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 **WRITE A THREE PAGE REVIEW ON CHAPTER TWO OF THE SALIENT ISSUES in GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS BY TEMIDAYO DAVID OLADIPO AND IDOWU OLUSEYI OLALEYE: “AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE”, PAGES 15-32.**

INRTODUCTION

Nigeria is situated in the West part of the African continent. Nigeria reaches roughly 700 miles from west to east and 650 miles from north to south, procuring a landmass between 3 degrees and 15 degrees East Longitude and between 4 degrees and 14 degrees North Latitude. Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa. It has a large range of diversities ranging from geography to climate, and from languages to ethnic groups. About 500 different ethnic groups and current use of about hundred languages including Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba, Edo, Tiv, Ibibio and English. This is the current status of Nigeria after its independence in the year 1960. This paper will focus on Nigeria before she was independent and a republic, meaning the historical analysis of the country before 1960. That period is divided into the Pre-Colonial period and the Colonial Era. The state in Nigeria is a colonial creation and it is a product of the historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. Nigeria has always been diverse but what this review seeks to discuss is the evolution of the Nigerian State.

THE LIFE OF THE EARLY MAN IN NIGERIA

The time man started to live in the Nigeria is unknown but the discoveries of ancient artifacts and tools have been able to give us an idea of how long man has lived there. Such as the excavation of a stone Age skeleton at Iwo Eleru near Akure in Ondo state which has thrown light on the sort of occupations involved in at the time Archeologists have said that man has lived in Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period dated from 500,000-9000BC and also that Nigerians took place in the stone-age period. The stone-age has three period divisions namely the early Stone Age 3,000,000-35,000BC, the Middle Age 35,000-15,000BC and the Late Stone Age, 15,000-5,000BC. The excavation of tools which marked the movement of man from the periods in the stone age such as Oldowan-type tools (consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools) discovered in Olduvai Gorge in Tanazia which marked the Early part amongst others, similar tools found in St Acheul in Northern Nigeria which were refined in the Middle stone age and Late stone age etc. tools for hunting were found in Jos, Plateau state and in Iwo Eleru in Ondo state. The early man also made a heavy chopper. This artifact was found at the Sokoto River in Sokoto state and at Sangoan Bay on the shores of Lake Victoria in Uganda, East Africa which gave it the name Sagoan. There is also evidence of more advanced tools in the stone and bronze-age such as sculptures of human heads and figures made out of terracotta (burnt clay) and with a distinctive artistic style. There are more discoveries mentioned in the book from this period. We now move on to the centers where these excavations took place in Nigeria. The consist of the Nok Culture (the place for discoveries of the terracotta heads, a transitional civilization from the stone age and the iron age in Nigeria, through the use of carbon dating it was said to have existed between the 5th and 2nd century BC), Benin civilization (known was for its artwork especially for the mask used as the symbol FESTAC in 1977).

THE PRE-COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE REGIONS

This section examines the administration of the three major ethnic groups in Nigeria namely the Yoruba, the Igbo, and the Hausa tribes. The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria and are united by language. They have oral traditions of their migratory/ origin story. An author named Johnson in his book History of the Yoruba (1950) traced the origins to the North-Eastern area of Africa, basically Eygpt and then settled in Ife in Nigeria. Oduduwa is also believed to be the heads of the Yorubas as Ile-Ife is aid to be the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. There is also the Oke-Oramfe’s version of the origin of the Yoruba people which is the popular version. The political structure of these people were highly organized and structured. It had the Alaafin (king), the retinue officials known as the Oyomesi headed by the Bashorun who had the powers of a prime minister. The Oyomesi also acted as king makers and institutionalized checks and balances on the Alaafin’s autonomous powers, the Ogboni cult who acted as the checks on the Oyomesi and solved disputes between both branches it also had the army headed by the Are-Ona-Kankafo, with very important functions such as stability. They are highly known for their acephalous ways. They had no Alaafin or specific centers of powers but rather socio-political institutions carry out legislative, judicial, executive, administrative, military functions. These institutions include the family, the age grades, the council of elders, and secret societies with titles such as Ofo title holder, Ozo title holder, the Okpara, the Oha-ne-eze etc. Seniority was of great social importance to the Igbo people. The Hausa people also worked with a retinue of officials in a well-organized court. Its origin is also attributed to an oral tradition about the making of the fourteen states of the tribe. These states are called Hausa Bakawi (that is legitimate Hausa States) and Hausa Banza (that is illegitimate Hausa states). The Hausa people were originally headed by the Sarkin Kasar who was the spiritual and political. The system changed with the introduction of Islam in the Jihad by Usthman Dan Fodio in 1804. It came and conquered the original leaders and introduced an Emirate system with the use Emirs and a Caliphates.it also had a host of officials which helped the emirs in his powers. Its judicial system was based on the Sharia courts in line with its acceptance of Islam.

THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION

 The demand for slaves started with the introduction of plantation system of agriculture in places like Brazil, Jamaica, and Haiti among others.700-800 slaves were exported annually to Portugal but this trade was abolished by the British in the early decade of the 19th century through operations of the British West African Naval Squadron. This was just another way for the Europeans to get deeply involved with the affairs of Africa and they succeeded. Nations were allowed to pick states for colonies in which they had vested interest in. it was here the British Government picked Nigeria, Ghana, the Gambia and Sierra-Leone in West Africa. It was the need to want complete control and make Nigeria into a colonial state that introduced the indirect system of government. This is a system of Britain ruling her colonies through local traditional rulers. Here the British would define the framework of the policies to be adopted and would leave the implementation of these to the local personnel or rulers. It took place in the year 1900 and was also under this administration that the birthing of Nigeria as a geo-political entity took place in the process of amalgamation. Nigeria witnessed two sets of amalgamations. The first one was the amalgamation of The Lagos Colony with the Southern Protectorate in May 1906. Tamuno (1980) observes that the primary aim for the 1906 amalgamation was purely economic reasons such as the economic progress of the southern part and the fiscal weakness of the Lagos colony. It was also done without the consultation with Nigerians.