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1) Review on Chapter 2 (An historical analysis of the evolution of the Nigeria state)

* INTRODUCTION

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. Before the emergence of the Nigerian state, pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. These among others, include the Borno empire in the north; the Igbo segmentary societies in the east; Benin kingdom and Oyo Empire in the west and several ethnics identities in the Benue valley.

The period when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are prehistory evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period. The artefacts, mostly stone tools, found by archaeologists further confirmed that Nigerians also took part in the stone-age civilization. The excavation of the stone-age skeleton was at Iwo Eleru near Akure in Ondo state has thrown more light on the earliest occupations of Nigeria. The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. First, he needed food. Then he began to hunt the animals and to gather fruits. He soon began to invent tools consisting of pebbles made into cutting tools. There is also evidence of more advanced technology in various parts of Nigeria during the bronze and metal age.

* THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY NIGERIAN SOCIETIES

**Major Landmark in Early Nigerian History**

Information on the major land marks in early Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past. Some of the places where man lived then includes: Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin among others. They are usually referred to as centers of ancient civilization.

* Nok culture/civilization
* Benin Civilization
* Ife Civilization
* Igbo Ukwu Civilization.
* TRADITIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN PRE-COLONIAL NIGERIA

There are three different major ethnic groups in Nigeria i.e. Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa-Fulani. They also have different political system of government.

* YORUBA: - The Yoruba’s are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria and are united by their language. The Political structures were similar in nature. Each consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands. Each town has a king known as ‘Oba’ who resides in the palace called ‘Aafin’. The Oba is both the spiritual and political head of the kingdom. The pattern of administration was hierarchical.
* IGBO: - They are best known for their segmentary way of life and during the ancient times, they had no centralized states. The Igbos are grouped into five sub-cultures:

1. Igbo of eastern Nigeria.
2. Igbo of South-eastern Nigeria.
3. Igbo of North-eastern Nigeria.
4. Western Igbo and
5. Northern Igbo.

They practiced direct democracy because they didn’t have traditional rulers as in the case of Yoruba’s. Although, there was no highly centralized authority, some socio-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.

* HAUSA: - They are located in the northern Nigeria. Before 1804, they were made of two distinct group i.e. Hausa Bakwai (Legitimate state) and Hausa Banza (Illegitimate State). The Sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa State. He worked with a retinue of officials in a well-organized court. For instance, Islam was adopted and this gave birth to many new political institutions. The Islamisation of Hausa land also influenced its judicial system and the Sharia law started taking shape.
* COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION AND INDIRECT RULE SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

**Historical Background**

The British who often have 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 the Bini kingdom. The Atlantic slave trade was the trade carried on across the Atlantic Ocean between the Europeans and Africans. Demand of slaves could be traced to the introduction of plantation system if agriculture. By 1460, about 700 to 800 slaves were exported annually to Portugal from west Africa. Source of slaves included condemned criminals, political prisoners, victim 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 African states.

* BIRTH OF NIGERIA AS A GEO-POLITICAL ENTITY

Before the year 1900, different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration. May 1906 the first amalgamation happened. The British government amalgamated Lagos colony and with southern Nigeria to form the new colony and protectorate southern Nigeria. The primary aim was “to use the better financial position of the protectorate of southern Nigerian to cover costs of administration and development in the financially weak colony and protectorate of Lagos, then saddled with the white elephant of railway in need of extension since 1901.”

The second amalgamation took place in January 1914. British government amalgamated northern and southern Nigeria. The main reason was the same as that of May 1906. The Northern protectorate wasn’t having economically buoyant as the colony and protectorate of southern Nigeria. That was why, the British imperial offices, since the southern trade was booming, amalgamation would allow the surpluses in the south. Sir Fredrick Lugard (later lord) is known as the father of “January 1914” amalgamation. Britain therefore, governed Nigeria by means of a system popularly referred to as “indirect rule”. Indirect Rule is a system of Britain ruling her colonies through local traditional rulers.