**NAME: OVADJE OGHENEMINEH ANGEL**

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**QUESTION: IN ABOUT 3 PAGES, REVIEW CHAPTER 2 “AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE” IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS, PAGES 15-32.**

The Nigerian 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 colonization of Africa. Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state, pre-colonial Nigeria comprised of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. These, among others, include the Borno empire, the Hausa states and the Sokoto Caliphate in the North, the Igbo segmentary societies in the East, Benin Kingdom and the Oyo Empire in the West and several ethnic identities in the Benue Valley.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archeological 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 500000 to 90000 BC. The artefacts, mostly stone tools found by archaeologists further confirmed that Nigerians also took part in the Stone Age civilization. The Stone Age can be divided into several periods. These are the early Stone Age 3,000,000 to 35,000 BC, middle Stone Age 35,000 -15,000 BC and late Stone Age 15,000 to 500 BC.

In those days man worked hard to cope with the environment. First, he needed food and to get that he began to hunt the animals and gather fruits. Soon, he began to event tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. Archaeologists called the tools the Oldowan-type tools because this type of tool was first identified by the archaeologists in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania.

Early man in Nigeria advanced from the early Stone Age and began to make hand axes. These were tools which were over and pointed in shape, they also had a cutting-edge and were trimmed from both sides. Apart from these tools comma other tools were found that were most likely used by Nigerians in a site called St. Acheul in northern Nigeria. Most of these tools were made during the early Stone Age but were later refined during the middle Stone Age and late Stone Age. Small stone tools believed to be used for hunting have been located in Jos, plateau state and in Iwo Elero in ondo state.

Apart from these tools, there is evidence of more advanced technology in various parts of Nigeria during the bronze and metal age like sculptures of which many were human heads and figures. They vary greatly in size korma from small sized objects of only two and a half centimetres to huge objects. The site in which the figures were found was the village of Nok and they were made of terracotta and they all possessed a distinctive artistic style. In addition to these figurine forms of ground stone axes and smaller stone tools were also found on the sites. Similar findings have been made in parts of Ile-Ife, Jebba, Esie, Igbo-Ukwu and Benin.

The Yoruba’s or one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are United by language. the Yoruba people Trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba Kingdom. The origin of the Yoruba is traced to the east and according to Johnson in the book "History of the Yoruba" (1950), the Yoruba’s originally came from the North Eastern area of Africa. It is said that they came from Egypt and after several years of journey they finally settled in Ile-Ife in Nigeria. Oduduwa is believed to be the first leader that led the Yoruba’s to Ile-Ife and subsequently sent his sons and grandsons to found other Yoruba Kingdoms.

The political structures of the Yoruba Kingdoms were similar in nature. It consisted of a capital town subordinate towns villages and farmlands. each town had a King known as the Oba who resides in the palace called "Aafin". The king enjoyed many privileges but certain limitations were placed on his powers called "eewo" and if the king violates any of them It could lead to his death.

Looking also hardly rulers of lesser rank and status and they were in charge of the subordinate towns and wore crowns made of white beads known as "sese ofun". Another group of rulers where the Baale and Oloja.

The town was the basic political unit while his subordinate towns were the bedrock on which the administration of the whole Kingdom was based. Its town was divided into smaller units or wards to facilitate smooth administration and they were under warheads known as "ijoye". The wards who is subdivided into compounds under compound heads known as "Baale". Each compound was a group of patriarchal related people headed by the most senior male member of the family.

The Igbo people are best known for their segment tree or acephalous way of life. This is because from the ancient times, they had no centralised States. Consequently, they operated a kind of government without Kings. One of the most popular versions of the Igbo people is the one that points to Israel. This assumption is based on the so-called similarities between the cultures of the Igbo and the ancient Hebrew. Some people believe that the Igbo people had been their present abode from the beginning. Therefore, Igboland is the original homeland.

