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# The Historical Analysis of the evolution of the Nigerian State

The historical background of the Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial era and colonial era in Nigeria.the Nigerian state is a product of historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure,before the emergence of the Nigerian state,pre colonial Nigeria consists of different independent kingdoms and empires such as the Sokoto Caliphate of the North,the Benin Kingdom among others.There were Archeology evidence gathered from different part of Nigeria that proves that man settled in the region of Nigeria from 500000-90000 BC.This archeology evidence proves that Nigerian took part in the stone age civilization and all these proves that the country was long inhabited

Pre-historical man who lived in the early age worked so hard for years to survive and adapt to his environment and he first needed food,for the purpose he began to hunt animals and gather fruits which led to the invention of cutting tools,archeologist calls the tools Oldowan-type tools,these tools were found by archeologist in Northern Nigeria and were made during the early stone age and were later refined in the Middle Stone Age and Late stone age

Information on the major landmark of early Nigerian history was made possible through the archeological work done,some places include;Nok,Igbo-ukwu,Ife and Benin

Yoruba is 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 and Ile-Ife is considered to be the ancestral home of the Yoruba people.The Yoruba originally came from the North-Eastern area g is known as the ‘Oba’ who resides in the palace ‘Aafin’,the Oba is both the spiritual and political head of Africa,and from Egypt after several years of journey finally settled in Ile-Ife in Nigeria,the political structure of the pre-colonial Yoruba land were similar in nature,it consisted of capital town,subordinate towns,villages and farmlands and a king was assigned to each town,the king was known as ‘Oba ‘ and he resides in the palace, ‘Aafin’ .the Oba is both the spiritual and political head of the kingdom ,he is the supreme authority in the kingdom and his words are law and biding on everyone,he enjoys many privileges but certain limitations were placed on his powers,The patterns of administration was hierarchical,at the lowest level were the compound heads,they form the lowest consultative groups in the town affairs

The Igbo political system may be seen as a fragmented political system. Many constitutions were in place and political authority was shared among them. For example, the Ofo title holders (council of elders), Ozor title holders, age grades, etc. were all involved in the power sharing exercise. No wonder then, that the term “acephalous” was ascribed to or used to describe the organisation of the Igbo political system.There was the absence of centralisation of power and authority in the Igbo political system as it was more of the people’s direct participation in their government (direct democracy).the structure included the kindred,Village,Council of elders,Ndichie,age grade and UmuadaThe Igbo pre-colonial political system was described by scholars as ****acephalous****, a term which means leaderless, headless or chiefless. This term is considered suitable for describing the Igbo pre-colonial political system because it was decentralized and based on village and direct democracy where everyone has the [authority](https://oldnaija.com/2017/01/20/concepts-of-government-power-and-authority/)to contribute to decision making.Each Igbo village was seen as a political unit inhabited by related families who were bounded by common beliefs and origin. Each family head in the village held the ‘Ofo and all together formed the council of elders.the council of elders preceeded over important isssues such as the village welfare and safety and so on

The Hausa is the second largest ethnic group in Africa,The Hausa pre-colonised political system was a highly centralised one with the Emir possesses almost all the powers,This was one of the main reasons why the Indirect Rule System was very successful in the Northern part of Nigeria (Hausa/Fulani empire).Hausa land was made up of fourteen states and they are two distinct groups,the first group consist of fourteen states called “Hausa Bakwai states,that is Hausa Legitimate 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 head of any typical state,he worked with a retinue of officials in a well organised court,he was also the chief executive and judge of the state,but he aided by the council of the state