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SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

GST 203: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS..

A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 2

The chapter starts with the historical background of Nigerian government and politics and the colonial period in Nigeria, we learnt that the 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 Author goes on to explain the history of the Early Men in Nigeria which the exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but evidences pointed out that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the palaeolithic period 500,000- 9000BC.

The early men who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment, and the need for survival made them to hunt for food and invent several tools and they varied from different

sizes. Major landmark in Early Nigerian history shows us that information on the major landmarks in early Nigeria history was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past and they are referred to as centres of ancient civilization. Under this development we have the Nok culture, Benin civilization, Ife civilization, Igbo ukwu civilization.

We have the traditional political institutions in pre colonial Nigeria and it consist of the three major ethnic group in Nigeria which are Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa- fulani and the Yoruba are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language and they trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba kingdom and there are several versions of the history of the Yoruba. The Yoruba also have their political structure which consist of the Oba, Baale and the Oloja etc.. They were different organ of Government under the Oyo empire which are the Alaafin administration, the Ogboni cult Administration, the Army. The historical background of pre colonial political system in Igbo land was also discussed and they are grouped into The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, south Eastern Nigeria, North Eastern Nigeria, western Igbo and Northern Nigeria and the most popular version of the migratory stories is the one that points that the Igbo's migrated from Israel. The Igbo's also had their own political structure of the pre-colonial Igboland but there was no centralised authority but they practised direct democracy just like the Alaafin and the Baale in the Igbo pre colonial political structure there are the Age grade, Oha na eze, The secret societies etc...For the Hausa there are two distinct groups and the first group consist of seven states called "Hausa Bakwai" and the second group consist of "Hausa banza" states and the officials were the Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji etc.

The British were not the first Europeans to land in Nigeria it was the Portuguese and the slave trade, the trans Atlantic slave trade were

discussed. Also the Birth of Nigeria as a Geo political Entity which let's us know that before the year 1900 the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British colonial office. In 1914 Sir fredrick lugard formed indirect rule in which the British officials supervised and left the implementation to the local personnel or the rulers.