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In a three page review chapter three in Salient issues in Government and Nigeria's Politics. An Historical Analysis of the evolution of the Nigeria State.

A state can only be referred to as that 'state' if people are within it . Taken back to history it was stated that 'man' settled down in an unknown region which is now said to be Nigeria. Archeologist also made a confirmation that man took parte in the stone age civilization.

The man who lived in Nigeria during the stone age worked so hard to cope with his environment. As he needed basics like food. He invented tools with pebbles. He advanced from this and began making hand axes. Similar tools were located by archeologist that worked outside Nigeria at a site in St Acheul in Northern Nigeria. These tools were later refined during the Middle and Late Stone Age. Technology improved during the bronze and metal age. This is a period were sculptures were still made, many were of which human head and figures which was made of terracotta and was found in the village of Nok.

Nok civilization: Has a traditional civilization between the stone age and iron age in Nigeria because of the combination of iron and stone objects.

Benin civilization: Craftsmen of Benin carved in wood and ivory an cast objects in bronze and brass.

Ife civilization: Animal and human figures were carved from granite and decorated with iron nails. There is similarity of Ife art and Nok culture so historians believe ife art originated from Nok culture.

Listed above are the scientific and Technological Development of Early Nigerian Societies.

Traditional political institutions in pre colonial Nigeria are of three major ethnic groups which are:

1. Yoruba: The historical background of Yoruba:

There are different versions of the traditions of origin. In a book written by Johnson 1950 'History of Yoruba' traced the origin of Yoruba to the East. Which is Mecca, then the Yoruba people settled in Ile-Ife in Nigeria. Oduduwa is the founder of the Yoruba kingdom and Ile-Ife is the ancestral home of the Yoruba people.

The political structure of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature and consisted of a cape town, village and farmland. Each of the town had a king 'Oba' who has supreme authority in the kingdom. The king had rulers of lesser and higher rank and status like the Baale, Oloja. The town was the political unit.

The government of old Oyo empire is a typical example of the pre colonial administration in Yoruba land.

The Alaafin Administration: Alaafin was the fountain of authority and was regarded as the companion of the gods. Alaafin was assisted in his administration by a retinue of officials made up of priests, officials and eunuchs. He also had a well organised court.

The Ogboni cult administration: It was a powerful cult and had a vital position in Yoruba society. It was composed of free and prominent members of the society.

The Army: They ensured stability of the empire, expansion and also keeping dissident territories in check.

2. Igbo: The historical background;

Igbo society has always been known as acephalous. They could be grouped into five sub cultures which is the Igbo of: Eastern Nigeria, South eastern Nigeria, North Eastern Nigeria, The western Igbo and Northern Igbo.

The Igbo people practiced Direct rule and there was no traditional rulers so therefore no hereditary claims. Some socio political institutions existed in each village to perform legislative, military functions such institutions included family, secret societies, age grades.

Communities were organised through age grades for war, work and government. Those who clear places, streams and paths also served as the police. The age grades guarded public morality.

Oha-ne-eze was a form of general assembly and all decisions made there were final. The secret societies also consisted of the diviners "masquerades". They acted as intermediary between the living and ancestors. They carried out rituals in order to ward off evil. The Igbo's have great respect for their deities.

3. Hausa: Historical background of pre colonial political system;

Before 1804 the Northern part (Hausa land) had only fourteen states and were divided into two groups. The first which was called "Hausa Bakwai" and the second "Hausa banza".

The origin of the northern part goes down to a man Bayajidda an Arab Prince who killed a snake that oppressed the people of Daura. The queen then produced a son with him making it seven sons. They all ruled one of the seven Hausa States, becoming the first kings. Islam was introduced in the Northern part in the 11th century.

The "Sarki" was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. The Sarkin Kasar combined both the political and religious functions. He was as well the chief executive and judge of the state but was aided by the council of the state. Islamisation of Hausa LANS influenced its judicial system and Sharia law started taking shape.

The Jihad of Uthman Danfodio of 1804 strengthened the religion 'Islam'. The jihad led to conquest of the existing old Hausa Kingdom, the overthrow of the political leadership by the Fulani and establishment of the caliphate. There is a new system of selecting rulers which are described as Emirs to rule the caliphate. The emir controlled economic activities within his emirates though was assisted by a group of village heads, a council of advisers and so on. Important title holders in emirs cabinet includes: Sarkin Fada, Waziri, Galdima, magaji and so on.

Historical background of indirect rule

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to actually land in Nigeria, though the British had always taken credit for that. The Atlantic slave trade was the slave trade that took place between the Europeans and Africans. The demand of slaves could be traced back to the introduction of plantation system of Agriculture in places like Brazil, Jamaica and so on. The trans Atlantic slave trade was the first that put British in contact with Nigeria for close to three centuries British dominated the trans Atlantic slave trade. After centuries of slave trade the period of legitimate commerce. It was an opportunity for the Europeans to get more involved with the affairs of the African states. The scramble for Africa by these Europeans led to partitioning of Africa by the Berlin conference.

The birth of Nigeria as a Geo Political entity

Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British Colonial Office. Nigeria was first amalgamated in 1906 in order to form a new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. This was done without Nigerians opinion or view or whether they were in support of the amalgamation. According to Tamuno, the amalgamation was done to use better financial position of the protectorate of Southern Nigeria to cover the cost of administration in the financially weak colony.

The second amalgamation which was for the Northern and Southern Nigeria was done for the same purpose as the first (1906). Sir Frederick Lugard who is best known as the father of 1914 amalgamation governed by a system called Indirect rule.

