

Eboigbe Confidence Paul

19/law01/069

Government assignment

ANSWER

CHAPTER2

INTRODUCTION

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the precolonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The pre-colonial period is the time before the coming of the colonialists to Nigeria while the colonial period is the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria.

EARLY MEN IN NIGERIA

No one fully knows when people began to live in Nigeria but there are archeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period (500,000-900,000).

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EARLY MAN

The achievement of the early man include;

Coping with his environment of get food

Invention of certain tools- stone, metals (axes)

Sculpture making, Terracotta

Excavation has also revealed where men first settled in Nigeria

PLACES PEOPLE FIRST SETTLED IN NIGERIA

Excavation has also revealed where people first settled in Nigeria

Some of the places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past included: Nok, IgboUkwu, Ife and Benin among others

These places are referred to as centers of ancient civilization

THE ORIGIN OF YORUBA

THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE YORUBA KINGDOM

The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature. Each consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages, and farmlands. Each town has a king known as “Oba who resides in the palace called “Alaafin.” His paraphernalia of office included a beaded crown (Ade), a slippers (bata), horse tail (irukere) and sceptre Ase). The Oba is both the spiritual and political head of the kingdom.

THE ORIGIN OF THE IGBO PEOPLE

One of the most popular versions of the migratory stories of origin of the Igbo people is the one that points to Israel. This assumption is based on the so-called similarities between the 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.

THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE IGBO PEOPLE

There is no highly centralised authority

What they have is a diffusion of authority into diverse groups

Although, there was no highly centralised authority, some socio-political institutions existed in each village to perform legislative, executive, administrative, military and judicial functions, such institutions included the family, council of elders, age grades and secret societies.

ORIGIN OF THE HAUSA PEOPLE

The origin of the Hausa land talks about a man named Bayajidda, an Arab prince who travelled to the Sahel from Baghdad. He killed a monstrous snake that oppressed the people of Daura, and he married the queen. The queen had six sons already, and she produced another son with Bayajidda, and each of these sons ruled one of the seven Hausa city-states, becoming the first kings. The combined kingdoms of Hausa land were sometimes called the Daura, since Daura is the place where Bayajidda supposedly founded the Hausa people.

THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE HAUSA PEOPLE

The “Sarki” was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. He worked with 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. He was also the chief executive and judge of the State, but he was aided by a council of state. At the district level, the government was modelled after that at the national level. It is worthy of note that between 14th and 15th centuries, the socio-political organisation of Hausa States took another shape. For instance, Islam was adopted and this gave birth to many new political institutions such as the offices of the Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Dogari, Yari Sarki and Sarki Yau.

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. But by 1900, the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British Colonial Office. The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. British government amalgamated Lagos colony and protectorate with the protectorate of Southern Nigeria to form the new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

The second amalgamation was that of 1914. In January 1914, the British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria.