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* Review of Chapter 2 – A historical analysis of evolution of the Nigerian state
* The historical background of Nigeria government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. Pre colonial period is the 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. Pre-colonial Nigeria comprises includes the Borno Empire, the Hausa States, Benin Kingdom and the Oyo Empire In the west etc. Nigeria is bordered to the South by the Bights of Benin and Biafra, which are on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. On the West, Nigeria is bordered by Benin, on the North, by Niger, and on the East, by Cameroon.
* The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period 5000 – 9000 BC. The excavation of a Stone Age skeleton at Iwo Eleru near Akure In Ondo State has thrown more light on the earliest occupation of Nigeria. The skeleton was dated some 12000 years ago, and this suggests that the country has been long inhabited. The stone age can be divided into several periods : Early Stone Age , Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age
* The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. For the purpose of needing food, he began hunting animals and gathering fruits but he soon began to invent tools for chopping and cutting. Archaeologists called the tools the Oldowan – type tools. This is because this type of tool was first identified by the archaeologists in the Olduvia Gorge in Tanzania. These tools were made during the early stone age, but they were later refined during the middle stone age and late stone age. Small stone tools believed to be used for hunting have been located in Jos, Plateau State and Iwo Eleru in Ondo State. There is evidence of more advanced technology in various parts of Nigeria during the bronze and metal age.
* Some of the places where man lived In Nigeria in the very remote past include – Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin among others. Nok culture or civilization area is the area where terracotta figurines were found, the discovery of a terracotta(burnt clay) head of a monkey by tin miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as Wamba and Jema. Benin was important for its art work, the craftsmen of Benin carved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass, one of their many casted ivory masks was used as FESTAC symbol in 1977. Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads, quartz was a hard stone in which objects were carved on, Art historians believed that Ife Art originated from Nok culture because of the similarities In the two.

The historical background of the precolonial political system in Yoruba land. The Yorubas trace their origin to Oduduwa. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yorubas. Oke Oramfe is another version of the origin of the Yoruba, it is located in Ile-Ife and It is believed to be the centre from which the world is created. The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature. Each consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands. Each town has a king known as Oba who resides in a place called Alaafin. The king has lesser rulers and status. The king was elimitated by the eewo this was used to ensure no nepotism and tyranny. Disobeying it could lead to his death. Another group of rulers among the Yorubas were the Baale and the Oloja. The ilu was the basic political unit, while the subordinate town were the bedrock on which the administration of the whole kingdom was based. The government of the old Oya empire is a typical example of the pre-colonial administration in Yorubaland. The first organ of government in the Oyo empire was the king known as Alaafin Oyo. The Alaafin Administration; In the sixteenth century, Oyo had in-built checks and balances and this contributed to its stability for centuries. The Alaafin had a well organised court. Theoretically, the Alaafin was the fountain of authority. Sometimes, he had an autocratic tendency, but in practice, his powers were often limited and regulated by the Oyomesi. The Ogboni cult administration; It played a mediatory role in any conflict between the Oyomesi and the Alaafin. The army; Its head was conferred with the coveted title of Are-Ona-Kankanfo. The army was credited with performing important functions such aa stability of the empire, expansion, as well as keeping dissident territories in check.

The Igbo people are best known for their acephalous way of life. The Igbo are grouped into five subcultures; the Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, South-Eastern Nigeria, North-Eastern Nigeria, Western Igbo and the Northern Igbo. One of the popular versions of migratory stories of Igbo origin is the one that points to Israel. Others believe that Igboland is the original homeland. Professor M.A. Onwuejeogwu regards Nri version as the only authentic version of origin in existence in the oral tradition of the Igbo. The Igbo practiced direct democracy and a decentralized system of government. Although, there was no highly centralized authority, some socio-political institutions existed in each village. Such institutions include; family; the smallest political unit in Igbo traditional society, Age grade which grew from childhood and took a common name to commemorate an event associated with the time of their birth, and the secret societies which consisted of the diviners’ masquerades, “Ubinuknabi” at Arochukwu, the “Amadisha” of Ozuzzu, and so on.

The origin of the Hausa states is associated with the man Bayajidda, an Arab prince who travelled to sahel from Baghdad. Bayajidda killed a snake that was oppressing the people of Daura. After killing the snake, he married the queen of Daura. The queen already had six sons and produced another one with Bayajidda and each son ruled one of the seven Hausa city states, becoming the first kings. The combination of the Hausa kingdoms were sometimes called Daura since Daura was the place Byajidda founded the Hausa people.The “Sarki” was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. He worked with a retinue of officials in a well-organised court. Sarkin Kasar was the full title given to any effective and efficient head of Hausa State. The Sarkin Kasar combined both political and religious/spiritual functions. He was also the chief executive and judge of the State, but he was aided by a council of state. At the district level, the government was modelled after that at the national level. It is worthy of note that between 14th and 15th centuries, the socio-political organisation of Hausa States took another shape. Islam was introduced to Hausa land in the fourteenth century, and by the fifteenth century it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class. The Jihad of Uthman Dan Fodio of 1804 further strengthened and consolidated the religion in this area. The British who have often been credited with the creation of Nigeria were not the first Europeans to land in Nigeria.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive Nigeria through Bini Kingdom. Thus, The Transatlantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the British in contact with Nigeria. The transatlantic slave trade was abolished in the 19th century. Before the year 1900, all the different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration. But by 1900, the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British Colonial Office. The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. British government amalgamated Lagos colony and protectorate with the protectorate of Southern Nigeria to form the new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914. In January 1914, the British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria. The northern protectorate was not as booming as its southern counterpart. So, the government decided amalgamation. The British officers decided the framework of politics to be adopted.