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**HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE**

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial and colonial period in Nigeria. The pre colonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialist while the colonial period is the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria.p

Pre colonial Nigeria comprises of different chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. These, among others, include the Borno Empire, the Hausa states, and the sokoto caliphate in the north; the Igbo segmentary societies in the east; Benin kingdom and the Oyo Empire in the west and several ethnic identities in the Benue Valley.

**Early man in Nigeria**

 The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archeological evidences that traces man has settled in Nigeria region now known as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period 500,000-9000bc. The artifacts mostly stone tools, found by archeologists further confirmed that Nigeria took part in the Stone Age civilization. The excavation of the Stone Age skeleton at Iwo eleru near akure in ondo state has thrown more light on the earliest occupation of Nigeria. The skeleton which was dated 12000 years ago suggests that the country has been long habited.

Inventions of Early men includes; hunting of animals in fruits in order to get food, invention of tools with pebbles in which the Archeaologist call Oldowan-type tools. This tool was oval pointed in shape. Man later invented another tool called heavy chopper. Also known as Sagoan. Information on where man lived was made possible by evacuation work done in those places. Some of the places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past included: Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin among others. These places are known to as” CENTRES OF ANCIENT CIVILISATION”.

**YORUBA HISTORY**

 The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic groups and they trace their origin to Oduduwa who is the founder of Yoruba kingdom. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. There are different versions Yoruba civilization. There is the story of their migration from the East. This is the belief that the Yoruba people migrated from the North-East. So from Mecca, through Egypt leading to a final settlement in Ile-Ife. Oduduwa is believed to be the first leader that led the the Yoruba to Ile-ife. The Oke Oramfe’s version of Yoruba civilization is that the earth was full of water at a time, and God, Olodumare, sent servants which included Obatala or Orisa-Nla and sixteen oye (immortals) who were given some objects with which the world was created. They were given five pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth and a cockerel. On their way, Obatala got drunk with palmwine. Oduduwa seized the symbol of authority from him and eventually led the party to the world.

**Political Structures of Yoruba Land**

 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 “Aafin.” 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.

 **Igbo History**

 The Igbo people are known for their acephalous way of life because they had no centalised state. According Nri version, the ancestor of igbo, Eri, descended from the sky and sailed down River Anambra. When he arrived in Aguleri, he met some autochthonous group of people who had no living memory of their own and settled with me. As the population increased, some groups migrated to other parts of Igboland to establish their settlements.

 Political Structure in Igbo Land is; They have no centralized state and they practice decentralized system of government. They have institutions who perform legislative and executive functions and they include family, age group, secret societies and council of elders.

**Hausa Land History**

 Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. Hausa land, before 1804 was made up of fourteen states, and they were of two distinct groups. The first group consist of seven states called “Hausa Bakwai” states, that is, Hausa legitimate states. The second group consist of the remaining seven states and were known as “Hausa banza” states, that is Hausa illegitimates states. The Hausa “bakwai” states are Daura, Biram, Zaria, Katsina, Kano, Rano, and Gobir while the Hausa “Banza” states are Nupe, Gwari, Yauri, Bauchi, Zamfara, Kebbi.

**Origin of Hausa people**

Oral tradition attributed the origin of the Hausa states to 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.

**Political Structure**

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.

 **Islam Among Hausa People**

Islam was introduced to Hausa land in the fourteenth century, and by the fifteenth century it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class. The Jihad of Uthman Dan Fodio of 1804 further strengthened and consolidated the religion in this area.

**Colonial Administration of Nigeria**

•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.

•Thus, The Trans-Atlantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the British in contact with Nigeria.

•The Trans-Atlantic slave trade was abolished in the 19th century

**The Partition of Africa**

•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 where it had vested interest. The scramble for Africa, by these European powers led to the partitioning of Africa after the Berlin Conference of 1884–85.

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