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REVIEW OF CHAPTER TWO

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the precolonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The precolonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialists to Nigeria while the colonial period refers to the era that colonial administration was established in Nigeria. 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 colonalisation of Africa

Early man in Nigeria:

From archaeological evidence, man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period 500,000- 9000BC. The artifacts found by archaeologists further confirmed that Nigeria took part in the stone-age civilization. The Stone Age can be divided into: Early, middle, and Late Stone Age.

The Scientific and Technological Development of Early Nigerian Societies include: information on major landmarks, Nok culture/civilization, Benin civilization, Ife Civilization, Igbo Ukwu civilization.

Historical background of precolonial System in Yoruba Land:

The Yoruba's are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language. The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba Kingdom. Ile-Ife is regarded as the acenstral home of Yorubas.

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 called Oba which resides in the palace called Aafin. The King also had rulers of lesser status.

The Oyo Empire:

Included the Alaafin administration, Ogbonis cult administration, the Army.

Historical background of precolonial System in Igbo land:

The Igbo's are grouped into the Igbo's of Eastern Nigeria, South-Eastern Nigeria, North-Eastern Nigeria, Western and Northern Igbo. One of the most popular migratory stories of the Igbo's is that they came from the lost tribes of the Hebrew.

Each Igbo family is headed by an "Ofo" title-holder. The most senior of them is known as "Okpara" who holds the "Ozo" title.

Age grade was organized on village basis. Ohanaeze was the form of general assembly in Igbo communities.

Historical background of precolonial system in Hausa land:

Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. Hausa land before 1804 was made up of fourteen states which were grouped into "Hausa bakwai" and "Hausa banza" .

The "Sarki" is the head of the typical Hausa state. The Sarkin Kasar had both political and spiritual functions. Islam was introduced to Hausa land in the 14th century, and by the 15th century it became the religion of the ruling class. The Jihad of Uthman Dan Fodio of 1804 further strengthened the religion in this area. In every state conquered, the former Hausa ruler was replaced by the Fulani Emir which was the absolute monarch in his domain.

The judicial administration of Hausa-Fulani was based on the Islamic law called "Sharia".

The Birth of Nigeria as a geopolitical entity:

Before 1900, all the parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration. By 1900 the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British Colonial Office.

May 1906 was the first amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914. The British amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria. Sir Frederick Lugard is the father of the 1914 amalgamation.

Britain governed Nigeria by Indirect rule meaning they ruled Nigeria through our traditional leaders.