**NAME: OKPO JOY JERRY**

**DEPARTEMENT: LAW**

**COURSE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTION.**

**MATRIC-NO: 19/LAW01/201**

**CHAPTER 2**

**HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE.**

**EARLY MAN IN NIGERIA.**

The exact time that man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archeological 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 500,000-9000BC. It was also confirmed that the Nigerians took part in stone-age civilization. The age is divided into three; Early stone age, Middle stone age, Late stone age.

**THE ACHIEVEMENT OF EARLY MAN.**

The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. They needed food so they had to hunt for animals and then they made tools for the hunting of the animals. First of all, they made tools consisting of pebbles into chopping and cutting tools. Then later when the early man advanced from the early stone age, he began to make hand axes which were used for different things, it was refined in the middle stone age and late stone age. Then they also invented the heavy chopper which was more efficient in cutting than existing tools. It is called Sagoan. One of the most active periods of technological effort was during this period around 500BC to 200AD. The figures were found in Nok village and they were made of terracotta.

**THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY NIGERIAN SOCIETIES.**

**Major Landmark in Early Nigeria History**

Information on the major landmarks in early Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past. They are usually referred to as centers of ancient civilization. The history of these centers of the ancient civilization presents us with the scientific and technological development of early Nigerian societies.

**Nok Culture/Civilisation**

The discovery of the terracotta head of a monkey by tin miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places. The Nok culture is believed to be a transitional civilization between the stone age and the iron age because of the presence of a combination of stone and iron objects. Nok culture existed between the 5th and 2nd century BC.

**Benin Civilization**

Benin were important for its artwork. The craftsmen carved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass. Art historians claim that bronze casting was introduced into Benin by an Ife artist.

**Ife Civilization**

Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. Objects such as stools and figures were carved on hard stone called quartz while animal and human figures were carved from granite and decorated with iron nails.

**Igbo Ukwu Civilization**

Some bronze objects and ornaments were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo Ukwu in 1939. It was found by an archaeologist called Thurstan Shaw.

**TRADITIONAL POLOITICAL INSTITUTION IN PRE-COLONIAL NIGERIA.**

The three majority ethnic groups are Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa Fulani.

**Historical Background Of Pre-Colonial Political System In Yoruba Land.**

The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language. They 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 are different versions of the traditions of origin.

**The Oke Oramfe’s Version Of The Origin Of The Yoruba.**

The Oramfe is located in ile-ife. It is believed to be the center from which the world was created. According to the legend, there was a period when the world was covered by water. The almighty God then decided to send some of his messengers to the world was covered by water. The almighty God then decided to send of his messengers to the world and they included Obatala or Orisa Nla or Orisa Alase and the sixteen Oye. They were given five pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth, and a crockerel. On their way to the world, the leader, Obatala got drunk with palm wine. Oduduwa seized the symbol of authority from him eventually led the party to the world. The site in which they landed is traditionally known as Oke Oramfe in Ile-Ife. On arrival at the site, Oduduwa set down the five pieces of iron and placed the lump of earth with its feet throughout the earth. Consequently, the earth was formed and Oduduwa, who became the ruler. It was from Ile-Ife that he extended his authorities to other Yoruba towns and villages.

**POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE PRE-COLONIAL YORUBA LAND**

The political structure of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature. Each consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages, and farmlands. Each land had a king known as an Oba resides in the palace Aafin. An Oba is the spiritual and political head of the kingdom. If the king violates the eewo it could lead to his death. The king also had other rulers lesser rank and status, like Baale and Oloja, Ijoye, Idile. The patten of administration was hierarchial. At the apex was a group was a group of civil chiefs headed by the king. The body in the various Yoruba towns were called different names such as Oyomesi, Ewarefa.e.t.c.

**THE OYO EMPIRE**

1. **THE ALAAFIN ADMINISTRATION.**

The Oyo empire was very unique and exceptional in its system of government. The Alaafin was the head of the empire and was resident in the capital. He was also regarded as the “Lord of many lands”. The Alaafin was assisted in his administration by a retinue of officials made up of priests. He was regarded as the “companion of the gods”. His power was limited by the Oyomesi whch were king makers. The Oyomesi had the power an Alaafin.

1. **THE OGBONI CULT’S ADMINISTRATION.**

It was a very powerful cult. It consisted of prominent people in the society as well as the members of the Oyomesi. It played a mediatory role in any conflict between the Oyomesi and the Alaafin. It was a kind of counter power to the Oyomesi as well.

1. **THE ARMY**

It was very organized. Its head was called Are-Ona-Kakanfo. The army was credited with performing important functions which included stability of the empire, expansion as well as keeping dissident territories check.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN IGBO LAND.**

The igbo’s are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. The igbo’s 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 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.

**POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE PRE-COLONIAL IGBO LAND.**

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 Igbo kingdom or empire. The family was the smallest the smallest unit in Igbo traditional society which was headed by the Ofo. The Age grade was organized on a village basis. The age grade grew from childhood and took a common name to commemorate an event associated with the time of their birth. Oha -na -eze was a form of general assembly in traditional igbo society. All the male adult members usually met in this assembly to perform legislative functions. The secret societies consisted of the diviners. They all played significant roles in igbo traditional society.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN HAUSA LAND.**

The hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. Oral tradition attributed the origin of the hausa states to a man named Bayajidda. The hausa states may have been founded by Berber immigrants from the north of the Sahara. Islam was not introduced to region until the 19th century. The killing of the the sacred serpent might imply a change in the people’s religious beliefs and practices.

* The Sarki was known as the head of any typical hausa state, he was the ruler of the land.He was also the chief executive and judge of the state, but he was aided by a council of state. Islam was introduced in the 14th century. The Jihad Of Uthman Dan Fodio strengthened and consolidated the religion in this area. In every state conquered the hausa ruler was replaced by the Fulani emir. After the conquest a centralized political system of government was introduced. The emir was an absolute in his emirate. The members of this council were project officers appointed by Dan Fodio; Sarkin Fada, Waziri, Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Sarkin Dan Doka, Sarkin Ruwa, Sarkin Pawa, Yari. The Hakimi was appointed by the emir to assist him. The judicial administration of hausa-fulani was based on the Islamic legal system called Sharia.
* In the colonial administration and indirect rule system in Nigeria, the Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in Nigeria. Slave trade was introduced in Nigeria and people were transported from Nigeria to other countries as slaves. It was through this that the British came in contact with Nigerians. After three shameful centuries of slavery the British abolished the slave trade. Then the British colonized Nigeria and other African countries.
* The birth of Nigeria as a Geo-Political entity, before the year 1900 all the different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration. British government amalgamated Lagos colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria to form the new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914. The British officers defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel or the rulers.