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CHAPTER 2; HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE.

The background of the evolution of Nigerian government and politics involved the pre-colonial period that is before the coming of the colonists to pre-colonial Nigeria consist of different independent chiefdom, states, kingdoms and empire. It was discovered that man settled in Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period 500000-9000bc and the excavation of a Stone Age skeleton at iwo eleru suggest the country has been in existence for a long time and how man discovered ways to cope with his environment. Major landmark in Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done where man lived. The discovery of terracotta in Nok in 1936 was believed to be the transition from stone age to iron age .the craftsmen of Benin carved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass. The ife art was important because of its terracotta and bronze heads like the opa oranmiyan. It is also believed that ife art originated from the nok culture because of their similarities. The igbo ukwu bronze objects were discovered accidentally in 1939.

Traditional political institutions in pre-colonial Nigeria; the Yoruba’s are on e of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria united by language, their origin can be traced to oduduwa and ife is regarded as their ancestral home and were originally from north east Africa. The Oyo Empire was very unique and exceptional in its system of government. The egboni cult also consisted of powerful and prominent members of the society, they played a vital role in Yoruba society. the army was another arm of government ,it was made up of infantry and cavalry it was credited with performing functions like stability of the empire they were called are ona-kankanfo.the igbos were not made up of any highly centralized authority but rather a diffusion of authority into groups. Family was the smallest unit in igbo land headed by an ofo, the see themselves as having a common ancestor. The come together to make decisions .the ohanaeze was the general assembly where members meet to perform legislative functions. secret societies consisted of the diviner that acted as the intermediary between the living and their ancestors. The also belied in reincarnation and were surrounded by mysticism and superstitions. The Hausa people locate din northern Nigeria and consisted of 14 states which seven were known as legitimate(hausa bakwai ) and the remaining seven illegitimate (bakwai banza). the sarki was the head of any Hausa state. Islam was adopted during the 14th -15th century which gave rise to offices like galadima, madawaki, magaji, dogar i etc then came the sharia law...jihad led to the overthrowing of the old Hausa kingdom and was replaced by a Fulani empire. the emir was the absolute monarch, he was both political and religious leader, he was assisted by district 0r village heads .the emirates were divided into districts and an official known as Hakimi who resided at the headquarters.

The Portuguese were the first to land in Nigeria through the Bini kingdom. The slave trade started with the Portuguese which later attracted the British, the struggle among the European power for colonies led to the division of Africa among them which led to the British colonizing Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone. By 1900, Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British colonial office in May 1906. The British amalgamated Lagos and southern Nigeria and all this was done without the permission of Nigerians. The second amalgamation was done in january1914 where north and southern Nigeria were amalgamated, Lord Frederick Lugard was known as the father of the January 11914 amalgamations he governed Nigeria through a system known as indirect rule which is the system of Britain ruling her colonies through local traditional leaders.