

NAME: BADMUS TOLUWANI AMINAT

DEPARTMENT: MBBS

MATRIC NUMBER: 19/MHS01/116

## AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation as it is a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure which led to the colonisation of African countries. Pre-colonial Nigeria consists of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. These among others include Borno Empire, the Hausa state, Benin Kingdom and the Sokoto empire in the north; the Igbo segmentary societies in the East; Ebnin kingdom and the Oyo empire in the west. These different groupings help to differ significantly in their historical, social, and cultural make-ups. Nigeria 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 it is bordered by the Benin, on the North by Niger and on the east Nigeria is bordered by Cameroon.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are evidences from different parts in Nigeria that pointed the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period 500,000 - 9000BC. Nigerians also took part in the stone age civilization which can be divided into the Early stone, Middle and Late Stone age.

The man who lived during those years worked very hard to cope with his environment. He hunted the animals and gathered fruits to get food. later, he began to invent tools which are consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. These tools are called the Oldowan-type tools by the archaeologists..



Around 500BC to 200AD in Nigeria a lot of people made sculptures, some were made from human heads and figures. In the remote past, man lived in Nigeria in different places and some of the places includes: Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin among others and were referred to as centres of Ancient Civilisation.

In Nok, Terracotta head of a monkey by tin miners was discovered in 1936. The area where these terracotta figurines were found is called the Nok civilization area. In Benin, craftsmen of Benin craved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass. Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. Objects like stools and figures were craved on hard stones called quartz while animals and human figures were craved on granite and decorated with iron nails. In igbo Ukwu civilization, some bronze objects and ornaments were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit in 1939. This led to the excavation of three sites in the area by an archaeologist called Thurstan Shaw. The three sites included a burial chamber, a pit and a compound wall.

The Traditional Political Institutions in Pre-Colonial Nigeria include the three majority ethnic groups Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa-Fulani. The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language. The Yoruba origin can be traced to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba Kingdom, Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. The political structures of the Yoruba Kingdoms were similar in nature. Each constituted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands. Each town has a King known as the Oba who lives in the Alafin.

The igbo people are best known for their segmentary way of life. This is because from the ancient time they had no centralised states. They operated a kind of government without Kings. The Igbo are grouped into five sub cultures which are: The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, The Igbo of south-Eastern Nigeria, The Igbo of North-Eastern Nigeria, The Western Igbo and The Northern igbo. The igbo society has always been known as acephalous

In the igbo traditional society, there was no highly centralised authority but instead they had what could be called a diffusion of authority into different groups. They practiced direct democracy because there were no traditional rulers as in the case of the Yoruba.

Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. Hausa land was made up of fourteen states before 1804 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 called Hausa Banza states that is, Hausa illegitimate states. Oral tradition attributed the origin of the Hausa states to a man named Bayajidda. The Sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. He worked with a retinue of officials in a well organized court. Sarkin Kasar means ruler of the land. As this was the full title given to any effective and efficient head of Hausa state. The Sarkin Kasar combined both political and religious functions. Islam was introduced to Hausa land in the fourteenth century, by the fifteenth century, it was accepted as a religion of ruling class. The whole of the former Hausa kingdom was divided into two Confederations.

The British who have often been credited with the creations of Nigeria were not the first Europeans to land in Nigeria. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive Nigeria through Bini kingdom. The struggle among the Europeans power for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa among them in the nineteenth century. Each of the Europeans power were given opportunity to establish colonies where it had vested interest.

The different parts of Nigeria which were conquered by the British were still under their administration before the 1900, but by 1900, the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British Colonial Office. The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria, and the primary aim of these amalgamation 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



the need of extension since 1901. The second amalgamation was that of 1914. In January 1914, the British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria. The main reason for this is the same as that of May 1906. Britain governed Nigeria by means of a system popularly referred to as indirect rule. This is a system of Britain ruling her colonies through local traditional rulers. The British officers defined the framework of the politics to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel or the rulers.

