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**DEPT: MED LAB SCIENCE.**

**COURSE: GST 203 (GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITIONS).**

**QUESTION:** In about 3-pages review chapter two, ‘An Historical Analysis of the Evolution of the Nigerian state’ in salient issues in government and Nigeria’s politics, pages 15-32.

**ANSWER.**

The historical background of Nigerian Government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and colonial period in Nigeria. The pre-colonial period: is the period before the coming of the colonialist 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. It is a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. Precolonial Nigeria comprises 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.

**EARLY MAN IN NIGERIA.**

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria Is unknown but, there are archacological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the palaeolithic period 500,000-9000 BC. The artefacts, mostly stone tools, found by archacologists futher confirmed that Nigerians also took part In the stone-age civilization. These stone-age can be divided into several periods. These are: Early stone age 3,000,000-35,000 BC, middle age stone 35,000- 15,000 BC and; late stone age 15,000-500 BC.

**THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EARLY MAN.**

The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. First, he needed food, so for this purpose he began to hunt the animals to gather fruits. He later began to invest tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. Archealogists called the tools the **OLDOWAN TYPE TOOLS.** This is because this type of tool was first identified by the archealogists in the olduvani gorge in tanazia. He began to make hand axes, these were tools which were oval and pointed in shape. They also had a cutting edge and trimmed from both sides. These tools were made during the early stone age, but were later refined during the middle stone age and late stone age.

**THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY NIGERIAN SOCIETIES.**

**MAJOR LANDMARK IN EARLY NIGERIAN HISTORY.**

The information on the major landmarks in early Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote pasts. 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 centers of ancient civilization.

**NOK CULTURE/ CIVILISATION.**

The discovery of a terracotta (burnt clay) head of a monkey by tin miners in nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as wamba, kastina-ala, and jema. The areas were these terracotta figurines were found is called, ‘the Nok culture or civilization area’. This culture is believed to be a transitional civilization between the stone age and the iron age in Nigeria because of the presence of a combination of stone and iron object.

**BENIN CIVILISATION.**

This was important for its art work. The craftsmen of Benin carved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass. Art historians claim that bronze casting was introduced into benin by an ife artist. They cast wooden doors and ivory masks, one of which was the ivory mask used as FESTAC symbol in 1977.

**IFE CIVILISATION.**

This is important because of it terracotta and bronze heads. Objects such as stools and figures were carved on hard stone called, quartz while animals and human figures were carved from granite and decorated with iron nails. An example is opa oranmiyan in ile-ife.

**IGBO UKWU CIVILISATION.**

Some bronze objects and ornaments were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at igbo ukwu in 1939. This eventually led to the excavation of three sites in the area by an archaeologist called; THURSTAN SHAW. The three sites included a burial chamber, a pit and a compound wall.

**TRADITIONAL POLITICAL INSTIUTIONS IN PRE-COLONIAL NIGERIA.**

In this section, the three majority ethnic groups are;

* Yoruba.
* Igbo
* Hausa-Fulani in Nigeria.