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SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 2 ( AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE).

The history background of Nigeria consists of pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. At the pre-colonial times Nigeria consisted of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms, and empires. These include: Brono Empire, Sokoto caliphate in the north etc. Nigeria is bordered in the south by the Gulf of guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. On the west it is bordered by Benin, on the North, by Niger and on the east by Cameroon and it is bordered by Lake Chad at the extreme north-eastern corner, Nigeria stretches 700miles from west to east and 650miles from south to north covering the area between 3 and 15 E longitude and between 4 and 14 N latitude.

**HISTORY BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN YORUBA LAND**

The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the finder of the Yoruba kingdom. Ile ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. There are two different version of the Yoruba history: The one where they migrated from the North-eastern area of Africa (Mecca) and the Oke Oramfe’s own.

**POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE PRE COLONIAL YORUBA LAND**

Yoruba kingdoms consisted of town, villages and farm lands. Each town was headed by a king called Oba who resided in the Aafin. The king also had other rulers such as Oloja and Baales. The town was the basic political unit while the subordinate town was the bedrock on which the administration of the whole kingdom was based. Eeach town was subdivided into wards called Ijole, Ijole was further subdivided into compounds called agbo-ile. The compound was headed by Baale (Ile) and formed the lowest level of administration. Next in line was the ward head and at the apex was a group of civil chiefs headed by the king. Body in the various Yoruba town are called different names like: Oyomesi, Ewarefa etc.

THE OYO EMPIRE

The king of the Oyo Empire was known as Alafin of Oyo. He was assisted by a retinue of officials made up of the priests, officials and eunuchs. The Alafin was regarded as the companion of the gods. His power was often limited by a council of seven known as the Oyomesi.

Members of the Ogboni cult constituted another cabinet. This cult composed of prominent members of the society and members of Oyomesi.

The army was another arm of government. It was headed by the Are-Ona-Kankofo who was made to live outside the capital. The army ensured stability, expansion and keeping dissident territories check in the empire. The Alaafin had personal agents called Ilari.

**HISTORY BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN IGBO**

From the ancient time the Igbos had no centralised states and they operated a government without kings. Five sub cultures of the Igbos are: Igbo of eastern Nigeria, Igbo of south-eastern Nigeria, Igbo of north-eastern Nigeria, Western Igbo and Nothern Igbo. The only authentic version of the origin of the Igbos is the Nri version.

**POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE PRECOLONIAL IGBO LAND**

The Igbo practised direct democracy and decentralised system of government although, some socio-political institution existed in each village such as family, council of elders, age grades and secret societies. The family was the smallest political unit headed by the Ofo . The Ofo was headed by the Okpara who held the Ozo title.

Age grade was organised on the village basis. The communities mainly organised them for work, war and government. This age grade was a society of companionship and protection. The secret societies of the Igbos consisted of the diviners, masquerades, Ubinuknabi etc. They acted as intermediary between the living and the ancestors. They practised the traditional religion and they had priest who performed sacrifice from time to time to appease the gods. They also believe in re-incarnation.

**HISTORICAL BACK GROUNG OF PRECOLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN HAUSA LAND**

Hausa land is located in the northern part of Nigeria. The Hausa land before 1804 was made up of the Hausa Baakwai (consisting of 7 states) and the Hausa Banza (also consisting of 7 states). The origin of the Hausa state was attributed to a man called Bayajidda and the combined kingdom of Hausa is called Daura since Daura was the place where Bayajidda and each of his sons ruled. History was introduced to the Hausa land in the eleventh century.

**POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE PRE-COLONIAL HAUSA LAND**

The Sarki was known as the head of any typical state. He worked with the Sarkin Ksar who was the chief executive of the state and combined both political and religious functions. Before 14th and 15th century, the socio-political organisation of Hausa states took another shape. The Sharia law also changed shape as titles such as Alkali and Quadis (judges) became common place in the administration of justice.

**EMIRATE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AMONG THE HAUSA PEOPLE**

The Jihad of Uthman Dan Fodio of 1804 led to the conquest of the existing old Hausa kingdom and replacement by a Fulani Emir. After the conquest a centralised system of government was introduced, each of the Emirs owe allegiance to Dan Fodio and his two representatives. The sultan supervised the administration of the emirate system; he acted in advisory capacity and appointed Emirs over the emirates. The performed a lot of function and was assisted by a group of district/ village heads, a body of councillor and council of advisors. The judiciary administration of the Hausa-Fulani was based on the Islamic legal system called Sharia. Sharia court was established throughout the emirates and each was headed by a judge called Alkali. The chief justice of the Sharia court was called Grand Khadi.

**COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION AND INDITECT RULE SYSTEM IN NIGERIA**

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to land in Nigeria through the Bini Kingdom. The Atlantic slave trade was carried on across the Atlantic Ocean between the Europeans and Africans it became worst when the Portuguese arrived Nigeria in the 15th century. The Trans-Atlantic slave trade was the channel that first put the British in contact with Nigerians but in the early 29th centuries, the British abolish the Trans-Atlantic trade through the operations of the British West African Naval Squadron. The Europeans first introduced Gun-boat politics because of some African state was threatened with attack and some states were actually attacked. In 1861, Lagos was as taken as a colony. The struggle among the European powers for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa after the Berlin conference of 1884-1885. Britain also colonised Ghana, Gambia, and Sierra-Leone in West Africa. The British government sought to establish a colonial state in Nigeria. To achieve this, a number of measures were taken, example, the removal of all visible opposition to the imposition of colonial rule, expansion and consolidation of British authority over territory later known as Nigeria.

**THE BIRTH OF NIGERIA AS A GEO-POLITICAL ENTITY**

The first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria took place the May 1906. The British government amalgamated Lagos colony and protectorate with the protectorate of southern Nigeria to from a new colony. This colony was formed without the consultations of Nigerians.

The second amalgamation was that of 1914, the British government amalgamated the Northern and Southern Nigeria. Sir Fredrick Lugard was best known as the father of the January 1914 amalgamation. Britain therefore governed Nigeria by a system known as indirect rule