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**AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE**

The historical background of Nigeria government and politics involves the **pre-colonial and colonial period**. The pre-colonial period is the period is the period before the coming of the colonialist to Nigeria while the colonial period refers to the era that the colonial administration was established in Nigeria. The Nigerian state is a colonial creation that arose out of European adventure. The Nigeria state is a colonial creation. It is the product of a historical arrangement that arose out of the European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. The pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. The Borno Empire, Hausa states and Sokoto Caliphate in the North; the Igbo society in the East and the Benin and Oyo kingdom in the west. The country is bordered to the south by the Bights of Benin and Biafra.

**THE EARLY MAN IN NIGERIA AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown, but according to archeological evidence the Nigerians took place in the stone-age civilization. The Stone Age is divided into the early (3000000-35000BC); middle (35000-15000BC); late (15000-500BC) stone age. The skeleton was dated 12000 years ago which shows that he country has been long inhabited. The man who lived in Nigeria worked hard to cope with his environment. First he needed food and began to hunt for animals. Second he began to invent tools (Oldowan-type tools), heavy chooper. Advancements occurred during the bronze and metal age.

**THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE EARLY MAN**

**MAJOR LANDMARK IN EARLY NIGERIAN HISTORY**: This information was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the past e.g. Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife, Benin, among others.

**NOK CULTURE/CIVILISATION**: 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, Katsina-ala and Jema. The Nok culture is believed to be transitional civilization between the stone-age and the iron-age in Nigeria because of the presence of a combination of stone and iron object. Through carbon dating, Nok culture existed between the 5th and 2nd century BC.

**BENIN CIVILISATION**: Benin is very important for art-work. The craftsmen of Benin carved in wood and ivory and cast object in bronze casting and was introduced into Benin by an Ife artist.

**IFE CIVILISATION**: Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. Object such as stools and figures were craved on hard stone called Quartz while animal and human figures were carved from granite and decorated with iron nails. Historians believed that Ife art originated from the Nok cultures.

**IGBO UKWU CIVILIZATION**: Some bronze object and ornament were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo Ukwu. This led to the excavation of three sites named Thurstan Shaw. These three sites included a burial chamber, a pit, and a compound wall.

**TRADITIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTION IN PRECOLONIAL NIGERIA**

**Yoruba land**: According to the historical background of pre-colonial political system, the Yoruba trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba kingdom and Ile-Ife the ancestral-home. Johnson traced the origin of the east. According to him, the Yoruba origin began in north eastern area of Africa. Oduduwa is the progenitor and believe to send his son and grandson to found other Yoruba kingdom. Oke-Oramfe’s version states the Yorubas originated from Ile-Ife and it is believed to be the center to which the world was created. His version tell us that the world was covered with water then the Almighty God then decided to send some of his messenger to the world and that include Obatala or Orisa (as the leader) and sixteen Oye into two confederation. They were given 5 pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white cloth and a cockerel. On their way Obatala got drunk, Oduduwa then seized the symbols of authority from him and eventually led the party to the world. The site on which they landed is known as Oke-Oramfes Ile-Ife. On arrival, Oduduwa set the five pieces of iron and placed the lump of them, then the cockerel spread the lump of earth its feet throughout the earth and it was formed. He extended his authorities to other Yoruba towns and villages.

The political structures of the Yoruba include: they consist of the **OBA** (Alaafin)the king and other lesser ruler which include **BAALE** (third rank leader) **AND OLOJA** (fourth rank leader). The Oyo Empire consists of the **ALAAFIN Administration** (head, priest, officials and Eunuchs). the power of the Alaafin are regulated by the **OYOMESI.** THE OGBONI CULT ADMINISTRATION ANDTHE ARMY, the army made up of infantry and cavalry.

**Igbo land:** According to the pre-colonial political system the Igbo are divided into 5 subcultures: Eastern Nigeria, South-Eastern, North Eastern, Western and Northern Igbo. This version tells us that the Igbo originated from Israel. According to the Nri version the Igbo ancestor **(ERI)** descended from the sky and sailed to Anambra. When he arrived at Aguleri, he met some autochthonous group who has no living memory and settled with them as their population increased some migrated to other Igbo lands.

The political structures of the Igbo land: the Igbo practice democracy system of government and no ruler (such as Oba among Yoruba).although there are no arms of government they possess other function that performs that roles e.g. **FAMILY** (smallest political units headed by the OFO**).**

**Hausa land**: the Hausa land according of the historical background is located in northern Nigeria and made up of 14 states. The first seven called the **bakwai** states and the second states consist of the remaining 7 called the **banza.** The oral tradition the origin of Hausa a man named Bayajidda who killed a monstrous snake and married to queen and hard one son who ruled the kingdom with her 6 sons. Islam was introduced in the 11 century.

Political structures include the Sarki kasar was known as the head of any typical Hausa state which rulers of the land. It combined spiritual, political and religious.

The emirate system of government among the Hausa people: Islam was introduced to Hausa land in the 14 Century. The emir was an absolute monarch he was the political administrative leader. The emir cabinet consists of the Sarkinfada (spoke man), Waziri (prime minister), Magaji (treasurer), etc.

**THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION AND BIRTH OF NIGERIA**

Colonial administration and indirect rule system in Nigeria; The Portuguese was the first to land in Nigeria not the European. The Atlantic slave trade was the trade carried on across the Atlantic Ocean between the European and Africans. The trans-Atlantic slave’s trade was the first channel that put the British in contact with Nigeria making the British dominant over the trans-Atlantic slaves form 3 years. The European introduced the gun boat where the Africans where threatened and beaten. Making the British formally annexed Nigerian territory which led to the European powers for colonies led to the portioning of Africa among them in the 19 century. The British colonize Nigeria, Ghana, the Gambia and The sierra lone.

**THE BIRTH OF NIGERIA AS A GEO-POLITICAL ENTITY**

During the year 1990 the whole Nigeria was taken care of by the British colonial office. The primary aim of the amalgamation (that occur in May 1906) was to use better financial position of the southern protectorate. And the second amalgamation occurred in 1914 with sir Frederick Lugard and the father of amalgamation and there the British uses indirect system of government to rule the Nigerians i.e. through local traditional rulers.s