**NAME- EYIOWUAWI MOJISOLA ISLAMIYAT**

**MATRIC NUMBER- 19/law01/098**

**DEPARTMENT- LAW**

**COURSE CODE- GST 203**

**COURSE TITLE- GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS**

**QUESTION-**

**CHAPTER 2 ( AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE**

The history of the Nigerian government and politics involves the precolonial period which is the period before the coming of the colonialists to Nigeria and the colonial period refers to the era that colonial creation. Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state, pre colonial Nigeria comprised of different independent chiefdoms, states and kingdoms and empires. They include the Borneo Empire, The Hausa States and the Sokoto Caliphate in the North, the Igbo segmentary societies in the East; Benin Kingdom and the Oyo Empire in the West and several ethnic identities in the Benue Valley.

**Early man in Nigeria**

The exact man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different part of Nigeria which is pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since Palaeothic period 500,000- 9000BC. The Stone Age can be divided into several periods which in Early Stone Age 300000-350000BC and the Late Stone Age 15000-500BC. The excavation of a Stone Age skeleton at Iwo Eleru near Akure in Ondo state has thrown more light on the earliest occupation of Nigeria. The skeleton was dated some 12,000 years ago and this suggests that the county has been long inhabited. The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. First he needed food, for this purpose, he started to hunt and gather foods then he soon began to invent tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. Archeologists called the tools **OLDWAN** type tools. This is because this type of tool was first identified by the archeologists in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. Then the early man in Nigeria advanced from the Early Stone Age, he began to make hand axes. Similar tools were located earlier by archeologist who worked outside Nigeria at a site in St Acheuel in Northern Nigeria. These tools were made during the Early Stone Age l, but they were later refined during the Middle Stone Age. There is evidence of more advance technology in various parts of Nigeria during the bronze and metal age. One of the most active periods of technological efforts was during this period around 500BC to 200AD. During this period, there were people who lied in Nigeria who made sculptures.

**The scientific and technological development of Early Nigerian societies**

Information on the major landmarks in Early Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done on place where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past. Some the places where man lives in Nigeria in the very remote past included Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin among others, they usually referred to as centres of ancient civilization.

**Nok Culture**

The discovery of terra cotta (burnt clay) head of a monkey by tin miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as Wamba, Kastina. Ala and Jena. The Area where these terra-cotta figurines were found is called Nok culture or civilization area. The Nok culture is believed to be a transitional civilization between the Stone Age and the Iron Age. It was discovered that the Nok Culture existed between the 5th and 2nd century BC.

**Benin Civilization**

Benin was important for its artwork. The craftsman of Benin carved in wood and ivory and cast objects. They cast wooden doors and ivory mask, one of which was the ivory mask used as FESTAC symbol in 1977

**Ife Civilization**

Ife was important because of its terra-cotta and bronze heads. Objects such as stools and figures were carved on hardline called quartz while animal and human figures were carved from granite and decorated with iron nails. Example is Opa Oranmiyan in Ile Ife. Art Historians believed that Ife art originated from the Nok Culture because of similarities in the two, especially beaded neck, wrist and ankles . They also believed that it was from Ife that Benin probably learnt bronze sculpture.

I**gbo Ukwu Civilization**

Some bronze object and ornament were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo Ukwu in1939. This led to the excavation of three sites in the area by an archeologist called Thurstan Shaw. The three stirs included a burial chamber, a pit and a compound wall. May objects made of bronze which including the remains of decayed skeleton which has suggested to be those of a king and five slaves who were buried with him. The sites excavated at Igbo Ukwu have been dated to the middle of the 9th century AD

**Historical Background of Pre-colonial political system in Yoruba land**

The Yoruba are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language. The Yoruba People race their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba Kingdom. Ile Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. There are different versions of the traditions of the origin. According to Johnson in his book,”History of the Yoruba”, the Yoruba originally came from the North Eastern area of Africa. It is from Egypt after several years of journey that the Yoruba finally settled in Ile Ife in Nigeria. Oduduwa is believed to be the first leader that led the Yoruba to Ile Ife. Oke Oramfe is located in Ile Ife and is to believed to be the centre from which the world was created. According to the legend, there was a period when the world was covered with water. The almighty God them decided to send some of his messenger to the world and they included Obatala or Orisa Nla or Orisa Alase and Sixteen Oye. They were given five pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth and cockerel. Somewhere in the way to the world, the leader Obatala got drunk and Oduduwa seized the symbol of authority. The site on which they landed is known as Oke Orange in Ile Ife, Oduduwa set down the five pieces of iron and places the lump of earth on them. The cockerel spread the lump of earth on them. The cockerel spread the lump of earth with its feet throughout the earth. Consequently, the earth was formed and Oduduwa became the ruler.

**Political Structure of the Pre Colonial Yoruba Land**

The political structure consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, village and farmlands. Each town was headed by a king known as Oba, who resides in a place called Aafin. They were limitations (eewo) on the part of the king that its violation can lead to the death of the king.

The king had other rulers of lesser ranks which included the Baale and Oloja who were in charge of villages and farmland.

**The Oyo Empire**

Oyo Empire was very unique and exceptional in this system of government. The Alaafin was the head of the empire. He was assisted by priests and other eunuchs. He was regarded as the companion of the gods. The Oyomesi were king makers and were seven in number. The Ogboni was a powerful. The Army was headed by the Are ona Kankanfo. All of them were subject were subject to the lordship of the Alaafin,

**Historical Background of Pre colonial political system in Igbo Land**

The Igbo people are known for their segmentary or Acephalous way of life. They operated a kind of government without kings. The Igbos are grouped into five sub culture which include The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, the Igbo of South Eastern Nigeria, the Igbo of North Eastern Nigeria, the western Igbo and the northern Igbo. The Igbo society is Acephalous. There was no highly centralized authority, they practiced direct democracy and or decentralized system of government. The family was the smallest political unit and was headed by an “ Ofo title holder. Age grade was organized on a village basis. The association or age grade grew from childhood and took a common name to commemorate an event associated with the time of their birth. Ohaneze was a form of general assembly in traditional Igbo society. Their meetings were held in the open village square and the decisions taken during these meetings were final. The secret societies consisted of the diviners masquerades, “Ubinukabi” at Arochuku, the Amadisha of Ozuzza and so on. The Igbo believed in reincarnation.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE PRE COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN HAUSA**

Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. Before 1804, Hausa land was made up of two distinct groups, “ Hausa Bakwai” which consist of seven states and were known as the legitimate states while the “Hausa Banza” were known as the illegitimate states. The oral tradition attributed to the origin of the Hausa states named Bayajidda who killed a monstrous snake that oppressed the people of Daura and married the Queen. The “Sarki” was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. The Sarkin Karsin combined both political and religious/ spiritual functions. Islam was adopted and it gave birth to Madawaki, Magaji, Dogari, Yari Sarki and Sarki Yau. Some titles such as Alkali and Qadi (judges) became common places in the administration of justice. The Jihad of Utman Dan fodio of 1804 strengthened and consolidated Islam. The Jihad led to the conquest of the conquest of the existing Old Hausa Kingdom. Hakimi was appointed by the Emir to reside at the headquarters and administers the distinct on behalf of the Emir. The judicial administration of Hausa Fulani was based on the Islamic Legal System called Shima. The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914. The British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria.