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## **A REVIEW ON THE HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE.**

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The pre-colonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialist to Nigeria while the colonial period refers to the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria. The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. It is a product of historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. Nigeria is bordered by Benin on the west, by Niger on the north, by Cameroon on the east.

### **Early Man in Nigeria**

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there archaeological evidence from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region before now known as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period 500,000-9000 Bc.

### **The Achievements of Early Man**

The early man needed food so because of this, he began to hunt animals and gather fruits. Then he began to invent tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. Then he began to make hand axes which were oval and pointed in shape. The small stone tools which were believed to be used for hunting were located in Jos. Then he advanced to making another tool which is a heavy chopper which was more efficient in cutting than the previous tools. During the Bronze and metal age, people who lived in Nigeria made sculptures.

### **The Scientific and Technological Development of Early Nigerian Societies**

- Nok culture / civilization
- Benin civilization
- Ife civilization
- Igbo ukwu civilization

The three major ethnic groups include : Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa-Fulani.

### **Historical Background of Pre-colonial Political System in Yoruba Land**

The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria and are united by language. The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba kingdom. Ile-Ife is regarded as the political ancestral home of the Yoruba people.

## **Political Structure of the Pre-colonial Yoruba Land**

### ***The Oyo Empire***

The first organ of government in Oyo empire was the king known as Alaafin of Oyo.

- The Alaafin Administration :

The Alaafin was the head of the empire, and was resident in the capital. The Alaafin was assisted in his administration by officials made up of priests, officials and eunuchs. Sometimes he had an autocratic tendency, his power was often limited and regulated by the Oyomesi, a council of seven members headed by the Bashorun who acted as the Prime Minister. The members of the Oyomesi, were king makers as well. At the demise of the Alaafin, they were the ones to select his successor.

- The Ogboni Cult Administration:

The Ogboni cult had a very vital position in the Yoruba society. It played a mediator role in any conflict between the Oyomesi and the Alaafin. It was a kind of counter power to the Oyomesi as well.

- The Army.

## **Historical Background of the pre-colonial Political System in Igbo Land**

The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. This is because they had no centralized states, consequently they operated a kind of government without kings.

The Igbo are grouped into five sub-cultures :

- ★ The Igbo of eastern Nigeria
- ★ The Igbo of south-eastern
- ★ The western Igbo
- ★ The Igbo of North-eastern Nigeria
- ★ The Northern Igbo

## **Political Structure of the pre-colonial Igbo Land**

They practiced direct democracy because there was no traditional rulers in the form of Oba as in case of the Yoruba and so no hereditary claims to the traditional stools

as there was never an Igbo kingdom or Empire. The family was the smallest unit in Igbo traditional society. Each family was headed by an 'Ofo' title holder. Age grade was organised on a village basis. The youths cleared the bush path, streams and also served as police. The elders enforced the elders decisions, and guarded the settlement.

### **Historical Background of Pre-colonial Political System in Hausa Land**

Oral Tradition attributed the origin of the Hausa states to a man named Bayajidda, an Arab prince who travelled to the sahel from Baghdad. He killed a monstrous snake that oppressed the people of Daura, and he married the queen then they gave birth to sons and these sons ruled each one of the seven Hausa city States, becoming the first kings.

### **Political Structure of the Pre-colonial Hausa Land**

The Emir was an absolute monarch in his emirate, he was the political, administrative and spiritual leader. The Emir cabinet included: Sarkin Fada, Waziri, Galadima, Madawaki, Magaji, Sarkin Dan Doka, Sarkin Ruwa, Sarkin Ruwa, Sarkin Pawa, Yari and their various functions.

### **Colonial Administration and Indirect Rule System in Nigeria**

#### ***Historical Background***

The British who have often been credited with the creation of Nigeria were not the first Europeans to land. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in Nigeria through Bini kingdom. After three centuries of shameful slave trade, came the so-called period of legitimate commerce. This was another golden opportunity for the Europeans to get more directly involved in the affairs of the African States. The struggle among the European powers for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa among them in the 19th century.

#### **The Birth of Nigeria as a Geo-political Entity**

The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914, in January 1914, the British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria. The principal reason for this is the same as that of May 1906. Sir Frederick Lugard (later became lord) is best known as the father of the 'January 1914' amalgamation. Britain therefore, governed Nigeria by means of a system popularly referred to as "Indirect Rule".