**NAME: OKEDARE ADESEWA JULIET**

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**DEPARTMENT: NURSING**

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 **A REVIEW OF CHAPTER 2 “AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE”**

**An historical analysis of the evolution of the Nigeria state.**

The pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria lead to the historical background in Nigeria government and politics. The pre-colonial period is the period before the coming of the colonials to Nigeria while the colonial period refers to the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria.

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation that arose out of European adventure. The Nigerian is bordered by the south by the bright of Benin and Biafra, which are on gulf of guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. On the west Benin, on the north by Niger, on the east by Cameroon.

 **Early man in Nigeria.**

The exact time when man began to live in Nigerian is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which promoted to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria. Early Stone Age 3, 000000-35000BC, middle Stone Age 35,000-15000BC and late stone age 15,000-500BC. The excavation of a Stone Age skeleton at Iwo Eleru near Akure in Ondo state has thrown more light on the earliest occupation of Nigeria.

**The Achievements of Early Man**

The man who lived Nigeria lived during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. the early man create many tools e.g. Oldowan-Type tools for chopping, hand axes, heavy chopper and terracotta which found in the village of Nok and other part like Jebba, Ile Ife and igbo-ukwu.

Nok culture/ civilization: the discovery of a terracotta (burnt clay) head of a monkey by tin miners in 1936 and also promote more discoveries.

Benin civilization: well known for its art work e.g. carving wood, ivory and cast objects in bronze e.g. ivory mask used as FESTAC symbol in 1927.

Ife Civilization: known for its terracotta and bronze heads. Objects such as stools and figures hard stone called quartz.

Igbo ukwu civilization: ornament and bronze objects was accidentally discovered.

Traditional political institutions in pre-colonial Nigeria.

 **Three majority ethnic group**

Yoruba are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria. Its origin is trace to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba kingdom while Ile Ife was the ancestral home. The Oke Oramfe’s version had the world was covered by water. The political structure in the pre-colonial Yoruba is the “Oba” who resides in the palace called ‘’Aaafin’’. The Ade, Bata, Ikukere and Ase are the paraphernalia of office. And other version are Oyo Empire, the ogboni cults.

The Igbo people are best known as acephalous of life. The Igbo have five sub-culture. The Igbo of eastern, the south-eastern, north-eastern, westerns Igbo and northern Igbo.

According to Nri version, the ancestor of Igbo, Eri descended from the sky and sailed down the river Anambra. The political structure of Igbo is the family. Each family is headed by an ‘ofo’ the holder. The Age grade were strongly organized among the northern and southern Igbo people for companionship and protection.

The Hausa land is located in northern Nigeria. Hausa land, before 1804 was made of fourteen states. Bayajidda, an Arab prince was attributed to the origin of the Hausa state and Daura is the place of origin. The political structure is the “sarki” was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. Islam was introduced to Hausa land in the fourteenth century and by the fifteenth century it was the ruling religion.

Colonial Administration / indirect rule in Nigeria historical background: the Portuguese were the first European to arrive Nigeria through Bini kingdom. The trans- Atlantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the British in contact with Nigeria. Removal of all visible opposition to the imposition of the colonial rule.

The birth of Nigeria as a Geo-political Entity

1900, the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British colonial office. May 1906, the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of January 1914, the northern and southern Nigeria. Sir Fredrick lugard (later became Lord) is known as the father of the January 1914 amalgamation. British, governed by Nigeria by means of system popularly referred as “indirect rule”. The British officers defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the complementation to the local personnel of the rulers.