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CHAPTER 2; AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation, it means the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria. Pre colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdom, states, kingdoms and empires. Ethnic grouping differs in their historical, social and cultural make-ups.

The exact time man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but according to evidence man has settled in Nigeria since 500,000 to 9000BC. The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. He need a lot of things to survive e.g food, food (shelter in general). The man began to advance from early Stone Age. Tools were made during the early the early Stone Age but they got refined during the middle Stone Age and late Stone Age. They varied in size, from small sized of objects of only two and a half centimeters to huge objects.

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. The history of these centers of ancient civilizations presents us with the scientific and technological development of early Nigerian societies. The areas where terracotta figurines were found is called Nok culture or civilization area. The discovery of burnt clay by tin miners in Nok 1936 promoted more discoveries in other places such as Wamba, Katsina-Ala and Jema.

Benin was important for its art- work. The craftsmen of Benin carved Benin was important and cast objects in bronze and brass. Art historians claim that bronze casting was introduced into Benin by an Ife artist.

Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. An example is opa oranmiyan in Ile-Ife. Most of the bronze and terracotta heads were said to be life-size decorated with facial marks and natural hair. Art historians believe that Ife art originated from the Nok culture because of similarities in the two, especially beaded neck, wrist and ankles. They also believed that it was from Ife that Benin probably learnt bronze sculpture.

The three majority ethnic groups of Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa-Fulani in Nigeria traditional political system of government. The Yoruba are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language. Oduduwa is believed to be the first leader that led the Yoruba to Ile-Ife and subsequently sent his sons and grandsons to found other Yoruba kingdoms. Oke Oramfe 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 works and they included Obatala and sixteen oye.

The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature. It consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands. Each town has a king known as Oba who resides in the palace called "Alafin. The government of the old Oyo empire is a typical example of the pre-colonial administration in Yoruba land. The first organ of government in Oyo empire was the known as Alafin of Oyo.

- I. The Alaafin Administration
- II. The ogboni cult's Administration
- III. The Army

The Igbo people 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 and
- The Northern Igbo

According to Nri version, the ancestor of the Igbo, zero, descended from the sky ANS sailed down the ancestors of the Igbo, Eri, descended from the sky and sailed down the River Anambra. The family was the smallest political unit in Igbo traditional society. Each family was headed by an 'Ofo' title holder. Ohh-na-eze was a form of general assembly in traditional Igbo society.

The Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. The first group consist of seven states called " Hausa Bakwai" states that is, Hausa legitimate. The remaining seven states and were known as " Hausa banza" states that is Hausa illegitimate states.

The members of councils are projected officer appointed by autumnal Dan Fodio and each held a title specifying the specific functions he performed. Important title holders in the Emir's cabinet included:

1. Sarkin Fada: The spokesman of the Emir and organizer of palace workers
2. Waziri:- The prime minister of the Emirate
3. Galadima:- The administrator of the capital city
4. Madawaki:- The commander and Head of the emirate army
5. Magaji:- Government Treasurer in charge of the government treasury
6. Sarakin Dan Doka:- Inspector General of Police Focre called Dan Doka
7. Sarkin Ruwa: Minister in charge of Water resources or the river fishing official
8. Sarkin pawa: Head of chairman of Butcher at the Abattoirs
9. Yari: Chief superintendent of prisons in the Emirate