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  **A REVIEW ON HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE**

The historical background of the present Nigerian state is a Pre-colonial and Colonial creation. The Pre-colonial era consists of different chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. The early man in Nigeria settled in Nigeria since the Paleolithic period and stone age. Some of the achievements of the early man include: hunt for animals and gather fruits, invention of tools, sculpture and terracotta. In the early developmental time of Nigeria, there were the centres of civilisation: Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin. The Nok Culture , was the discovery of terracotta in 1936, and was a transition between stone age and iron age. The Benin Civilisation was believed to be introduced by an Ife artist, and it was known for artwork. The Ife civilisation was known for terracotta and bronze head. Lastly, the Igbo Ukwu was discovered by an archeologist, Thurstan Shaw.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN YORUBA LAND

The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa their founder, and Ile-Ife as their ancestral home. The Oke Oramfe version believe that after Obatala failed in his mission by Oduduwa to form the world with five pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth, and cockrel, he landed in Oke oramfe.

The Political structure of the Yoruba empire consists of a capital town, subordinate town, villages and farmlands. The Oba is the political head of the political and spiritual head of the kingdom. Although, he had limitations known as enwo to curb despotism and tyranny. The pattern of administration was hierarchical. In the Oyo empire, the first organ of government is the Alaafin of Oyo. The Alaafin administration has an autocratic tendency but he was regulated by the Oyomesi, council of seven members headed by Basorun who acted as the Prime minister. The Ogboni cult played a mediator role in any conflict between the Oyomesi and Alaafin. It was kind of counter power to the Oyomesi; it consisted of free and prominent members of the society as well as members of the Oyomesi. The Army, was headed by the Aare-Ona-Kankanfo. It functions are stability, expansion, keeping rebellious territories in check. They exercised autonomy over their provinces but were still subject to the Alaafin, who recognized their allegiance to him during the bere festival.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRE-COLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN IGBO LAND

They are best known for their sedimentary or acephalous way of life: no centralised states, no kings. There are five subcultures: Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, South-Eastern Nigeria, North-Eastern Nigeria, Western Igbo and Northern Igbo. The Igbo's believe to have migrated from Israel, as there are similarities between the Igbos and the Hebrews. However, Professor M.A Onwujeogwu(2000) regards the Nri version as the only synthetic version in existence. The Nri version: the ancestor of the Igbo ,Eri, descended from the sky and sailed down river Anambra. When he arrived Aguleri, he met some authochonous group of people who had no living memory of their own and settled with them. As their population increased, some groups migrated to other parts of Igbo land to form establishments.

The Political structure of the Igbos was a decentralized system of government. Institutions that exercised important functions include: family, council of elders, age grade and secret societies. The family was the smallest political unit in the Igbo society, it was headed by an Ofo title holder. The most senior ofo title holder, was known as Okpara, and held the Ozo title, and presided over the council of elders meeting. The Age grade is based on birth, or a common name based on an event associated with time of birth. The Age grade was for work, war and government. It was a society of companionship and protection. The Oha-na-eze was a form of general assembly in traditional Igbo society. All male adults meet to form legislative functions, decisions taken were absolute and final. Recognition of individuals was based on individual capacity and age rather than family background. The secret societies consisted of diviners' masquerades who played intermediary between the living and the ancestors. The official religion of the Igbos was traditional religion.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PRECOLONIAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN HAUSA LAND

Hausa land, before 1804 was made of fourteen states divided in two groups. First group, hausa bakwai: Daura, Biram, Katsina, Kano, Rano, Zaria and Gobir. Second group, hausa banza: Nupe, Gwari, Yauri,Bauchi,Zamfara, Kebbi and Yoruba. The Origin of hausa is traced to a Man, Bayajidda, an Arab Prince who travelled from Sahel to Daura, killed a monstrous snake and married the queen. The queen already had six sons, but she produced one with bayajidda. Each of the sons ruled one of the hausa city states, becoming the first kings. The combined hausa kingdoms were sometimes called Daura. Early hausa were polytheists. Sarki was the head of the hausa state. He also performed political and religious functions, and was the chief executive and chief justice of the state. Islamisation influenced the political system and brought about the sharia law. Islam was to Hausa landings thq4th century, and by q5th century it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class. The Jihad of Uthman Danfodio of 1804 after conquest, a centralised political system was introduced. New ruling system: emirs owed allegiance to Dan fodio and his two representatives at Sokoto and Gwandu. The Sultan supervised the administration of the emirate system, he arbitrated in disputes between and within Emirates. The Emir was an absolute monarch, he was the political, administrative and spiritual leader.

COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION AND INDIRECT RULE SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive Nigeria through bini kingdom. Atlantic slave trade, carried on across Atlantic ocean between Europeans and Africans, became more important in 15th century. Trans-Atlantic trade put British in contact with Nigeria. After three centuries, period of legitimate commerce came . Here, the British introduced gun boat politics", because “erring" African states were threatened with attack, and in some cases, actually attacked. In 1861, Lagos became a colony, under Gunboat politics. In 1861, Lagos became a colony under the gun boat politics. In 19th century, Europeans partitioned Africa among themselves after berlin conference: 1884-85. 1898, British sought to establish and maintain colonial state in Nigeria.

BIRTH OF NIGERIA AS A GEO-POLITICAL ENTITY

The first amalgamation was in May 1906 by the British. The British amalgamated the Lagos protectorate of the southern Nigeria to form new protectorate of Southern Nigeria. According to Tamuno 1980, the main aim for the amalgamation was purely economic. It was to use the better financial position of southern protectorate to cover the cost of administration and development in the financially weak colony, Lagos, saddled with the need for extension of the railway in 1901

The Second amalgamation was in January 1914, the Northern and Southern Nigeria was amalgamated. It was done for the same reason as the first amalgamation- economic purpose as the Northern protectorate was not as financially buoyant as the southern Protectorate. Sir Fredrick Lord Lugard is regarded as father of January 1914. Britain ruled Nigeria through indirect rule, a system whereby Britain ruled her colonies through local traditional rulers.