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**COURSE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTES{GST203}**

**ASSIGNMENT:** In about 3 pages, review chapter 2; an historical analysis of the evolution of the Nigerian states in salient issues in government and politics.

. Chapter 1 makes us understand the historical background of Nigerian government and politics. The pre-colonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialists into Nigeria.While the colonial period refers to the era that the colonialists were in administration.

Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. They include; The Borno empire, The Hausa states and Sokoto Caliphate in the north. The Igbo segmentary societies in the east, the Benin kingdom and Oyo empire in the west and several ethnic identities in the benue vally. The country is bodered to the south by the bights of Benin, a Biafra state which are on the gulf of guinea on the atlantic ocean. On the west, Nigeria is bordered by Benin, on the North, by Niger. On the East, by Cameroon.

**Early man in Nigeria**. It was said that the exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is known but there are archiological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which is pointed the fact that man had settled in the region known as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period.

Achievements of the early man.

The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. First of all, he needed food. For this purpose, he began to hunt the animals and to gather fruits but he soon began to invest tools consisting of pebbles made into cutting and cut tools. Most archeologists called the tools the **OLDOWAN-TYPE** tools. This was olduval gorge in tanazia. These tools made during the early stone age but they were refined during the middle stone age and late stone age. Small stone tools believed to be used for hunting have been located in jos, plateau state in iwo eleru in ondo state.

Early man then proceeded to invent another type of tool which is **HEAVY CHOPPER.** The type was first seen at Sango Bay on the west shores of lake Victoria in Uganda, East Africa. This is why it is called the sagoan. One of the most active periods of technological efforts in Nigeria was during this period, around 500bc to 200AD. During this period, there were people who lived in Nigeria who made sculptures. The figures were made from terracotta and they all possessed a distinctive style. They’ve also been found in ile-ife, jebba, essie, igbo-ukwu and Benin among others. They are referred to as the centers of ancient civilization.

* Nok culture/civilization: The discovery of a terracotta, was the head of a monkey by miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as; wamba, kastina ,ala and jema. The area where these terracotta figurines were found is called the Nok cultures and civilization.
* Benin culture/civilization: the craftsmen of benin carved in woods and ivory and cast objects in bronze and bass. Art historians claim that bronze casting was introduced into benin by ife artist.
* Ife civilization/civilization: ife is important because its terracotta and bronze heads. Objects such as stools and figures were carved on hard stone called quartz while animal and human figures were carved from granite and iron nails

The chapter proceeded to talk about the historical background of the Yoruba people. It talked about the oyo empire, saying it is very unique an exceptional.

The ogboni cult had a very vital position in the Yoruba society. It played a mediatory role in any conflict between the oyomesi and the Alaafin. It was a counter power to the oyomesi.

The head of the army was referred to as Aare-ona-kankafo, the army was credited with performing important functions.

The historical background of the igbo people was therefore explained. The igbo people are generally known for their acephalous way of life. This is because from the ancient times, they had no centralized states. The igbo people are grouped into 5 sub-cultures. It is said that the igbo people originated from Israel. This assumption came from the similarities between the igbo and the Hebrews. The igbos were referred to as the original homeland.

It went further to explain the background of the hausa people. Hausa land is located in northern Nigeria, before 1908, hausa land was made up of 14 states and these states were grouped into 2. Hausa bakawi and Hausa banza states. The emir was an absolute monarch, the whole former Hausa kingdom was divided into two federations

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