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**REVIEW OF CHAPTER TWO**

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial and colonial period of Nigeria. Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state, pre-colonial Nigeria consisted of different independent chiefdoms, kingdoms, states and empires. Some of them include, the Borno Empire, the Sokoto Caliphate in the North, Benin kingdom, and Igbo segementary societies in the east, several ethnic identities in the Benue valley and the Oyo Empire. These ethnic groupings significantly differ in their historical, social and cultural make-up. Artefacts, mostly made of stone, can be divided into several periods such as; the early Stone Age (3,000,000-35,000BC), THE Middle Stone Age (35,000-15,000BC) and the Late Stone Age (15,000-5000BC).

*ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EARY MAN*

The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. First, he needed food and so he began to hunt animals and gather fruits. Soon, he began to invent tools like pebbles crafted into cutting/chopping instruments archaeologists refer to as the “Oldowan” type tools. This is due to the fact that these tools were first discovered by archeologists in the Olduvai George in Tanzania. The early men then proceeded to inventing another tool for heavy chopping. This tool was first seen at Sango bay on the west shore of Lake Victoria in Uganda, leading to them being called “the Sagoan”. Another was also discovered in Sokoto state. The figures were made of terracotta and them all possessed distinctive styles.

*HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND DISCOVERIES*

The Ife civilization is important because of its bronze and terracotta heads and objects (such as stools), figures carved into a hard stone called quartz which is decorated with Irion nails. A good example would be Opa Oranmiyan in Ile-Ife.

The Igbo Ukwu civilization was famous for its bronze objects and ornaments which were discovered while digging at Igbo Ukwu in 1939. This eventually led to the execution of three sites in the area by an archaeologist called Thurston Shaw. The site excavated at Igbo Ukwu has been dated to the mid-19th century.

The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa and the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. In a different version by Johnson the origin of the Yoruba to the East. In the Oke Oramfe’s version of the origin of Yoruba, it is believed to be the centre from which the world was created. The almighty then decided to send some of his messengers to the world and they included Obatalal or Orisa Nla or Orisa Alase (as the leader) and the sixteen Oye (immortals).

The first organ of government in the Oyo Empire was the King known as the Alaafin of Oyo. Oyo was one of the empires that had in built checks and balances (which was rare at the time), and this contributed to its stability for centuries. The Alaafin was the head of the empire and resided in the capital city. He was considered “Lord of many lands”. The Oyomesi was known as the king makers and they had the power to remove the Alaafin if he were to ever become dictatorial or transgressed the laws of the land. The deposed Alaafin was usually expected to commit suicide.

The Igbo people were known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. This is because from the ancient times, they had no centralized states. The Igbo people are grouped into five (5) sub-cultures, they are: The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria; The Igbo of South-eastern Nigeria; The Igbo of North-eastern Nigeria; The Western Igbo; and The Northern Igbo.

In the traditional Igbo society, there was no highly centralized authority but they had what could be called a diffusion of authority in different groups. They practiced a direct democracy and a decentralized system of government because there were no traditional rulers in the form of a king, unlike the case of the Yorubas. No hereditary claims to the traditional stools as there was never an Igbo kingdom or empire.

The amalgamation of May 1906, popularly known as the first amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. Tamuno observes that the primary aim of the 1906 amalgamation was purely economic, that is “to use the better financial position of the protectorate of Southern Nigeria to cover the costs of administration and development in the financially weak colonies and protectorate of Lagos, then saddled with the white elephant of a railway in need of extension since 1901”.