

ASSIGNMENT CHAPTER 2

AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE

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 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 a ^{the colonisation} of Africa. Nigeria is bordered by Benin on the west, by Niger on the north, by ^{Cameroon} on the east.

Early Man in Nigeria

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are ^{to} archaeological evidence 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 500,000 - 9000 BC.

The Achievements of Early Man

The early man needed food so because of this, he began to hunt ^{animals} and gather fruits. Then he began to invent tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. Then he began to make hand axes which were oval and pointed in shape. The small stone tools were believed to be used for hunting were located in Jos. Then he advanced to making another tool which is a heavy chopper which was more efficient in cutting than the previous tools. During the Bronze and metal age people who lived in Nigeria made sculptures.

THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY

NIGERIAN SOCIETIES

- i. NOK culture / civilisation
- ii. Benin civilisation
- iii. Ife civilisation
- iv. Igbo ukwu civilisation

Traditional Political Institutions in Pre-colonial Nigeria

The three majority ethnic groups: Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa-Fulani.

Historical Background of Pre-colonial political system in Yoruba land

The Yorubas are 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. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of The Yoruba people.

Political Structure of The Pre-colonial Yoruba land

The Oyo Empire of King known as Alaafin
i. The first organ of government in Oyo Empire was the Alaafin Administration: - resident

The Alaafin was the head of the empire, and was in the capital. The Alaafin was assisted in his administration by a retinue of officials made up of priests, officials and Eunuchs. Sometimes he had an autocratic tendency but in practice, his powers were often limited and regulated by the Oyomesi, a council of seven headed by Bashorun who acted as the Prime Minister. The members of the Oyomesi, were king makers as well. At the demise of the Alaafin, they were the ones to select his successor.

ii. The Ogboni Cult Administration:

The Ogboni cult had a very a vital position in the Yoruba society. It played a mediatory role in any conflict between the Oyomesi and the Alaafin. It was a kind of counter power to the Alaafin as well.

iii. The Army

Historical Background of The pre-colonial Political system in Igbo land

The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. This is because they had no centralized states, consequently they operated a kind of government without kings.

The Igbo are grouped into five sub-cultures:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria | c. The Western Igbo | e. The North-eastern Igbo |
| b. The Igbo of South-Eastern Nigeria | d. The Igbo of North-Eastern Nigeria | |

Political Structure of the pre colonial Igbo Land

They practiced direct democracy because there was no traditional ruler in the form of Oba as in the case of the Yorubaland so no hereditary claims to the traditional status as there was never an Igbo Kingdom or Empire. The family was the smallest political unit in Igbo Traditional Society. Each family was headed by an "ogo" title holder. Age grade was organized on a village basis. The youths cleared the bush paths, streams and also served as police. The elders enforced the elders' decisions, and in war, guarded the settlements and fought on the battlefield, the age group was thus a society of companionship and protection. The Secret societies consisted of the *dsuiners*, masquerades and so on, they all played significant role in the Igbo traditional society. They acted as intermediaries between the living and the Ancestors.

Historical Background of Pre-colonial Political System in Hausa Land

Oral tradition attributed the origin of the Hausa states to a man named Bayajidda, an Arab prince who travelled to the Sahel from Baghdad. He killed a monstrous snake that oppressed the people of Daura, and he married the queen. The queen had six sons already, and she produced another son with Bayajidda, and each of these sons (already ~~and~~ and each of these ~~produced another son with~~ sons ruled one of the seven Hausa city states, becoming the first kings.

Political Structure of the Pre-Colonial Hausa Land

Emirate System of Government among the Hausa people

The Emir was an absolute monarch in his emirate, he was the political, administrative and spiritual leader.

The Emir's Cabinet included:

1. Sarkin Fada - the spokesman of ^{the Emir} and organizer of palace works
2. Klaziri - the prime Minister of the Emirate
3. Galadima - The Administrator of the Capital city.

4. Madawaki - The Commander and Head of the Emir's Army
5. Magaji - Government Treasurer - in charge of the government Treasury
6. Sarkin Dan Doka - Inspector general of police Force called Dan Doka.
The Ruler
7. Sarkin Ruwa - Minister in charge of water Resources or a fishing official.
8. Sarkin Pawa - Head of chairman of Butchers and the Fiddlers
9. Yar - chief superintendent of Prisons in the Emirate.

Colonial Administration and Indirect Rule System in Nigeria

Historical Background

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 arrive Nigeria through Bini Kingdom. 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. The struggle among the European powers for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa among them in the 19th Century.

The Birth of Nigeria as a Geo-political Entity

The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. ~~British government policy~~ 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 therefore, governed Nigeria by means of a system popularly referred to as "Indirect Rule".