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***NURSING***

***AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE***

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics consists of two periods which are the pre-colonial and colonial period. The pre-colonial era is the time before the coming of the colonialists to Nigeria while the colonial era is the era that colonial administration was established in Nigeria.

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state, pre-colonial Nigeria consists of the borno empire, the Hausa state, and the Sokoto caliphate in the north; the Igbo segmentary, Benin kingdom, the Oyo empire and several ethnic identities in the Benue valley. Nigeria stretches roughly 700 miles from west to east and 650 miles from south to north, covering an area between 3◦ and 15◦ E longitude and between 4◦ and 14◦ N latitude.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to around 500,000 – 9000BC in the Paleolithic period. Nigeria took part in the Stone Age period which can be divided in to three periods;

* **3,000,000 --- 35,000BC EARLY STONE AGE**
* **35,000 --- 15,000BC MIDDLE STONE AGE**
* **15,000 --- 500BC LATE STONE AGE**

The man who lived during those years worked very hard to cope with he’s environment. He needed food first, he got it by hunting animals and gathering fruits but later on he started inventing tools by using pebbles. The archeologists called the first tool the oldowan type of tools, they identified in gorge in tanazia. The tools were oval and pointed in shape; they also had a cutting edge and were trimmed from both sides. They were made during the early stone age but they were later refined during the middle Stone Age and then the late stone age. The small stone were used for hunting in Jos, plateau state and in Iwo eleru in ondo state. Much later, other tools were invented and in different part of the country.

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 in the remote part of Nigeria; Nok, Igbo ukwu, ife and Benin among others. They are mostly referred to as centers of ancient civilization.

In the traditional political institutions in pre-colonial Nigeria, there are three main ethnic groups which are; Yoruba, Igbo and hausa-fulani.

The Yoruba’s are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and they are united by language. They trace their origin back to oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba kingdom, Ile-ife is the ancestral home of the Yoruba. Oduduwa is believed to be the first leader that led the Yoruba to ile-ife and sent his sons and grandsons to create other kingdoms. There is the Oke Oramfe version: That the earth was full of water, and God, Olodumare, sent servants who were given some objects with which the world was created. They were given five pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth and a cockerel. On their way, Obatala got drunk with palmwine. Oduduwa seized the symbol of authority from him and eventually led the party to the world. The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms 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.” His paraphernalia of office included a beaded crown (Ade), a slippers (bata), horse tail (irukere) and sceptre Ase). The Oba is both the spiritual and political head of the kingdom

**THE IGBO**

* The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life.
* The Igbos have no centralised state
* 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
* The Northern Igbo

One of the most popular versions of the migratory stories of origin of the Igbo people is the one that points to Israel. This assumption is based on the so-called similarities between the cultures of the Igbo and the ancient Hebrew. Some Igbo scholars consider themselves as off-shoots of the lost tribes of the Hebrews who migrated southward. Nri version as the only authentic version of origin in existence in the oral tradition of the Igbo. According to Nri version, the ancestor of the Igbo, Eri, descended from the sky and sailed down the River Anambra. When he arrived at Aguleri, he met some autochthonous group of people who had no living memory of their own and settled with them. As their population increased, some groups migrated to other parts of Igboland to establish their own settlements

**Political Structure of the Igbo**

* There is no highly centralised authority
* What they have is a diffusion of authority into diverse groups
* Although, there was no highly centralised 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.

**The Hausa People**

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, that is, Hausa legitimate states. The second group consist of the remaining seven states and were known as “Hausa banza” states, that is Hausa illegitimates states. The Hausa “bakwai” states are Daura, Biram, Zaria, Katsina, Kano, Rano, and Gobir while the Hausa “Banza” states are Nupe, Gwari, Yauri, Bauchi, Zamfara, Kebbi.

**Origin of hausa people**

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 ruled one of the seven Hausa city-states, becoming the first kings. The combined kingdoms of Hausa land were sometimes called the Daura, since Daura is the place where Bayajidda supposedly founded the Hausa people.

**Political Structure**

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. The Sarkin Kasar combined both political and religious/spiritual functions. He was also the chief executive and judge of the State, but he was aided by a council of state. At the district level, the government was modelled after that at the national level. It is worthy of note that between 14th and 15th centuries, the socio-political organisation of Hausa States took another shape. For instance, Islam was adopted and this gave birth to many new political institutions such as the offices of the Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Dogari, Yari Sarki and Sarki Yau.

**Islam among the Hausa People**

Islam was introduced to Hausa land in the fourteenth century, and by the fifteenth century it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class. The Jihad of Uthman Dan Fodio of 1804 further strengthened and consolidated the religion in this area.

**Colonial Administration of Nigeria**

* 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.
* Thus, The Trans-Atlantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the British in contact with Nigeria.
* the trans-atlantic slave trade was abolished in the 19th century

**The birth of Nigeria as a geo-political entity**

Before the year 1900, all the different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration. But by 1900, the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British Colonial Office. The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. British government amalgamated Lagos colony and protectorate with the protectorate of Southern Nigeria to form the new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

**The Second Amalgamation**

The second amalgamation was that of 1914. In January 1914, the British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria.