools as there was never an Igbo kingdom or empire. The family was the smallest political unit in Igbo traditional society. Each family was reached by an “Ofo” title holder. Age grade was also organized on a village basis. The Igbo believed in re-incarnation. The religious lives of the Igbo were surrounded by mysticism sand superstitions.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN HAUSA LAND**:

Hausa land is located in the northern Nigeria. Hausa land, before 1804 was made up of fourteen states and they were of two distinct groups. The first group consist of seven states called “Hausa Bakwai” that is the Hausa legitimate states. The second group consist of the remaining seven states and were known as “Hausa Banza” that is the Hausa illegitimates states. The “Hausa Bakwai” states are Daura, Briam, Zaria, Katsin, Kano, Rano and Gobir while the “Hausa Banza” states are Nupe, Gwari, Yauri, Bauchi, zamfara, Kevin and Yoruba.

The Sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. Sarkin kasar which means “ruler of the land”. Islam was introduced to the Hausa land in the fourteenth century and the fifteenth century. It was accepted as the religion of the ruling class. There is the introduction of a new system of selecting and appointing rulers described as Emirs to rule the caliphate. The Emir was an absolute monarch in his emirate, he was the political administrative and spiritual leader. The Emir controlled economic activities within his Emirates. Important title holders in the Emir’s cabinet included:

* Sarkin Fada: the spokesman of the emir and the organizer of place workers
* Waziri: the prime minister of the emirate.
* Galadima: the administrator of the capital city.
* Madawaki: the commander and head of the emirate army.
* Navajo: the government treasurer in-charge of the government.
* Sarkin Dan Doka: inspector general of the police force called Dan Doka.
* Sarkin Ruwa: minister in charge of water resources or the ruler fishing official.
* Sarkin pawa: head of chairman of butchers at the abattoirs.
* Yari: chief superintendent of prisons in the empire.