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**COURSE TITLE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

**QUESTION;**

**In about 3 pages, review chapter 2 of “ An Historical Analysis of the Evolution of the Nigerian State” in Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria’s Politics, pages 15-32.**

The chapter under consideration is titled " An Historical Analysis Of The Nigeria State." Looking at this from the lens of the introductory part, 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 Nigeria 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. Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian State, pre colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, state, kingdoms and empires. These, among others, include the Borno Empire, the Hausa States and the Sokoto Caliphate in the North; the Igbo sedimentary societies in the East; Benin Kingdom and the Oyo Empire in the West and several ethnic identities in the Benue valley.

**Early Man in Nigeria**

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 fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period 5000-9000BC. The artefacts, mostly stone tools, found by archeologists further confirmed that Nigerians also took part in the stone-age civilisation.

The achievements of the early 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 animals and to gather fruits. But he soon been to invent tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. Archeologists called the tool the Oldowan-type tool. This is because this type of tool was first identified by the archeologists in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. Early man in Nigeria advanced from the early stone age and began to make hand axes. Consequent eras had their own invented tools and what they were used for and also the locations where archeologists found them were revealed.

Information on the major land marks in early Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past. Some of the places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past included: Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin among others. They are usually referred to as centres of ancient civilisation. The history of these centres of ancient civilisation presents us with the scientific and technological developments of early Nigerian societies.

**The Birth of Nigeria as a Geo-political Entity**

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. 1906 marked the first amalgamation which affected the Lagos colony and protectorate with the protectorate of Sounthern Nigeria to form new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. This was however done without consultation with Nigerians regarding their views as to whether or not they supported the amalgamation.

1914 marked the second amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorate by the British. Thus, it lent credence to the indirect rule system whereby the Colonialist defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel or ruler.