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***IN ABOUT THREE PAGES, REVIEW CHAPTER TWO “AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN SYSTEM.”***

**ANSWER**

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. It is a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. The pre-colonial period is a 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.

Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state, pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. These among others, include the Borno Empire, the Hausa states and the Sokoto Caliphate in the north; the Igbo segmentary societies in the East; Benin Kingdom and the Oyo Empire in the West and several ethnic identities in the Benue valley.

The country 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. In its extreme northeast corner, Lake Chad separates Nigeria from the country of Chad.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of the country that points to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period 500,000- 9,000BC. The artifacts found by archaeologists confirmed that Nigerians also took part in the stone-age civilization. The excavation of a stone-age skeleton at Iwo Eleru near Akure in Ondo state has thrown more light on the earliest occupation in Nigeria. This skeleton was dated over 12,000 years ago, suggesting the country has long been inhabited.

The early man in Nigeria advanced from the early stone-age. He began to make hand axes. Similar tools were discovered by the archaeologists who worked outside Nigeria at a sire in St. Acheul in Northern Nigeria. In addition to these, there are also evidents of more advanced technology in other parts of Nigeria during the bronze and metal age. It is said that head figures and sculptures were discovered, all varying in sizes. These figures made of terracotta werr found in the village of Nok.

Information on the major landmark in early Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the most remote past. The history of these centres of ancient civilization presents us with the scientific and technological developments of early Nigerian societies. The discovery of terracotta (burnt clay) in Nok in the year 1936 gave way for more discoveries in other places such as Wamba, Katsina-Ala and Jema. The Benin people are known for casting wooden doors and ivory masks, one of which was the ivory mask used in FESTAC symbol in 1977. Art historians believe that Ife art originated from the Nok culture because of similarities in the two, especially the beaded neck, wrist and ankles. They also believed that it was from Ife that Benin probably learnt bronze sculpture.

The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba kingdom. In the book “*History of the Yoruba*” the Yoruba originally came from the North-Eastern area of Africa - Egypt. While with the east is Mecca and Mecca is the East. In the Yoruba kingdom, the pattern of administration was hierarchical. At the lowest level were the Baale then the war head who administered his ward on behalf of the king. Next in line is the group of civil chiefs (Igbimo ilu) headed by the king.

The igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. A popular migratory story of the igbos is one that points to Israel. The assumption is based on similarities between igbos and Hebrews. Although there is highly no centralized authority in the igboland, some socio-political institutions existed in every village to perform the legislature, executive, administrative, military and judicial functions. The Ofor is the title holder in a typical igbo family. But the Okpara who held the Ozo title was recognized as the most senior, he presides over the council of elders meeting.

The Hausa land is made up of 14 states. The first 7 states are called `**Hausa bakwai**` meaning Hausa legitimate states. The second group is called `Hausa banza` means Hausa illegitimate states. The origin of Hausa land is from a man called Bayajidda, he killed a monstrous snake and married a queen and gave birth to six sons each becoming the first kings of the seven legitimate states. The combined kingdoms of Hausa land were sometimes called DAURA. Since that is the supposed place of Hausa origin.

The political structure of pre-colonial Hausa land. The Sakri is known as the head of any typical Hausa state. Sarkin Kasar meaning ruler of the land. And he could also be combined with political and religious functions