NAME: ALADENOLA OLUWADEMILADE

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QUESTION: REVIEW CHAPTER 2

Introduction

Chapter 2 of the book *“Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria’s politics” edited* by Temidayo David Oladipo and Idowu Oluseyi Olaleye talks about the historical background of Nigerian. The chapter two of this book is written by Olayinka Olambimpe Ojo. Olayinka Olambimpe Ojo is a lecturer in the Department of General Studies, College of Education, Ikere-Ekiti, and Ekiti State. The title of chapter 2 *“ An Historical Analysis of the Evolution of the Nigerian State”* is a very important topic in relation to the course taught, it gives the readers an overview on how the Nigerian State itself came to be, how it evolved, and how its government has evolved over the years.

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 the colonialists to Nigeria while the colonial period refers to the era that colonial administration was established in the country, Nigeria. The periods in the evolution of Nigeria include 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 colonisation of Africa. Before colonisation, what is now called Nigeria was made up of kingdoms, empires and chiefdoms. 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.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the facts that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period 500,000- 9000BC . The artefacts, mostly stone tools, found by arcaheologists confirm that Nigerians also took part in the stone-age civilisation. The Stone Age can be divided into several periods. These are: Early Stone Age 3, 000, 00- 35,000 BC; Middle Stone Age, 35,000-15,000BC. The achievement of the early man include coping with his environment to get food, Invention of certain tools-stone, metals(axes), sculpture making, terracotta , excavation has also revealed where men first settled in Nigeria. Some of the places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past included; Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin among others, these places are referred to as CENTRES OF ANCIENT CIVILISATION.

. The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature. Each town has a king known as “Oba” who resides in the palace called “Aafin”. The Oba is both the spiritual and political head of the kingdom. The Nri version is the only authentic version of origin in existence in the oral tradition of the Igbo. In their political structure, there is no highly centralised authority they only had diffusion of authority into diverse groups. Oral tradition attributed the origin of the Hausa states to a man named Bayajidda, an Arab prince who travelled to the Sahel from Baghdad. The “Sarki”was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. He worked with a retinue of officials in a well-organised court. Sarkin Kasar, which means “ruler of the land,” was the full title given to any effective and efficient head of Hausa State. The Sarkin Kasar combined both political and religious/spiritual functions. He was also the chief executive and judge of the State, but he was aided by a council of state. Islam was introduced to Hausa land in the fourteenth century, and by the fifteenth century it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class. The British who have often been credited with the creation of Nigeria were not the first Europeans to land in Nigeria. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive Nigeria through Bini Kingdom. Before the year 1900, all the different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration. But by 1900, 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. British government amalgamated Lagos colony and protectorate with the protectorate of Southern Nigeria to form the new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

**Conclusion**

I would recommend this chapter two of the book “Salient Issues in Government and Nigerian Politics” to anyone taking this course and wishes to have an in- depth knowledge of the historical analysis of the evolution of Nigeria . This chapter two of the book written by Olayinka Olabimpe Ojo would be very helpful to students taking this course as it is very detailed and comprehensive.