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INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian government and politics involves pre- colonial period and the colonial period. The pre-colonial period is the period (16th to 18th centuries) was dominated by a number of powerful West African Kingdoms or empires, such as the Edo Benin Empire and the Islamic Kanim Borno Empire in the north and west, and the Igbo kingdom of Onitsha in the southeast and the various Hausa- Fulani Kingdoms. While the Colonial period is the period in which Nigeria British protectorate in 1910, when an independence movement succeeded. Nigeria first because a republic in 1963, but succumbed to military rule three years later.

EARLY MAN AND HIS ACHIEVEMENT IN NIGERIAN

When man start to exist is unknown till date but archaeological has proof that man had settled in the region now know in Nigeria since the Paleolithic period 500,000-9000BC.The stages of civilization are

* Early stone Age 3,000,000- 35,000BC
* Middle stone Age 35,000- 15,000BC and
* Late stone Age 15,000- 500BC

The man that lived in Nigeria those days labored hard to adapt to the environment. The need for food arises and then man began to hunt for animals and gather fruits with the help of a tool called Oldowan- type tools. The tools were made during the Early Stone Age, they were later refined during the Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age.

Bronze and metal (500BC to 200AD) was introduced. During this period there were people who lived in Nigeria who made sculptures.

THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPNMENT OF EARLY NIGERIAN SOCIETIES

1. MAJOR LANDMARK IN EARLY NIGERIA HISRORY; The major landmark in early Nigeria history was gotten through the excavation work done on places where man ever lived in the very remote past. Some of those places includes; Nok, Igbo, Ukwu, Ife and Benin. These places are referred to as the ancient civilization.
2. NOK CULTURE CIVILISATION; is an iron age in Kaduna State of Nigeria, where terracotta sculptures where first discovered in 1936.
3. BENIN CIVILISATION; Benin was known for Art work. The craft men craved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass. They cast wooden doors and ivory masks, one of which was the ivory mask used as FESTAC symbol in 1977.
4. IFE CIVILISATION; Ife was relevant for its terracotta and bronze heads. Art historians believe that Ife art originated from Nok culture because of their similarities; the beaded neck, wrist and ankles.
5. IGBO UKWU CIVILISATION; Some bronze objects ornaments were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo Ukwu in 1939.

TRADITIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTION IN PRE- COLONIAL NIGERIA

Nigerian was grouped into three major section ethnic groups of Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa- Fulani in Nigeria traditional political system of government.

PRE- COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM AND STUCTURE IN YORUBA LAND; Yoruba are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria. Oduduwa was their founder and also Ile- Ife is regarded as their ancestral home of the Yoruba. The origin of Yoruba can be traced to the East. They moved from Egypt and settled in Ile Ife in Nigeria.

The political structure in Yoruba consist of capital town, subordinate town, and villages and farmland, Oba who resides in the place is called Aafin, he is both the spiritual and political head of the Kingdom. The Oye Empire is a typical example of the pre- colonial administration in Yoruba land.

PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM AND STUCTURE IN IGBO LAND; The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary way of life. They have no centralized state. They are grouped into five sub- cultures;

* The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria
* The Igbo of South- Eastern Nigeria
* The Igbo of North- Eastern Nigeria
* The Western Igbo
* The Northern Igbo.

It is believed that they migrate from Israel because of the similaries between them and the Hebrew. Eri their ancestor descended from sky and sailed down the river Anambra, when he arrived at Aguleri.

The political structure of Igbo is a direct democracy and decentralized system of government because there was no traditional ruler in the form of Yourba (Oba). There was no highly centralized authority, some social- political institutions existed in each village to perform the legislative, executive, administrative, military and judicial functions such institutions included the family, council of elders, ages, grades and secret societies.

PRE- COLONIAL POLITIACL SYSTEM AND STRUCTURE IN HAUSA FULANI; Hausa is located in Northern part of Nigeria (1804) which comprises of fourteen (14) states, and they have two (2) distinct groups. The traditional origin of Hausa states to a man named Bayajidda, an Arab prince. Their homeland is Dura since that is where Bayajidda supposedly founded the Hausa people. Islam was not introduced to the region until eleventh century and it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class.

The political structure in Hausa- Fulani is headed by Sarki. They call him Sarki Kasar, which means ruler of the land, was given for effective and efficient head of state. He combines both the political and religious/ spiritual functions. In every state conquered the former Hausa ruler was replaced by a Fulani Emir.

THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA; the Britain came to Nigeria to export the economic resources of Nigeria, we had experience industrial revolution. At the initial stage they came to the cost of West African, they left and came to the methods.

They began to complete how to handle administration in African, but they weren’t ready to surrender their independence, they put up a lot of resistance force. Gun- boat Diplomacy was put in place so as to make African surrender. Britain began to have access to the indigenous people Ijebu people was captured, Jaja of Opbo overthrown Sokoto. There successfully establish its political activities in African.

* The protectorate of Lagos
* The protectorate of Southern Nigeria
* The protectorate of Northern Nigeria.

It helps to reduce the cost of government in administrating political entities. In the year 1914, the two protectorate of North and South amalgated.Sir Frederick Lord Lugard, a lieutenant governor.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION

1. DIVIDE RULE; was employed by Britain. The Britain was not interested in giving power to the educate elites but rather the traditional ones, because the educated ones challenged the Britain administration.
2. INDIRECT RULE; The use of traditional ruler to run administration. They were puppet in the hands of the British.