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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

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In about 3-Page review Chapter Two, "An Historical Analysis of the Evolution of the Nigerian State" in Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria's Politics, pages 15-32.

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The precolonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialist to Nigeria, while the colonial period refers to the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria. This chapter talks about the early man in Nigeria, 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 the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period. The excavation of a stone age skeleton at Iwo Eleru near Akure in Ondo state has thrown more light on the earliest occupation in Nigeria. Information on major landmark 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 Nigeria in the very remote past include Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin among others. Ife civilization is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. The chapter further explains the historical background of precolonial political system in Yoruba land. The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria and are united by language. The Yoruba people trace 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 is also the Oke Oramfe version of the origin of Yoruba people, Oke Oramfe is located in Ile-Ife and it is believed to be the centre from which the world is created. According to the legend, there was a period when the world was covered by water and the Almighty God decided to send some of His messengers to the world and they included Obatala or Orisa Nla.

The historical background of the pre-colonial political system in Igbo land explains how the Igbo people are best known for the segmentary or acephalous way of life. This is because from the ancient times, they had no centralised states. Consequently, they operated a kind of government without kings. 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
- The northern igbo

One of the most popular versions of the migratory story of the igbo people is that points to Israel. This assumption is based on so-called similarities between 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.

Hausa land is located in northern Nigeria. Hausa land before 1804 was made up of fourteen states and they were two distinct groups. The Hausa Bakwai and the Hausa Bamza states. In precolonial structure of the pre-colonial Hausa land, the sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. He worked 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. The emirate system of government among the Hausa people talks about how Islam was introduced to the Hausa land in the fourteenth century and by the fifteenth century 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. The Jihad led to the conquest of the existing old Hausa kingdom. The emir was an absolute monarch in his emirate, he was the political, administrative and spiritual leader. Important title holders in the emir's cabinet included:

- Sarkin fada: the spokesman of the emir and organiser of palace workers
- Waziri: the prime minister of the emirate

- Galadima: the administrator of the capital city
- Madawaki: the commander and head of the emirate army
- Magaji: government treasurer in charge of the government treasury
- Sarkin Dan doka: inspector general of police force called Dan doka
- Sarkin ruwa: minister in-charge of water resources or the river fishing official
- Yari: chief superintendent of prisons in the emirate