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ASSIGNMENT

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THE REVIEW

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. It is a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of the European adventures with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. The pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. These among others includes the Borno Empire, the Hausa states, and the Sokoto caliphates in the North; the igbo segementary societies in the east includes;Benin kingdom and the oyo empire. The country is bordered to the south by the Bights of Benin and Biafria,which are on the gulf of guinea in the atlantic ocean.on the west Nigeria is bordered by Benin, Niger in the North and on the east by Cameroon. Lake chad separated Nigeria from the country of chad, Nigeria stretches roughly 700 miles from the west to east and 650 miles from south to north,covering an area between 3 and 15 degree E longitude and between 4 and 14 degree N latitude.

EARLY MEN IN NIGERIA

The exact time that man came started living in Nigeria is still unknown but there old knowledge from different parts of Nigeria. It was now stated that man settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the period of 500,000 – 9000Bc.It was now confimed that Nigeria also took part in the stone age civilization. The stone age is divided into;the Early stone age 3000’000 – 35000Bc ,Middle stone age,35000 – 15000 Bc and the late stone age,15000 -500Bc.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EARLY MAN

The first man who lived in Nigeria worked hard to cope wit he environments. Firstly, he needed food so he began to hunt for animals and to gather food. he made tools from pebbles which he made chopping and cutting tools. The archeaologists called the tools the oldowan- type tools. This happened because the tools was first identified by the archealgists in the olduvai gorge in Tanazia. The tools were made for so many things ,although some more tools came up from the outside of Nigeria. They also also proceeded to invent another type of tools which is the heavy choppe, .then they got to produces axes and some of this was done in the parts of Ile-ife, Jebba ,Esie, igbo-ukwu and Benin.

There was also some major landmark in early Nigerian History and this made ther to be high development in those places where the man first lived and all this places includes, Nok, Igbo ukwu, Ife and Benin among others.They are usually referred to as the ancient civilization. All this brought about the development of the following stories;

NOK CIVILIzATION

The discovery of a terracotta[burnt clay]head of monkey by tin miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as wamba,Kastina – ala and jema.This culture is believed to be transitional civilization between the stone age and the iron age in Nigeria because of the presence of a combination of stone and iron objects.this culture existed between the 5th and 2nd century Bc.

Benin Civilization

Benin was important for its art work.The craft men of the Benin carved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and bass.They cast wooden doors and ivory masks ,one of which was ivory mask used as festac symbol symbol in 1977,

IFE CIVILIZATION

Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads,objects such as stools and figures were carved on the hard stones called quartz while animals and human figures were carved from granite and decorated with an iron nails. An example of this id the opa oranmiyan in ile-ife.

Igbo ukwu civilization

Some bronze objects and ornaments were accidentially discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo ukwu in 1939. This eventually led to the evacuation of the three sites in the area by the archaeologist called THURSTAN SHAW, this includes burial chambers,a pit and a compound wall.this site has been dated to be in the middle of the 19th century A.D.

TRADITIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN PRE-COLONIAL NIGERIA

In this section , we will be looking at the various ethnic groups which includes Yoruba, igbo and hausa- Fulani in Nigeria traditional systems in Nigeria.

THE YORUBA EMPIRE,the yorubas are the ones wuth the largest ethnic groups,we can trace the origin of the yorubas to Oduduwa who was the founding fethers of the Yoruba kingdom. Ile – Ife was regarded as the central home of the Yoruba. Oduduwa is believed to be the first leader that led the Yoruba empire and his sons and grandson were found in other Yoruba kingdoms.According to Johnson,the yorubas came from the north eastern area of Africa ,with them the east is mecca and mecca is the east.

