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SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 2

AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE

In salient issues in government and Nigeria’s politics by Temidayo David Oladipo, according to chapter 2, The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The pre-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.

Prior to the emergence of the Nigeria state, pre-colonial 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. These ethnic groupings significantly differ in their historical, social and cultural make-ups, The country is bordered to the south by the Bights of Benin and Biafra, which are on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. On the west, Nigeria is bordered by Benin, on the north, by Niger, and on the east, by Cameroon.

In this extreme northeastern corner, Lake Chad separates Nigeria from the country of Chad. The Early man in Nigeria was said that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period 500,000- 9000BC. 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: Early Stone Age 3,000,000-35,000BC, Middle Stone Age, 35,000-15,000BC and; Late Stone Age, 15,000-500BC. The Achievements of Early Man who lived in Nigeria those year were to invent tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools Archaeologists called the tools the Oldowan type tools.

The Early man then proceeded to invent another type of tool called heavy chopper. Some of the places where man lived Nigeria were Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin among others. Technological Development of Early Nigerian Societies are; Nok Culture/Civilization, Benin Civilization, Ife Civilization, Igbo Ukwu Civilization. In the Historical Background of Pre-Colonial Political System in Yoruba Land, 1The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language, Oduduwa was the founder of the Yoruba Kingdom. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. Yoruba Kingdoms were similar in nature Each consisted of a capital town and has a king known as the Oba who resides in the palace called “Aafin’’, He is both the spiritual head of the Kingdom and the supreme authority in the Kingdom and his words are laws and biding on everybody. The government of the old Oyo empire is a typical example of pre-colonial administration in Yoruba land.

The first organ of government in Oyo empire was the king known as Alaafin of Oyo, The Ogboni Cult’s Administration, The Army. Historical Backgraound of Pre-Colonial Political System in Igbo Land, The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. The igbo are grouped into five sub-cultures: The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, The Igbo of South-Eastern Nigeria, The Igbo of North-Eastern Nigeria, The Western Igbo and Northern Igbo. `Igbo land is the original homeland, Professor M. A. Onwuejeogwu (2000) regards the Nri version as the only authentic version of origin in existence in the oral tradition of the Igbo. The family was the smallest political unit in Igbo traditional society. Each family was headed by an ‘’Ofo’’ title holder. The family sees itself as having one common ancestor, so the inhabitants come together to take decisions on issues of common interest as brothers .

Among the ‘‘Ofo’’ title holders, one of them was recognized as the most senior to others. He was known as ‘’Okpara’’ who held the ‘’Ozo’’ title and presided over the council of elders meeting where issues affecting the lives of the people were discussed. Historical Background of Pre-Colonial Political System in Hausa Land. Hausa Land is located in Northern Nigeria. Hausa land, before 1804 was made up of fourteen states, and they were of two distinct groups. The first group consist of seven states called ‘’Hausa Bakwai’’ states. The second group consist of the remaining seven states and were known as ‘’Hausa banza’’ states. The ‘’Sarki’’ was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. He worked with a retinue of officials in a well-organised court. Sarkin Kasar, which means ‘’ruler of the land’’ was the full title given to any effective and efficient head of Hausa State.

Islam was adopted and this gave birth to many new political instituitions such as the office of the Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Dogari, Yari Sarki and Sarki Yau. The Jihad of Uthman Dan Fodio of 1804 further strengthened and consolidated the religion in this area. The project officers appointed by Uthman Dan Fodio each held a title specifying their function which are; Sarkin Fada, Waziri, Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Sarkin Dan Doka, Sarkin Ruwa, Sarkin Pawa and Yari.