*Peter-Wonighan Victory Tamaralayefa*

*19/MHS01/383*

*MBBS*

*Chapter two reviews*

*The history of Nigerian government and politics consist of the pre-colonial period (before the*

*arrival of the colonialist) and the colonial period (the era of colonialism in Nigeria).Archaeological*

*research shows that man had settled in the Nigerian region since 500,000-9000BC.The early men*

*of Nigerian worked hard getting food by hunting down animals and fruits with self invented tools*

*consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools called the Oldowan-type tools by*

*archeologists because it was first discovered in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanazia. The early man later*

*developed another tool called the Sagoan(because it was found at the Sango Bay on the west*

*shores of Lake Victoriain Uganfa).There is evidence of advancements in technology around*

*500BC to 200AD.*

*There were many traditional political institutions in the pre-colonial era of Nigeria. An*

*example is the Yoruba. The political structure of the Yoruba were simple and similar. They all*

*consisted of a capital town(headed by the Oba with a beaded crown(Ade),slippers(bata),horse*

*tail (irukere) and scepter (Ase)),subordinate towns( rulers wore crowns made of white*

*beads (sense ofun),villages(headed by the Baales)and farmlands(headed by the Oloja). The town*

*(ilu) was the basic political unit. The towns were broken down into smaller units headed by the*

*Ijoye for smooth administration. The administration pattern was hierarchical starting from the*

*lowest level(Baale)to the highest level(igbimoilu headed by the king).*

*Another example is the Igbo. In the ancient times, the Igbo had no centralized states and*

*consequently operated without kings. The Igbo are grouped into five subcultures: 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 people have no centralized authority however they exhibit*

*diffusion of authority into different groups. The family is the smallest political unit of the Igbo*

*tradition and is headed by an Ofo. Among the Ofo title holders, the oldest is the head and is called*

*the Okpara who holds the Ozo title and takes head of the elders meeting on matters that affect*

*the lives of the people. Age grades (individuals who grew together and took a common name to*

*commemorate an event) were strongly organized among the northern and southern Igbo people.*

*A general Assembly called Oha-na-eze (were male adults meet to carry out legislative functions)*

*was adopted and all its decisions were final. They also had secret societies that play a significant role in the society as they acted as an intermediary between the living and the ancestors.*

*The Hausa also had a political structure. Before 1804, Hausa land was made up of fourteen states divided into two groups. The first group was known as the Hausa Bakwai states (Hausa legitimate states) which include Daura, Biram, Zaria, Katsina, Kano, Rano and Gobir. The second group was known as the Hausa Banza states (Hausa illegitimate states) which include Nupe, Gwari, Yauri, Bauchi, Zamfara, Kebbi and Ilorin. The effective and efficient head of any typical Hausa state was called the Sarki Kasar (meaning ruler of the land). The Sarki Kasar performed both political and spiritual functions. In the 14th and 15th century, the political structure of the Hausa took another shape as it adopted Islam. The former heads were replaced by a Fulani Emir who owed allegiance to Dan Fodio and his two representatives at Sokoto and Gwandu. The Sultan supervised over the affairs of the emirate system and acted to appoint emirs. There were other officers like the Sarkin Fada (spokesman of the Emir and organizer of the palace workers). Each emirate was divided into districts and heads called Hakimi was appointed by the emir to oversee these districts. The districts were furthermore divided into villages headed by the village heads. The judiciary system was based on the sharia law and each sharia court was headed by a judge called the Alkali. The chief justice was called Grand Khadi.*

*The whole Nigeria became fully under the responsibility of the British Colonial office by the year 1900. In May 1906, the British, without the opinions of Nigerians, amalgamated Lagos colony and protectorate with that of Southern Nigeria to form a new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. The second was done in 1914 where the British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria. Both were done in order to create an economically buoyant colony. Sir Frederick Lugard was the mastermind behind the 1914 amalgamation. The British made use of the indirect rule (that is ruling through the local traditional rulers).*