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# AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE.

Talking about the historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. Pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent Cheifdoms, States, kingdoms and empires. The Archaeologists they found out that Nigerians took part in the stone age 3,000-000 -35,000BC. Middle stone age, 35,000-15,000BC and late stone age 15,000-500BC. The man who lived in Nigeria those years really work hard for their survival. They needed food by which they began to hunt for animals and to gather fruits. Early man in Nigeria during the bronze and metal age. The technological efforts in Nigeria was during this period, around 500BC to 200AD. Forms of ground stone axes and smaller stone tools ,iron axes and tools were found on the site. The site in which the figures were found on the sites. The site in which the figures were found was the village of Nok.

The information on the major landmark in Early Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation workdone on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past. The discovery of a Terracotta head of a monkey by tin miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as Wamba , Katisna-Ala and Jema. Benin was important for its art work.

Ife is important because its terracotta and bronze. Igbo Ukwu in 1939 accidentally discovered bronze objects and ornaments while digging a toilet pit. The Yoruba are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language. The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa who was founder of the Yoruba kingdom. Ile-ife is regarded as the ancenstral home of the Yoruba people . Oke oremfe version is located in ile-ife. This version the earth was formed and Oduduwa became the ruler. It was from Ile ife that he extended his authorities to other Yoruba town and villages. The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature. Each town has a king known as oba who resides in palace called aafin. The oba enjoyed many priviledges but certain limitations known as eewo. The king also had other rulers of lesser ranks and status. The Chiefs acted as advisers to the king and served as the link between the king and members of the ward. At the apex was a group of civil chiefs headed by the king. The government of the old oyo empire is a empire is a typical example of the Pre-colonial administration in Yoruba land . The first organ of government was the Alaafin of oyo. The alafin was assisted in his administration by a retinue of officials made up of officials made up of priests, officials and eunchs. The Ogboni cult had a very vital position in Yoruba society. It played a mediatory role in any conflict between the Ooyomesi and the Alaafin. It was a kind of counter power to the oyomesi as well. It was a kind of counter power to the oyomesi as well.

The army was another arm of government in traditional Yoruba society it was organized. The army was credited with performing important functions which included stability of the empire expansion, as well as keeping dissident territories in check. The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. The Igbo are grouped into five sub-cultures. Some believe that the igbo people had been in their present above from the beginning . There was a diffusion of authority into different groups. Each family was headed by an ofo title holder. Hardworking and wealthy individuals were respected and given important responsibilities in the society as well. The secret societies performed rituals or effered sacrifices at different shrines intended they were angry, and thereby atone for the sins of members of the community. The igbo has a great respect for the deities and the ancestors. The igbo believe in re-incarnation . The religious igbo were surrounded by mysticisms and superstitutions.

Hausa land is made up of fourteen states. The Hausa states may have been founded by Berber immigrants from the north of the sahara or else by peoples coming from East Africa . The sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa State. The sarkins kasar combined both political and religious spiritual functions . It is worthy of note that between 14th and 15th centuries, the socio-political oraganisation of Hausa states took another shape. The Jihad led to the conquest of the existing old Hausa kingdom, The overthrow of the political leadership by the Fulani and the establishment of the caliphate and Fulani emirates in the Northern Nigeria . There is the introduction of a new system of selecting and appointing rulers described as Emirs to rule the caliphate . The Emir was an absolute monarch in his emirate,he was the political , administrative and spiritual leader. Their local government was efficient and effective each emirates was divided into districts and an official known as Hakimi. The Atlantic slave trade was the trade carried on across the Atlantic ocean between Europeans and Africans. The trans-Atlantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the british in contact with Nigeria .

The sruggle among the European powers for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa among them in the 19th century . The May 1906 Amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The Northern protectorate was not as economically buoyant as the colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. Sir Frederick Lugard is best known as the father of the January 1914 amalgamation .

The British officers defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel or the rulers.