Oke oramfe is located in Ile – ife. It is believe to be the centre from which the world was created . According to a lengend, the world was covered with with water. The almighty God then decieded to to send some of his messengers to work, this people includes Obatala or orisa Nla.There were other backgrounds like what God gave them but it is believed that authority came from Ile – ife to the other towns.The Yoruba land is surrounded with different powers and subordinates, the first organ of government in oyo empire was the king known as the Alaafin of oyo, he was regarded as the lord of many lords, the alaafin was assisted by the priests, officials, eunuchs. He had a well organized courts as well, he is the fountain of authority and he is regarded as the Ekeji orisa. He also had the Oyomesi, a seven council members which was headed by the bashorun who acted as the prime ministers, they are also the king makers as well and also had the powers to remove the king and also do check and balances.We also have the ogboni which plays a mediatory role in any conflicts between the oyomesi and the alaafin. Then finally, in the Yoruba empire, we have the army, which was well organized and it was headed by the Are – ona – kankanfo. They were modelled after the central governments but all of them were subjected to the lordship of the Alaafin, so the alaafin had personal agents Ilari all over the provinces.

THE IGBO EMPIRE, it is best known for their segmentary or acephalous ways of life, because in the ancient times, they had no centralized governments. They are divided into 5 groups which are; the igbo of eastern Nigeria, the igbo of south eastern Nigeria, the igbo north eastern Nigeria, the western igbo and the northern igbo.as at then, there was no oba but they had people who performed legislative and judicial functions. The family was the smallest political unit in igbo political system and each family is headed by an ofo title holder.it is the okapara that holds the ozo title and presides over the council of meetings. The igbo believed in re-incarnation, profaning of deities was a very serious offence among the igbos. The life of the igbos were surrounded by the mysticisms and superstitions. The secret societies consisted of the diviners maqurades, ubinuknabi at arochukwu, the amadisha of ozuzzu, they play intermediary between the living and the ancestors. The high chiefs performs the offerings of sacrifices to appease the gods from time to time, the high priests was a link between the people and the deities,as well as the departed ancestors.

The Hausa EMPIRE; the hausa land was located in the northern Nigeria, before, ot was made up of 14 states before 1804. The first group consists of hausa legitimate states which includes,Daura,Biram,Zaria,kastina,Kano,Rano and Gobir and the second states were known as hausa banza which includes,Nupe, Gwari, yauri, bauchi, zamfara, kebbi, Yoruba. The origin of the hausa was attributed a man called Bayajidda, he was an arab prince who travelled to sahel from Baghdad.he killed many notorious snakes that oppressed the Daura people and he married the queen and gave birth to 6 sons and each son ruled the 7 hausa cities. The muslim religion came in the 11 centuary and it was believed that after the killing of the secred snakes, there was a change of religion.

The head of the hausa empire was the Emir which is also known as the sarki , he worked as a routine official at the law court. The sarkin kasar which means the ruler of the land. This head combined both political and religious functions together. The islamisation of the hausa land made hausa land to start taking shape and it influenced the land by making a sharia law which everyone followed, it brought the title alkali and qadi [judges]. Islam was introduced into the land in 14th centuary and by 15th centuary, it was accepted as the ruling class. Then the man came UTHMAN DAN FODIO of 1804 and further strengthened and consolidated the religion in this area. He overruled the old hausa empire and established a new one, where he created the caliphate and Fulani emirates in the north, a new brought the ideas of the selection of the emirs and each emir headed the sokoto and Gwandu caliphates,and they paid homage to the king more often. The hausa land was divided into 2 confederals, the emir was a absolute controller of the emirates, his cabinet had a specific functions and some of the important titles includes; Sarkin fada, Waziri, Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Sarkin dan doka, Sarkin ruwa, sarkin pawa, yari. T make the local government effective and efficient, each emirates was divided into districts and an official known as the Hakimi was appointed by the emirs to reside at the headquartes and administer the district on behalf of the emirs. The chief justices of the sharia court was called the GRAND KHADI

THE BIRTH OF NIGERIA AS A GEO- POLITICAL ENTITY

Before the year 1900,the different part of the Nigeria was still under the administration of the british. The first almagamation came in the year 1906. The second one happened in January 1914 where sir lord luggard was the lord, the british now govern the systems through the INDIRECT RULE, indirect rule is a system of Britain ruling her colonies through local traditional rulers. The british officers defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel or the rulers.