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ASSIGNMENT: In about 2-pages review chapter 15, “an overview on the idea of pressure group”, in salient issues in government and Nigeria’s politics.

A pressure group promotes interest regarding issues, seeking to influence government decisions and policies. The pressure group is described as the functional representative. This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on their functions, occupations and profession. Pressure groups came into existence to protect and enhance interest of their members or groups and make sure the government does their biddings. E.g. ASUU (Academic Staff Union for University) in Nigeria.

Pressure groups and political parties sometimes sound alike in their activities, but they are different from each other. Political parties seek to gain political powers, while pressure groups seek to gain influence in the government decisions. However they still have some similarities amidst the differences. Pressure groups may align their interest with a political party they feel can help them further their interest. Pressure groups exist to checkmate the government and make democracy better. However while the pressure groups are known for being helpful to a democratic society problems can still occur when the democratic process becomes dominated by a few specific groups. Sometimes due to their own selfish interest pressure is mounted to alter the direction of government decision while not considering the limited resources of the government.

Types of pressure groups

Interest group: this group is seen as sectional groups representing the people

Cause groups: these are promotion groups which seem to promote particular causes. E.g. charities. Any group that also champions social movement is also seen as a cause group.

Insider groups and outsider groups: insider groups are regularly consulted by the government; they have regular access to the ministers and legislators. While the outsider groups have no access to the government, they have to use other ways to have an impact.

Anomic groups: this group might not act guided by an appropriate behavioral style and they may sometimes act violently to mount pressure.

Associational groups and Non-associational groups: associational groups are usually registered with appropriate authorities in a state they also have their own registered offices and so on. Non organizational groups are pressure groups without a formal organization.

Function of pressure groups  
1. It promotes participation in government.

2. It serves as a source of information to the government.

3. It curtails dictatorial tendencies.

4. It promotes the interest of the minority.

5. It influences legislation.

Pressure groups lobbying: pressure groups lobby in so many ways

1. They lobby with governmental officials directly

2. They might sometimes lobby these government officials through friends or other relatives.

3. Pressure groups may also sponsor bills in legislative houses and contact legislators to ensure the passage of the bills.