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Course:GST 203

Department:Pharmacy

Matriculation number:19/MHS11/109

  **An Historical analysis of the evolution of the Nigerian state**

 The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involues the precolonial period and colonial period in Nigeria. The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. It is a historical arrangement arose out of European adventure with its eventual almination in the colonisation of Africa. Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state, precolonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms,states,kimgdom and empires. Arifacts, mostly stone tools found by archeaologists further confimed that Nigerians also took part in the stone age civilisation. The stone age was divided into early stone age 3000000-35000BC, middle stone age 35000-15000. The man who lived in Nigeria duringthose years worked hard to cope with his environment. First, he needed food. For this purpose began to hunt animals and gather fruits. He began to invent tools consisting of pebbles for choppingand cutting. The archeaologists called the tools ***oldowan type tools*** because it was first identified by archeaologists in the oldowan Gorge in Tanazia. Similar tools had been located earlier by archeaologists who worked outside Nigeria at a site in St Acheul in Northern Nigeria. These tools were made during the early stone age, but they were later refined during middle stoneage and late stone age

 Information on the major land marks in early Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past. Some of the places include:Nok, Igbo ukwu,Ife,Benin among others. The duscovery of a terracotta (burnt clay) head of a monkey by tin miners in Mok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as Wamba,Katsina-Ala and Jema. Benin was important for it art work. Ife is important because of it terracotta and bronze heads. Some bronze objects and ornaments were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo ukwu in 1939.

 The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic group 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 regared as the ancestral home of the yoruba people. There are different versions of the tradituons of origin. The oke oranfe’s version of the origin of the yoruba, oke oranfe is located in Ile-Ife. According to the legend there was a period when the world was covered by water the Almighty God then decided to send some of his messengers to the world and they include Obatala Orisa Nla or Orisa Ala (as the keader) and 16 Oye (immortals). They were given five pieces of Iron, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth and a cockerel. Some where on their way to the world, the leader Obatala hit drunk with palme wine. Oduduwa seized the symbol of authority from him and eventually led the party to the world. On arrival at the site, Oduduwa set down the 5 pieces of iron and placed the lump of the earth with it feet throughout the earth. The earth was formed and Oduduwa became the ruler. It from Ile-Ife tgat he extended his authorities to the Yoruba towns and villages.

 The political structures of the yoruba kingdom's were similar in nature. Each town has a king known ***Oba*** who resides in the palace called ***Alaafin***. His paraphernalia of office included a beaded croen (Ade), a slippers (bata),horse tail (irukere) and scaptre (Ase). The Aafin is both spiritual and political head of the kingdom. He is the supreme authority in kingdom and his words are laws and biding on everyone. Eewa was designed to curb the despotism and tyranny on the part of the king. If the king violates, it could lead to death. The king also had other rulers of lesser rank and status. They were in charge of subordinate towns and status and wore crowns of white beads (sese ofun).The government of the old empire is a typical example of the precolonial administration in the yorubaland. Thr first organ of government in oyo empire was the king known as Alaafin of oyo. The oyo empire was very unique and exceptional on its system of government. The Alaafin was the head of the empire and was resident in the capital. The Alaafin was assisted in his adminitration by a retinue of officals made up of priests, officals and eunch. He had awell-organised court as well. Oyomesi, a councilof 7 members headed by Bashorun was acted as a prime minister. The members were king makers as well. Apart from the Alaafin cabinet , member of the oyomesi constituted another arm of government. It was a very owerful cult. It played a mediatory role in any conflict between the Oyomesi and Alaafin. The army was another arm if government. It was very organised. Its head was conferred with the coveted title of Are-Ora-Kankanfo. The Are-Ona-kankanfo was expected to live outside the capital. Tge army was credited with performing important functions which included stability of the empire ,expansion as well as keeping dissident territories in check.

 The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. This is because from the ancient times, they had no centralized states. Consequently, they opearated a kind of government without king. The family was the smallest political unit in Igbo traditional society. Each family was headed by an ***ofo*** title holder. Among the ofo tite holder one of them was recognized as the most senior to others. He was known as the ***okpara*** who held the ozu title and presided over the council of elders meeting where issues affecting the lives of people were discussed. Age grade was organised on a village basis. The age grade were organised for work ,war and government. The secret societies consisted of the diviners masquerade, Ubinuknabi at Arackukwu, the Amadisha of Ozuzzu and so on.

 Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria Hausaland before 1804 was made up of 14 states and they were2 distinct groups. The first group consist of 7 states called Hausa bakwai states, that is hause legitimate states. The second group consist of the remaining 7 states that is hausa illegitimate states. The Hausa bakwai states are Daura,Biram,Zaria,Katsina,Karo,Rano and Gobir. Hause banza states are Nupe,Gwari, yauri ,Bauchi,Zamfara,Kebbi and Yoruba.

 The sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. He worked with a retinue of officials in a well-organized court. The emir was an absolute monarch in his emirate; he was the political, administrative and spiritual leader. The important holders of the emirs cabinet included: Sarkin fada (The spokesmen of the emir and organizer of palace workers), waziri( The prime minister of the emirate), Galadima( The administrator of the capital city), madauaki( The commander and head of the emirate army), magaji(Government treasurer in charge of the government treasury, Sakin dan doka(Inspector general of police force called dan doka), Sarkin ruwa(Minister in charge of water resources or the river fishing official), Sarkin Pawa( Head of chairman of butchers at the abattoirs), Yari(Chief superintendent of prisons in the emirate). The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914.