REVIEW 0N CHAPTER TWO OF SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS

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PHARMACY

AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE.

INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation.it is a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. Nigerian government and politics’ historical background involves the pre-colonial and colonial period in Nigeria. Before colonisation, what is now called Nigeria was made up of kingdoms, empires, chiefdoms: 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. The country is bordered to the south by the Bights of Benin and Biafra, which are on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. On the west, Nigeria is bordered by Benin, on the north, by Niger, and on the east, by Cameroon. In its extreme north-eastern corner, Lake Chad separates Nigeria from the country of Chad. Nigeria stretches roughly 700 miles from west to east and 650 miles from south to north, covering an area between 30 and 150 E longitude and between 40 and 140 N latitude.

EARLY MAN IN NIGERIA AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EARLY MAN

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period 500,000- 9000BC. 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 referred to as centres of ancient civilization.

The achievement of the early man include coping with his environment of get food, invention of certain tools- stone, metals (axes),sculpture making and Terracotta. Excavation has also been revealed where men first settled in Nigeria.

Traditional Political Institutions in Pre-Colonial Nigeria

POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE PRE-COLONIAL NIGERIA

The political structures of the Yoruba kingdom were similar in nature. Each consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands. Each town has a king called ‘oba’ who stayed in a palace called ‘Aafin’.

**Traditional Political Institutions in Pre-Colonial Nigeria** The Yorubas trace their origin to Oduduwa. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yorubas. However, stories about origin of the Yoruba people are diverse: 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. there is also the Oke Oramfe version; that the earth was full of water, and God, Olodumare, sent servants who were given some objects with which the world was created.

Ife civilization

Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads, objects such as stools and figures were carved on hard stone called quartz decorated with Irion nails. An example is Opa Oranmiyan in Ile-Ife.

Igbo Ukwu Civilization

Some bronze Object and ornaments were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo Ukwu in 1939. This eventually led to the execution of three sites in the area by an archaeologist called Thurston Shaw. The sites excavated at Igbo Ukwu have been dated to the middle of the 9th century A.D.

Historical background of pre-colonial political system in Yoruba land

The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa ancestral home of the Yoruba people. There are different versions of Johnson traced the origin of the Yoruba to ‘’East.’’

The Oke Oramfe’s version of the Origin of the Yoruba

Oke Oramfe is located in Ile-Ife. It is believed to be the Centre from which the world was created. The almighty God then decided to send some of his messengers to the world and they included Obatala or Orisa Nla or Orisa Alase (as the leader) and sixteen Oye (Immortals).

The Oyo Empire

The first organ of government in oyo emoire was the king known as Alaafinof Oyo. Oyo was one of the rare empires that had in built checks and balances, and this contributed to its stability for centuries. The Alaafin was the head of the empire, and was resident in the capital. He was also regarded as ‘’Lord of many lands.’’ The Oyomesi also had the power to remove any Alaafin especially when he appeared dictatorial or transgressed the laws of the land. Usually the deposed Alaafin was expected to commit suicide.

Historical Background of Pre-colonial Political system in Igbo Land.

The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. This is because from the ancient times, they had no centralized states.

The Igbo are grouped into five sub-cultures; The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, The Igbo of South-Eastern Nigeria, The Igbo of North-Eastern Nigerian, The western Igbo and The Northern Igbo

Political Structure of the pre-colonial Igbo land

In Igbo traditional society there was no highly centralized authority but instead they had what could be called a diffusion of authority but instead they had what could be called a diffusion of authority into different groups. In other word they practiced direct democracy and or a decentralized system of government because they were no traditional ruler in the form of Oba as the case of the Yoruba, and so no hereditary claims to the traditional stools as there was never an Igbo kingdom or empire.

Origin of the hausa people and their political structure.

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. 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

The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. Besides, Tamuno (1980) observes that the primary aim of the 1906 amalgamation was purely economic, that is, ‘’to use the better financial position of the protectorate of Southern Nigerian to cover the costs of administration and development in the financially weak colony and protectorate of Lagos, then saddled with the white elephant of a railway in need of extension since 1901.