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**Historical Analysis of The Evolution of the Nigerian State.**

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. Pre-colonial Nigeria consists of different states, kingdoms and empires. The ethnic groups are significantly different, social and cultural make-ups. The exact time man started living in Nigeria is not known but archaeological evidences shows it was around the period of five hundred thousand (500,000) BC – nine thousand (9,000) BC. The stone age can be divided into early stone age three million (3,000,000)BC- thirty-five thousand (35,000) BC, the middle stone age thirty five thousand (35,000)BC – fifteen thousand (15,000) BC and the late stone age is fifteen thousand (15,000)BC – five hundred (500) BC.

In order to cope in Nigeria the man who lived in Nigeria needed to work hard to cope with the environment, he needed to hunt animals and gather fruits as a source of food, he started to invent tools to shred and chop his daily meals, these tools where made during the early stone age and the late stone age, small stones where used for hunting, many Nigerians made sculptures which were mostly this is where nok art comes in. Nok originated from kaduna state, Nigeria. These figures where sited in the village of Nok, they were made of terracotta and all had a distinctive artistic style.

The discovery of burnt clay head of a monkey by tin miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places. The area where nok was found is known as nok culture or civilization. Benin is very important for its art work. Art historians claim that bronze casting was introduced to Benin by an Ife artist. Ife is important because of its burnt coal and bronze heads. Stools and figures were carved on hard stone called quartz while animal and human figures were carved from granite.

Some bronze objects where discovered by mistake while digging a toilet pit in 1939, the Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria. The Yorubas trace their origin to Oduduwa Ile-Ife is the ancestral home of the Yoruba people, the Igbo people are best known for their segment way of life, they had no centralized states in ancient times, the Igbo group are divided into five (5) sub-cultures which are: 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 the Nri version of, the ancestors of the Igbo descended from the sky and sailed down the River Anambra. The Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. The first groups consist of the legitimate seven also known as Hausa Bakwai. The Hausa Kingdom, also known as Hausa Kingdoms or Hausa land, was a collection of states started by the Hausa people, situated between the Niger River and Lake Chad (modern day northern Nigeria). Hausa land lay between the Western Sudanic kingdoms of Ancient Ghana and Mali and the Eastern Sudanic kingdoms of Kanem-Bornu. The Hausa were known for fishing, hunting, agriculture, salt-mining, and blacksmithing. By the 14th century Kano had become the most powerfulcity-state.

Kano had become the base forth trans-Saharan trade in salt, cloth, leather, and grain. The hausa bakwai are the seven legitimate sons of Bayajidda, the Banza bakwai are the seven illegitimate sons of Bayajidda. Bayajidda is known for killing are gigantic snake that was oppressing the people in Daura only allowing them to drink water on Fridays. The legitimate seven states are Daura, Biram, Zazzau (zaria), Katsina, Rano and Gobir. The illegitimate seven states are Gwari, Zamfara, Kebbi, Yoruba, Nupe, Bauchi and Yauri.

The struggle among the European powers for colonies where it had vested interest, the scramble for Africa after the Berlin conference of 1884-1885 . Britain colonized Nigeria, Ghana, the Gambia and Sierra Leone in West Africa. To achieve this a number of measures were taken, for example, the removal of all visible opposition to the imposition of colonial rule, expansion and consolidation of British authority over the territory later known as Nigeria.

Before the year 1900, all the different parts of Nigeria where conquered by the British were still under their original administration. The northern protectorate was not as economically buoyant as the colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria. The British officers defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel or the rulers.