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AN OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NIGERIAN STATE

The history of Nigeria evolves from the pre-colonial and colonial Nigeria. The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. Before the emergence of the colonial Nigeria, the precolonial Nigeria was made of kingdoms, chiefdoms, fiefdoms and empires such as the Benin kingdom, Oyo Empire, Sokoto Caliphate and several ethnic entities in the Benue valley. Today, Nigeria is bordered by Niger in the north, bights of Benin and Biafra on the south, which are on the gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean, the west by Benin and the East by Cameroun. Around the extreme north east region lake chad separates Nigeria from chad republic. Nigeria is on the longitude of 3 and 15E and the latitude of 4 and 14N. it also stretches from North to South at about 650 miles while for west to east at about 700 miles. Excavation also showed where man might have first settled in such places is Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife, Benin among others. Such places are referred to as centre of civilization. The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences that man must have settled in first which are listed above and such region form part of what is Nigeria today, from the Paleolithic period of 500,000-9000BC.

Nigeria was involved in stone age as well based on evidences found which can divided into three; early stone age -3,000,000-35000BC, middle stone age-35000-15000BC, and late stone age-15000-500BC

Specific traditional political institutions in Nigeria can be traced to the Yorubas, Igbos and Hausas.

The Yorubas regard Ile-ife as their ancestral home, their origins can be traced to Oduduwa and some of their history can be the story of their migration from the East. The Oba is both political and spiritual leader of the Yorubas. His paraphernalia includes a beaded crown(Ade), a slippers(Bata), horse tail(irukere) and scepter(Ase)

The igbos can be grouped into five subcultures; eastern Nigerian, south eastern Nigeria, north eastern Nigeria, western igbo. They are known for an acephalous way of life. The Nri version of igbo history is often referred to as the most authentic version. They possess no central authority some socio-political institutions existed to perform legislative, administrative and judicial functions such institutions include the family, council of elders, age grade and secret society.

The hausas were once divided into two groups of 7 states each. The first group known as hausa Bakwai and it consisted of 7 legitimate states which are Daura, Biram, Kano, Katsina, Zaria, Rano and Gabir. The second known as hausa Banza consisted of Nupe, Gwari, Yauri, Bauchi, Zamfara and Kebbi. There is version of hausa that is widely known and accepted which talks about how Bayajidda got married to Queen Daura after saving her people from thereon. Sarkin Kasar meaning ruler of the land was given to any efficient ruler of the hausa land. The reign of Sarkin Kasar brought about changes to the hausa land during the 14th and 15th century such as the addition of islam which about new political institutions which are the Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Dogari, Yari, Sarki and Sarki Yau. At the 15th century central islam was adopted as the religion of the ruling class.

The birth of Nigeria as a geo-political entity; before 1900 all regional all different parts of Nigeria were conquered by the British but were still under their original administration. But by 1900 the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British colonial authority. May 1906 the first amalgamation happened while in 1914 the colony of lagos and the protectorate of both southern and northern region were amalgamated to form one colonial territory.