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**QUESTION: IN ABOUT 3 PAGES, REVIEW CHAPTER TWO, “AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP” IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS, PAGES 15-32.**

**CHAPTER 2**

**A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE**

This chapter is about the historical background of Nigerian government and politics, which involves the pre-colonial period and the colonial period. It talks about how the Nigerian state is a colonial creation, a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonisation of Africa. Before colonisation, what is now called Nigeria was made up of kingdoms, empires and chiefdoms. The Borno Empire, the Hausa states and the Sokoto Caliphate were in the northern part of the country while the eastern part was made up of the Igbo segmented societies and the Benin Kingdom and Oyo Empire covered up the west. The countries that share boundaries with Nigeria coupled with the land area make up the geographical information of Nigeria.

Based on evidence gathered the Palaeolithic Period which spanned from 500,000-9000BC marks the time when men first settled in the region now known as Nigeria, these early men also took part in the stone-age civilisation. The excavation of a Stone Age skeleton at Iwo Eleru near Akure suggests that the country has long been inhabited. The early men faced a lot of difficulties in their environment and this led to advancements from the Early Stone Age, the achievement of the early man include coping with his environment to get food, invention of certain tools to carry out their trade and sculpture making e.g. Terracotta. In the Bronze and metal age, there is evidence of more advanced technology in various parts of Nigeria.

The excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past provides information on major landmarks in Nigeria which are Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin. We can get the scientific and technological developments of early Nigerian societies from the history of the centres of ancient civilization. The area where Nok Terracotta figurines were found is known as Nok culture or civilisation area, the culture existed between the 5th and 2nd century B.C. Benin was important for its artwork, it is claimed by art historians that bronze casting was introduced into Benin by an Ife artist and one of the masks made was used as the FESTAC symbol in 1977. Ife is important because of its terracotta and Bronze heads, art historians believe that Ife art originated from the Nok culture because of the similarities in the two. Thurstan Shaw discovered Igbo Ukwu ornaments n 1939. The sites excavated at Igbo Ukwu have been dated to the middle of the 9th century A.D.

The Yoruba ethnic group is one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria, their origin can be traced to Oduduwa, the founder of the Yoruba Kingdom. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba. There are two versions of the Yoruba origin story; the first is the story of their migration from the North-Eastern area of Africa. The second version is the Oke Oranfe’s version of the origin of the Yoruba people. All the Yoruba kingdoms had similar political structures with the Oba as the spiritual and political head of the kingdom wielding the supreme and binding authority over the people; other rulers of lesser ranks are in charge of subordinate towns. Each town was divided into smaller units of wards to facilitate smooth administration. The pattern of administration was hierarchical and the body of administrators of the ward in the various Yoruba towns were called different names such as Oyomesi. The government of the old Oyo Empire is a typical example of the pre-colonial administration in Yoruba land, it was very unique and exceptional in its system of government, and it had a checks and balance system. The Alaafin of Oyo was the king and his powers were limited by the Oyomesi. The Oyomesi cult constituted another arm of government, it played a mediatory role between the Oyomesi and Alaafin and it was a kind of counter power to the Oyomesi. The army was another arm of government made up of infantry and cavalry with the Are-Ona-Kakanfo as the head.

The Igbo people are best known for their acephalous way of life and are grouped into five sub-cultures which are the Igbos of the eastern Nigeria, South-Eastern Nigeria, North-Eastern Nigeria, the western Igbo and the northern Igbo. There are three versions of the Igbo migration story; the version that points to Israel, the version that states that the Igbo people had been in their present abode from the beginning and the Nri version. The Igbo political system was a diffusion of authority and not a highly centralised authority, some political institutions however existed in each village to perform legislative, executive, administrative, military and judicial functions, and such institutions included the family, council of elders, age grades and more societies such as the Ohaneze and the secret society.

The Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria, before 1804 it was made up of 14 states grouped into two. The first group was made up of seven states called Hausa “Bakwai”or “legitimate” states which are Daura, Biram, Zaria, Katsina, Kano, Rano and Gobir while the Hausa “Banza” or illegitimate states are Nupe, Gwari, Yauri, Bauchi, Zamfara, Kebbi, and Yoruba. The origin of the Hausa states has been attributed by oral tradition to a man named Bayajidda, an Arab prince who travelled to the Sahel from Baghdad. The combined kingdoms of Hausa land were sometimes called the Daura, it is the place where Bayajidda supposedly founded the Hausa people. The political structure was made up of the “Sarki”, the “Sarkin Kasar” Islam was introduced to Hausa Land in the 14th fourteenth century, and by the 15th century it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class. The Jihad Uthman Dan Fodio of 1804 further strengthened and consolidated the religion in this area. In every conquered state, the former Hausa ruler was replaced by a Fulani Emir then a centralised political system of government was introduced after the conquest.

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 the Bini Kingdom. Thus, the Trans-Atlantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the British in contact with Nigeria. The struggle among the European powers for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa among them in the 19th Century. Each of the European powers was given the opportunity to establish colonies where it had vested interest. The scramble for Africa, by these European powers led to the partitioning of Africa after the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, Britain colonized Nigeria, Ghana, the Gambia and Sierra-Leone in West Africa. A number of measures were taken to establish and maintain a colonial state in Nigeria.

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 the Lagos colony and protectorate with the protectorate of Southern Nigeria to form the new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914. In January 1914, the British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria. The northern protectorate was not as economically buoyant as the colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. Indirect rule is a system of Britain ruling her colonies through local traditional rulers. The British officers defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel or the rulers.