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Chapter 2

### **HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF NIGERIA STATE**

The precolonial 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 Nigeria state, pre-colonial. Nigeria comprises 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 venue valley.

The exact time man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but man had settled in the region now known as nigeria since the paleolithic period 500,000-9000 BC, Even the excavation of Stone Age at Iwo Eleru near Akure in ondo state has thrown more light on the earliest occupation of Nigeria.

The achievements of early men consisted of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools of the old wan type tools. The tools were actually oval in shape. They were made during the early

Stone Age but were lately refined during the early Stone Age but were lately refined during the middle Stone Age and late Stone Age

BENIN CIVILIZATION: Bronze casting was introduced in Benin by an ode artist, the cast wooden doors and ivory masks one of which was the ivory masks used as FESTAC 1977.

IFE CIVILIZATION: it is one of the most important of its terra-cotta and bronze heads. An example is Opa Oranmiyan in Ile-Ife most of the bronze and terracotta heads were said to be life-size decorated with facial marks and natural hair.

IGBO UKWU CIVILIZATION: Some ornaments and bronze objects were discovered accidentally in 1939 while digging a pit which led to an excavation of three sites. Various sites including the remains of decayed skeletons have been suggested to be those of a king and five slaves who were buried with him. The three major ethnic groups in Nigeria which consists of the Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa.

## YORUBA

This one of the largest groups united by language that traces its origin to Oduduwa. Yorubas originally came from the north-eastern area of Africa with them the east is Mecca and Mecca is the east. It is from Egypt Oduduwa is the first to be believed as the leader that led Yoruba to Ile-Ife who also sent his sons and grandsons to find Yoruba kingdoms. Information on the major landmarks in every Nigerian history was possible through the excavation work done on places

where men lived in Nigeria in the very remote past some of the places in the remote areas were the; Nok, Igbo-ukwu, Ife, Benin among others.

The political structures of the Yorubas were very similar in nature, each town had a king called the oba who resides in the palace called Alaafin his paraphernalia of office included a beaded crown. A pair of slippers called bata horsetail irukere and scepter ase. The oba is both the spiritual and political head of the kingdom. His words are abiding and binding to everybody. The king also had rulers of lesser rank and status.

BAALE- The third rank of rulers and were in charge of the villages.

OLOJA- The fourth rank of leaders and they ruled over the farmlands. The town ilu was the basic political unit. The wards had ward heads which were called the ijoye the pattern of administration was hierarchical at the lowest level were the compound heads of baale with the assistants of heads of component.

Apex was a group of civil chiefs igbimo ilu headed by the king, this body is in the various Yoruba towns were called different names such as oyemesi ewarefa e.t.c

### THE ALAAFIN ADMINISTRATION

They were very unique and exceptional in its system.

Oyo was one of the rare empires that had inbuilt checks and balances and this contributed on its stability for centuries. The Alaafin was resident in the capital. The Alaafin was regarded as fountain of authority. The Alaafin was regarded as companion of the gods.

Apart from the Alaafin cabinet the oyemesi cult constituted another arm of government. It was a very powerful cult. It had a very vital position in Yoruba society. It played a mandatory role in any conflict between the iyomesi and the Alaafin. It was a kind of counter power to the oyomesi as well.

### THE ARMY

This group of people were known for organization, it was made up of infantry and cavalry. It was credited with important functions including stability of the empire, expansion, keeping dissident territories in check.

### IGBO

This group of people were known for the segmentary or acephalous way of life, because of ancient times it was always or were no equivalents of oba and Alaafin or places over most part of igbo land

NRI which is believed to be Igbo's ancestors. Nri met some autochthonous 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 establish their own settlements.

There was no high centralization of authority.

They practiced direct democracy/decentralized system of government.

Although there was no highly centralized authority some socio-political institutions existed in each village to perform legislative, executive, administrative military and judicial functions which included family age grades, elders.

Oha- na- eze was a form of general assembly in traditional Igbo society. all the male adult members met in this assembly to perform legislative functions. all the decisions taken within this meeting were absolute and final. They were highly respected accordingly. The secret societies consisted of the drivers, masquerades, ubinuknabi at anochukwu the amadisha of ozuzzu, and so on they all played significant roles in the igbo traditional society. The chief priests were the link between the people and the dirties as well as the departed ancestors the igbo's believed in reincarnation.

## HAUSA

This is located in the northern Nigeria. It was made-up of 14 states in 1804. And of two distinct groups. the first group consist of seven states called Hausa bakwai the legitimate states. consisted of the :

1. Daura
2. Biram
3. Zaria
4. Katsina
5. Rano

## 6. Gobir

The Hausa Banza states are ;

1. Nupe
2. Gearing
3. Yauri
4. Bauchi
5. Zamfara
6. Kebbi
7. Yoruba

Islam was introduced into Hausa land in the fourteenth century, and by the fifteenth century it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class.

The strengthening of the religion was as a result of the 1804 Uthman dan Fodio Jihad. The emir was an absolute monarch in his emirate, he was the political, administrative and spiritual leader.

The emir was still being assisted by groups of district heads.

The emir cabinet included;

- A. Sarkinfada: the spokesman of the emir and organizer of place workers.
- B. Waziri: the prime minister of the emirate.
- C. Galadima: the administrator of the capital city.
- D. Madawaki: the commander and head of the Emirates army.
- E. Magaji: government treasurer in charge of the government treasury.

F. Sarkin dan doka: inspector general of police force called dan doka.

G. Sarkin ruwa: minister in-charge of water resources or the river fishing official.

H. Sarkin pawa: head of chairman of butchers at the abattoirs.

I. Yari: chief super intendant of prisons in the emirate.

The judicial administration of hausa -fulani was based on the Islamic legal system called sharia. which were established throughout the emirates, Whereby each were headed by a trained sharia court judge called Alkali the Chief Justice was called grand khadi .village heads then settled minor disputes in the villages.

#### THE BIRTH OF NIGERIA AS A GEO-POLITICAL ENTITY

Before 1900, different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration. The 1906 amalgamation is known as the first Ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. the second amalgamation was that of 1914 in January 1914. Whereby the British amalgamated the northern and southern Nigeria. The northern protectorate was not as economically buoyant as the colony and protectorate of southern Nigeria. The northern protectorates were not as economically buoyant as the colony and protectorate of southern Nigeria. Sir Fredrick lugard (later became lord) is best known as the father of the January 1914 amalgamation. Britain governed Nigeria by means of an INDIRECT RULE. Where Britain officers defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personal or the rulers.