The Igbo traditional Society had what could be called a diffusion of authority into different groups. In other words, they practice direct democracy and/or a decentralized system of government because there were no traditional rulers as in the case of the Yoruba and so no hereditary claims to the traditional schools as there was never an Igbo Kingdom or Empire. Although there was no highly centralized authority, some social political institutions existed in each village to perform legislative, executive, administrative, military and judicial functions. Such institutions included the family, council of elders, age grades and secret societies.

The Hausa land is located in the northern part of Nigeria. Before 1804 the Hausa land was made up of 14 States and they were of two distinct groups. The first group consisted of seven States which were called Hausa bakwai states that is Hausa legitimate states while the second group which consists of the seven remaining state were known as Hausa banza.

The Sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. He worked with the retinue of officials in a well-organized court. Sarkin Kasar which means ruler of the Land was the full title given to any effective and efficient head of Hausa state and it combined both political and religious or spiritual functions. He was also the chief executive and judge of the state but he was aided by a council of the State. At the district level, government was modelled after that at the national level. It is worthy of note that's between the fourteenth and Fifteenth centuries the socio-political organization of Hausa states took another shape full stop for instance, Islam was adopted and this gave birth to many new political institutions such as the officers of the Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Dogari, Yari Sarki, and Sarki Yau. The Islamization of Hausa land also influenced its judicial system and the Sharia law started taking shape.

Islam was introduced to the Hausa land in the 14th century and by the 15 century it was accepted as the religion of The Ruling Class. The Jihad of Usman Dan Fodio of 1804 further strengthened and consolidated the religion in this area. The Jihad led to the Conquest of the existing old Hausa kingdom, the overthrow of the political leadership by the Fulani and the establishment of the caliphate and Fulani and weight in northern Nigeria. In every States conquered, the former Hausa ruler was replaced by a Fulani Emir. After the conquest, a centralized political system of government was introduced, however, the basic political organization was not destroyed but improved upon.

The British who have often been credited with the creation of Nigeria were not the first Europeans to land in Nigeria. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to land in Nigeria through Benin Kingdom. The Atlantic slave trade was the trade carried on across the Atlantic Ocean between the Europeans and Africans. It became important in the 15th century with the arrival of the Portuguese. By 1460 about 700 to 800 slaves were exported annually to Portugal from west Africa. Sources of Slaves included condemned criminals, political prisoners, victims of kidnapping and relatives sold to redeem debts. After three centuries of shameful slave trade came the so-called period of legitimate Commerce. This was another golden opportunity for the Europeans to get more directly involved in the affairs of the African states. Europeans first introduced the gunboat politics to them this was important because some erring African states were threatened with attack and in some cases were actually attacked full stop it was under the umbrella of such happenings that the British first formally annexed Nigerian territory. In 1861 they took Lagos as a colony but the bulk of Nigerian territory was occupied in the late 19th Century. This happened through treaties that were signed with some Nigerian community leaders and through military conquest of states and deportation of their rulers.

The struggle among the European powers for colonies let the partitioning of Africa among them in the 19th century. Each of the European powers was given the opportunity to establish colonies where it had vested interest. The scramble for Africa by these European powers led to the partition of Africa after the Berlin conference of 1884-1885. As from 1898 the British government sought to establish and maintain a colonial State in Nigeria. To achieve this, a number of measures were to be taken, for example, removal of all visible opposition to the imposition of colonial rule, expansion and consolidation of British authority over the territory later known as Nigeria.

Before the year 1900, all different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration mobile 1900 the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British Colonial office. The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first-ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. British government amalgamated Lagos colony and Protectorate with the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria to form the new colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. However, this was done without consultation with Nigerians regarding their view as to whether or not they supported the amalgamations.

The second Amalgamation was that of 1914. In January 1914, the British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria. The principal reason for this is the same as that of May 1906. Sir Frederick Lugard (later became Lord) is best known as the father of the January 1914 Amalgamation. Britain there for governor Nigeria by means of a system popularly referred to as indirect rule. In indirect rule, the British officers defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel or the rulers.