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Review of chapter 2.

The historical background of Nigeria government and politics involves the colonial and pre colonial period. The pre colonial Nigeria consists of different independent chiefdom, state, kingdom, and empires. The ethnic grouping significantly differs in the historical, social and cultural make ups. The exact time man began to live in Nigeria is exactly unknown but there were evidence which pointed to the palaeolithic period 500000-9000BC . Small Stone tools are known to be used for hunting and was located in Jos,

plateau state and Iwo eleru in ondo state.

There are three major ethnic groups in Nigeria: Yoruba Igbo and Hausa-fulani.

Yoruba is one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are United by their language. The Yoruba people trace their origin to oduduwa who the founder of Yoruba land. Ile Ife is regarded to as the ancestral home of the yorubas. Oke oramfe is located in Ile Ife. It is believed to be the centre from which the world was created. The oke Orange's version of the origin of Yoruba was that at a period the world was covered by water. Each king is known as "Oba" and resides in Aafin. His paraphernalia includes beaded crown irukere, and slipper and Sceptre . The oba enjoys so many privileges but there are limitations to their powers. These limitations are called "eewo"

The Oyo Empire.

It is a typical example of precolonial administration in Yoruba land. Oyo was one of the rare empire that had in built check and balances and contributed to it's stability for centuries. The Alaafin was the head of the empire and resides in the capital and is regarded as Lord's of many lands.

The historical background of pre-colonial system in Igbo land. The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. The Igbo are grouped into five sub-cultures.- the Igbo of EasterNigeria

- 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.

In the Igbo traditional society, there was no highly centralized authority but instead they had what could be called a diffusion of authority into different groups. In other words, they practiced direct democracy and or a decentralized system of government because there were no traditional rulers in the form of Oba as in the case of the Yoruba, and so no hereditary claims to the traditional stools as there was never an authority.

Historical background of pre-colonial political system in Hausaland. Hausaland is located in the Northern Nigeria. Hausaland before 1804 was made up of fourteen states

and they were of two distinct groups. The first group consists of seven states called "Hausa Bakwai" states, that is, Hausa legitimate states which consists of Daura, Biram, Zaria, Kastina, Kano, Rano, and Gobir while the second group consist of the remaining seven states and were known as "Hausa Banza" state: Nupe, Gwari, Yauri, Bauchi, Zamfara, Kebbi, Yoruba.

The "Sarki" was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. Sarkin Kasar, which means "ruler of the land", was the full title given to any effective and efficient head of Hausa state. The emirate system of government among the Hausa land in the fourteenth century and by the fifteenth century it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class.

Furthermore, to make the local government efficient, and effective each emirates was

divided into districts and an official known as "Hakimi" was approved by the Emir to reside at the headquarters and administer the district in behalf of the Emir. Each district was further subdivided into villages, each village into wards, for administrative purposes. The "Hakimi" appointed village heads to assist him in collecting taxes for the emirate.