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# MATRIC NO:19/ART09/007

# COURSE CODE: GST 203

An Historical Analysis Of The Evolution Of The Nigeria State

This involves the pre colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria.the pre-colonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialists while the colonial period is the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria.

The Nigeria state is a colonial creation. Pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms ,states and they include the Borno Empire, the Hausa states e.t.c. they differ in their historical, social and cultural make-ups.on the west we are bordered by Benin , on the north by Niger , on the east by Cameroon.

 The exact time man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but it is settled that in the region now known as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period 500,00-9000 BC. Although it was hard fpr him hr needed food and water , he began to invent tools and Archeaologists called the tools, Oldowan-type tools, and the first time it was identified was in Gorge in Tanazia. then he made hand axes, forms of ground stones and all were found in Ile-Ife , Jebba , Esie ,Igbo-Ukwu and Benin, and they are said to be the place that man lived.

 Historical backgroung of pre-colonial system in Yoruba land

 The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and united by language.Ile-Ife is the ancestral home of the Yoruba land.Oduduwa is said to be the first leader that led the yoruba to Ile-Ife and subsequently sent his sons and grandson to found other kingdoms.

 Political structure of the pre-colonial Yoruba land

Each town had a king called “OBA”and he lives in a palace called “ AAFIN”. another ruler were Baale and Oloja.

 Historical Backgroung of pre-colonial political system in Igbo Land

The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life .they are grouped into five sub-cultures

- The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria

- The Igbo of Southern-Eastern Nigeria

- The Igbo of North-Eastern Nigeria

- The Western Igbo

- The Northern Igbo

 One of the popular stories of the origin of the Igbo people is that one points to Israel. The assumptions is based on the so-called similarities between the cultures of the Igbo and the ancient Hebrew.

 Political Structures of the pre-colonial Igbo Land

They practiced direct democracy or decentralised system of government because there were no traditional rulers in the form of “oba” as in the case of the Yoruba, and no hereditary claims to the traditional stools as there was never an Igbo kingdom. The family was the smallest political unit in the traditional society,each family was headed by an “Ofo” tittle header. Age grade was organised on a village basis, then the secret societies too. The Igbo believe in re-incarnation.

 Historical Background of pre-colonial in Hausa Land

Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. Before 1804 was made up of 14 states and they were of two distinct groups.the first group consists of seven states called Hausa Bakwai states and the second groups consists of the remaining seven states and were known as Hausa Banza states. The Hausa states may have been found by Berber immigrants from the north of the Sahara or else by people coming from East Africa .

 Political structure of the pre-colonial Hausa Land

The Sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. Sarkin Kasar means ruler of the land was the full tittle given to any effective and efficient head of the Hausa state . he performed both the political and religious/ spiritual functions, he was also the chief of judge of the states, but he was aided by a council of the national level.

 Islam as introduced to Hausa land in the fourteenth century and by the fifteenth century it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class. Then a centralized political system of government was introduced . the sultan acted in advisory capacity and appointed Emirs over the emirates. The Emir was an absolute monarch in his emirate, he was a political, administrative and spiritual leader.

 Colonial Administration And Indirect Rule System In Nigeria.

Historical Backgroung: the British who have often been credited with the creation of Nigeria were not the first Europeans to land in Nigeria . the Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive Nigeria through Bini kingdom.the trans-Alantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the British in contact with Nigeria. After three centuries of shameful slave trade, came the so-called period of legitimate commerce . the struggle among the European powers for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa among them in the 19th century. Each of the European powers was given the opportunity to establish colonies were it has vested powers. The scramble for Africa, by these European powers led to the partitioning of Africa after the Berlin Conference of 1884-885. Britain colonised Nigeria, Ghana, the Gambia and Sierra Leone in West Africa. As from 18998, the British government sought to establish and maintain a colonial state in Nigeria. To achieve this, a number of measures were to be taken, for example, removal of all visible opposition to the imposition of colonial rule, expansion and consolidation of British authority over the territory later known as Nigeria.