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**CHAPTER 2**

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

The pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria, the pre-colonial period is the period before the coming of colonialists to Nigeria while colonial period in refers to the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria. Nigeria state is a colonial creation. It is a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonisations of Africa. Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state, pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. The exact time man started living in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region known as Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period 500,000-90000 BC.

Early man in Nigeria advanced from the early Stone Age. Tools which were made during the early age were refined in the middle stone age and late Stone Age. There is an evidence of more advance technology in various parts of Nigeria during the bronze and metal age.

The scientific and technological development of early Nigerian societies;

* The major landmark in early Nigerian history; information on this major land marks in early Nigeria history was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past. Some of this places are; Nok, Igbo-ukwu, Ife and Benin among others.
* Nok culture/civilisation; terracotta head of a monkey by tin miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as Wamba, kastina-Ala, Jema. It’s believed to be a transitional civilisation area between the Stone Age and the Iron Age in Nigeria because of the presence of stone and iron objects. Nok culture existed between the 15th and 2nd century B.C.
* Ife civilisation; it’s because of its terracotta and bronze heads. It’s also believed that it was from if that Benin probably learnt bronze sculpture.
* Igbo-ukwu civilisation; some bronze ornaments were discovered accidentally while digging a pit toilet at Igbo-ukwu in 1939. Which lead to the excavation of three sites which is called Thurstan Shaw.

Traditional political institutions in pre-colonial Nigeria, the major ethnic groups are Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa-Fulani in Nigeria traditional political system of government.

Yoruba’s are the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united with one language, their origin is been traced from “Oduduwa” who was their founder.

Igbo’s are best known for their segmentary way of life, this is because they had no centralised states in the ancient times. They were grouped into five sub-cultures, which are; The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, The Igbo-Southern of Nigeria, The Ibo Northern-Eastern of Nigeria, The Western and The Northern Igbo.

Hausa’s is located in Northern Nigeria, they were made up of fourteen (14) states before 1804 and they were two distinct groups. The first group consists of seven states called the “Hausa Bakwai” meaning Hausa legitimate states while the second group consists of the remaining seven known as “Hausa Banza” meaning Hausa illegitimate states.

Colonial administration and indirect rule system in Nigeria historical background; The British who have often been credited with the creation of Nigeria were not first Europeans to land in Nigeria. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive Nigeria through Bini kingdom. The Atlantic slave trade was the trade carried across the Atlantic Ocean between the Europeans and Africans. It became more important in the 15th century with the arrival of the Portuguese.

The Trans-Atlantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the British in contact with Nigeria. The trade got to maturity in the 16th century. The British decided to abolish the Trans-Atlantic slave trade through the operations of the British West African Naval Squadron. After three centuries of slave trade, the legitimate commerce came about, the Europeans saw this as an opportunities to get involved with the affairs of the African states. They first introduce the “Gun boat” politics. The struggle among the European powers for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa among them in the 19th century. Each European powers were given the opportunity to establish colonies where it had vested interest. After the Berlin conference of 1884-1885.

Before the year 1900 all the different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under 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 amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914, the British amalgamated the northern and the southern Nigeria. British governed Nigeria with the indirect rule system.

“Indirect rule system is a system of Britain ruling her colonies through local traditional rulers.”