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**ELVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE**

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and colonial period in Nigeria.

Nigerian state is a colonial creation. Prior to the emergence of Nigerian state, pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms, and empires. These ethnic groupings significantly differ in their historical, social and cultural make- ups.

**EARLY MAN IN NIGERIA: archaeological** evidences from different part of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region (Nigeria) since the Paleolithic period. Artifacts mostly stone tools were found which proves that Nigeria participated in the Stone Age some other evidence suggests that the country has been long inhibited.

**THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHONOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY NIGERIAN SOCIETIES**

1. **NOK CULTURE:** discovery of terracotta (burnt clay) in 1936 by tin miners.
2. **Benin civilization :** Benin was important for its art work. Art historians claim that bronze casting was introduce into Benin by an Ife artists
3. **Ife civilization:** Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. Art historians believe that Ife art originated from the Nok culture because of the similarities especially beaded neck, wrist, ankles
4. **IGBO UKWU :** some bronze objects and ornaments were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit in igbo ukwu in 1939

Traditional political institutions in pre-colonial Nigeria examine the three majority ethnic groups of Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa-Fulani in Nigeria traditional political system of government.