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**AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE.**

The pre colonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialists to Nigeria while the post colonial period refers to the era where post colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria. these are the historical background of Nigeria government and politics.

Nigeria state is a colonial creation. It is a product of historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states and empires, these are Borno empire, Benin kingdom and Oyo empire in the west etc. these ethnic groupings differ in historical, social, and cultural make ups. The country is bordered by different places in different regions. Nigeria stretches 700 miles from the west to east and 650 miles from south to north, covering an area between 3degree and 15 degree E longitude and between 4 degree and 14 degree latitude.

The early man started to live in Nigeria during Paleolithic period 500000-9000BC. Some artifact was discovered by an archaeologist in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. The skeleton found 12000 years ago shows that the country has been long inhabited. The man who lived in Nigeria during those age coped by gathering foods and hunting animals. He began to invent tools which archaeologists called the Oldowan-type tools. He then advanced to early Stone Age where he made handmade axe. they had cutting edge and were trimmed at both sides. It seemed it was used for many purposes by the men that made them. It was located outside Nigeria at a site in St. Acheul in northern Nigeria. small stones that were believed for hunting was located in Jos, plateau state and in Iwo Eleru in Ondo state.

The scientific and major landmark in early Nigerian history include major landmarks which was made possible in early Nigeria was through the excavation work done in the places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past. Some of these places are Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin, among others. They are referred to as centers of ancient civilization. We have Nok, igbo Ukwu, ife, benin civilization. There were three majority ethnic groups of Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa.  
The Yorubas: They are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria. Their founder is Oduduwa and Ile-Ife is said to be their ancestral home. The Yoruba's have different versions of their history. Oduduwa is the first leader and his sons and grandsons gave rise to the other yoruba kingdoms. The OkeOramfe version says that the earth was filled with water and God sent his messengers to the world (Obatala and the 16 immortals). He have them five pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth and a cockerel. On the way Obatala got drunkamdOduduwa seized the symbol of authority from him and led. On arrival on site(Ile-ife) he released the chicken to spread the lump of earth round.  
In yorubaland, each town had a king called Oba who lives in Alafin. He is both the spiritual and political head of the kingdom. The king had other rulers of lesser rank. They were in charge of subordinate towns. The Baales were the third rank ruling over villages while the Olojas were the fourth rank ruling over farmlands. Towns were divided into wards headed by Ijoye and are later subdivided into compounds headed by Baale. In town affairs, the highest group headed by the kings was the group of council chiefs.  
The Oyo Empire  
This is an example of a pre colonial administration. It was headed by the Alaafin of Oyo state. He was regarded as the Lord of many lands. He is the fountain of authority and regarded as the companion of gods. His powers were regulated by the Oyomesi and it is a council headed by Bashorun who is a prime minister.  
The Ogboni cult is a powerful cult that serves as a mediatory role in any conflict between the Oyomesi and the Alaafin. The Army were credited with performing functions like ensuring stability of the empire, expansion and keepimg other territories in check. They are subjects to the Alaafin.  
The Igbos: They are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. The most popular versions of Igbo migrations leads or points to Isreal. Igboland is their original homeland because they did not move from place to place. Nri version says that Eri descended from the sky and sailed to River Anambra where he stayed with some people that had no memory of their past. The Igbo people practiced democracy. They had no empire or kingdom but they had institutions like family, age grade systems and secret societies. Each family is headed by Ofo. Age grades were organized on village basis. It is done for work, war and government. Seniority is of great importance among them. They are created to guard public morality. The elders formed the core of village administrations. Secret societies consisted of diviners' masquerades. They stayed between the gap of the living and ancestors. They perform rituals and sacrifices to ward off evil. The official religion in igbo land was traditional religion. The religious life of Igbo were surrounded by superstitions and mysticism.  
The Hausas: It is located in the Northern part of Nigeria. They are made up of yeo groups. The Hausa Bakwai and the Hausa bakwai. The former is the legitimate hausa state while the latter are the illegitimate state. The origin of Hausa goes back to a man named Bayajidda, An Arab prince who killed a snake that oppress the people of Daura. He later married the queen and had a son with her. She had 6 sons before, so the 7 of them later became kings of Hausa kingdoms. The Sarki is the head of a typical Hausa state. SarkinKasar is the name given to every effective head of state. He is the chief executive and judge of the state.  
**Emirate System of Government among the Hausa People**  
 Usman Dan Fodio led the conquest of overthrow political leadership by the Fulani on the old existing hausa kingdoms. Every hausa leader removed was replaced by the Fulani Emir. There was an introduction of leadership by selecting Emirs to rule the Caliphate. They owed allegiance to Dan Fodio. Emir was a monarch in his emirate. Each emirate was divided into distinct known as Hakimi. The judicial administration of Hausa-Fulani was based on the Islamic legal system called Sharia.  
  
Colonial administration and indirect rule systems in Nigeria.

The Portuguese were the first to enter Nigeria through the Bini Kingdom. The Atlantic slave trade was the trade carried on Atlantic Ocean between the Europeans and Africans. Demands for slaves were due to the introduction of plantation systems of agriculture in Brazil, Jamaica and Haiti. By 1460, about 700 slaves were exported annually to Portugal from West Africa. This was the reason the British people came in contact with Nigerians. The British dominated the trade until they decided to abolish in the 19th Century. They decided to begin legitimate commerce. They introduced the Gun-boat politics incase of African countries that wanted to attck them. They took Lagos as a colony in 1861 due to treaties signed by Nigerian leaders. The Europeans struggled for power of colonies which led to partitioning of Africa. It was then that Britian had full control of Nigeria.  
  
The Birth of Nigeria as a Geo-political Entity.  
By 1900, the entire Nigeria was under the British Colony. In 1906, the first ever British amalgamation occurred. The British government amalgamated the Lagos colony and the Southern protectorate without the consent of Nigeria. Tamuno is observed that the aim of the amalgamation was purely economic. The second amalgamation was the one of 1914 between the Northern and Southern Nigeria. The reason was the same at the one in 1906. The North was not as economically buoyant as the south. The amalgamation allowed for surplus to be acquired in the south. Britian governed Nigeria using Indirect rule. It was a way the British government ruled Nigeria through their local traditional rulers.