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**AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE**

**NIGERIA STATE**

The historical analysis of the evolution of the Nigeria state based back to the

historical background and politics which involves the pre-colonial period before

the coming of the colonialists to Nigeria while the colonial period refers to the era

that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria. The Nigeria

state is a colonial creation. It is the prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state,

including the pre colonial Nigeria which comprises of different independent

chiefdoms, sates, kingdoms, empire, the Hausa states and the sokoto caliphate in

the north; the Igbo segementary societies in the east; Benin kingdom and the Oyo

empire in the west and several within identities in the Benue valley. The country is

also bordered to the south by the bights of Benin and Biafra, which are on gulf of

genuine in the Atlantic Ocean. On the west Nigeria is bordered by Benin, on the

north, by Niger and on the east by Cameroon, in its extreme northeastern corner of

Lake Chad separates Nigeria from the country of Chad

Early man in Nigeria and their achievements; when man began to live in Nigerian,

it was unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of

Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now know as

Nigerian since the Paleolithic period 500,00-9000bc. Men during those time

worked hard to survive in his environment by animal hunting and fruit gathering,

they even began to make tools this was during themed stone age in states like

jos,plateau,iwo eleru in ondo state, also artifacts found in lle-ife,esie,igbo ukwu

and Benin. The nok discovered the terracotta the head of a monkey by tin miners in

nok in [1936]. Also in Benin, this was the most important it is being crafted with

wooden doors and ivory masks e.g. FESTAC in 1977, including the life

civilization and the Igbo ukwu which was discovered while digging a toilet pit at

Igbo ukwu in 1939.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL SYSTEM IN YORUBA,

HAUSA AND IGBO.

YORUBA ; the Yoruba are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united

by language, they are been traced from the origin of the oduduwa the founder of

the Yoruba kingdom. The ancestral home of the Yoruba people is lle-ife, there is

different version of the Yoruba tradion, in his book, history of the Yoruba people,

and Johnson traced back its origin to the east. Oduduwa is believed to be the first

ruler that led the Yoruba by sending his sons and grandson to find other Yoruba

kingdoms. The Oyo empire is a vast empire divided into provinces it is the most

outstanding of all empires or kingdoms in the Yoruba state, it had a decentralized

administration, most of the obas were not absolute monarchs but were

constitutional monarchs they practice a system of check and balance they were not

fully centeralized.the Yoruba empire was ruled by the alafin who is seen as the

political head of the empire who is assisted by the aremo, basorun, oyomesi and

others.

IGBO ; the Igbo people are best known for their segementary or acephalous way of

life, this is because from the ancient time, they had no centralized states.

Consequently they operated a kind of government without kings the Igbo are

grouped into five sub-cultures such as [the Igbo of eastern Nigeria, the Igbo of

south-eastern Nigeria, and the Igbo of north eastern Nigerian, the western Igbo and

the northern Igbo]. they are two origin of the Igbo people; and one of the most

popular version of the migtory stories of the Igbo people is the one that points to

isreal.the assumption is based on the so called similarities between the cultures of

the Igbo and the ancient Hebrew. Some Igbo scholars consider themselves as the

lost tribe of Hebrew who migrated from the southward. The other origin was made

by professor M.A.Onweuejogwu[2000], known as the nri version, the ancestor of

the igbo,eri descended from the sky and sailed down the river anambra,when he

arrived at aguleri,he met some autochthonous group of people who had no living

memory of their own settled them. The Igbo political system may be seen as a

fragmented political system, many institutions were in place and political authority

was shared among them. For example the ofo title holders [council of elders], ozo

title, and age grade. Where also involved in the powers sharing exercise. There was

absence of centralization of power and authority in the system as it was more of the

people’s direct participation in their government [direct democracy].

Hausa; the Hausa land is located in northern Nigeria, Hausa land, before 1804 was

made up of fourteen states and they were two distinct groups. The first group

consist of seven state called “Hausa bakwai” states that is, Hausa legitimate states.

Are daura, zaria,katsina,kano,rano and gobir while the Hausa “banza” state are

nupe,gwarri,yauri, bauchi, zamfara,kebbi,Yoruba. The Fulani took over the

political leadership of the habe [Hausa] states in the early 19 th century.othman Dan

fodio led the Fulani jihad and took over the political leadership of Hausa and

established the sokoto caliphate with outstanding centralized political system of

government. The caliphate was divided into emirate and each was headed by an

emir he had the responsibility of making laws and enforcing them and maintaining

peace and other in his emirate. He was expected to administer the emirate. He was

expected to administer the emirate in accordance with the provision of the Islamic

and sharia laws infact he was believed to have the divine rights to rule however,

each emir was assisted in the administration of the emirate by a number of adviser

namely; the waziri, the galadima, the madaki, dogari, maaji, sarkin ruwa, sarkin

fada, sarkin pawa, etc.

COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION AND INDIRCT RULE SYSTEM IN

NIGERIA AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND THE BIRTH OF

NIGERIA AS A GEO-POLITICAL ENTITY

The British who have often been credited with the creation of Nigeria were not the

first Europeans to land in Nigerian. the Atlantic slave trade was the trade carried on

across the Atlantic oceans between the Europeans and African, mover over the

trans- Atlantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the British in

contact with Nigeria, it got its maturity in the 16 th century, they therefore governed

Nigeria by means of a system popularly known as indirect rule, this is a system of

Britain ruling her colonies through local traditional rulers they define this

framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local

personnel or the rulers.