NAME: Ojelade Oluwapelumi Deborah

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In about 3 pages review chapter 2 “An historical analysis of the evolution of the Nigerian state “in salient issues in government and Nigeria’s politics.

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial and the colonial period in Nigeria. The pre-colonial period is the 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. The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period 500,000- 9000BC. The artefacts {stone tools} found by archaeologists further confirmed that Nigerians also took part in the Stone Age civilisation. Stone age can be divided into several periods, these are: earl evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Palaeolithic period 500,000- 9000BC. The artefacts {stone tools} found by archaeologists further confirmed that Nigerians also took part in the Stone Age civilisation. Stone Age can be divided into several periods, these are: early Stone Age: 3,000,000- 35,000BC; middle stone age: 35,000-15000BC and late Stone Age: 15,000-500BC. The excavation of a Stone Age skeleton at iwo eleru near akure in ondo state threw more light on the earliest occupation of Nigeria. The skeleton was dated some 12,000 years ago. The man who lived in Nigeria during those years works hard to cope with his environment. First he needed food, for this purpose he began to hunt for animals and gather fruits. He soon began to invent tools containing pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. Archaeologists called the tools oldowan type tools. Early man in Nigeria advanced from the early Stone Age where he began to make hand axes these tools were used for many purposes by the man who made them. Similar tools had been located by archaeologists outside Nigeria at a site in St Acheul in northern Nigeria. Small stone tools used for hunting were found in Jos, plateau state and in Iwo eleru in ondo state. Early man proceeded to invent a heavy chopper which was more efficient in cutting then existing tools. There is evidence of more advanced technology in various parts of Nigeria during bronze and metal age. One of the most active periods of technological efforts in Nigeria was during the period around 500BC to 200AD. During this period some people made sculptures and figures which were usually human heads and figures. The figure were made in the village of nok, the figures were made of terracotta and they possessed a distinctive artistic style. Information on the major land marks in early Nigerian history was made possible by the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote part. Some of the places are: nok, Igbo ukwu, Ife and Benin among others. They are referred to as centres of ancient civilisation. When talking about the scientific and technological development of early Nigerian societies The discovery of a terracotta in the nok culture{ burnt clay} head of a monkey by tin miners in nok in 1936 promoted discoveries in other places wanmba, katsina- ala and jema. They are where these terracotta figurines were found is called the nok culture or civilisation area. The nok culture is believed to be a transitional civilisation between the Stone Age and the Iron Age in Nigeria. Through the use of carbon dating it was discovered that the nok culture existed between the 5th and 2nd century B.C. for the Benin civilisation, Benin was very important for its art-work. The craftsmen of Benin carved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass. For the Ife civilization, Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. Objects such as stools and figures were carved on hard stone called quartz. An example is opa oranmiyan in ile Ife. Art historians believed Ife art originated from nok art. For Igbo ukwu civilisation, some bronze objects and ornaments were accidently discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo ukwu in 1939, this eventually led to the discovery of three sites: a burial chamber, a pit and a compound wall. On the historical background of pre-colonial political system in Yoruba land, the Yoruba are one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language they trace their origin to oduduwa the founder of the Yoruba kingdom. Ile Ife is the ancestral home of the Yoruba people, according to Johnson Yoruba originally came from the north eastern area of Africa. After a while they settled in ile Ife in Nigeria. Oke oramfe is located in ile Ife and is believed to be the centre from which the world was created. According to akinjogbin and ayandele the world was covered with water and the almighty God decided to send messengers to the world and it included obtala and sixteen immortals. They were given five pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth and a cockerel. On their way their leader obatala got drunk and oduduwa seized the symbol of authority from him and eventually led the party to the world. The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature each consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands. Each town has a king oba who resides in his kingdom aafin. His paraphernalia of office included a beaded crown, a slippers, horse tail and sceptre. The oba enjoys many privileges but certain limitations were placed this limitations are known as eewo, if the king violates the eewo it could lead to death. The king also has other rulers, the bales were the third rank of rulers and were in charge of villages. The oloja were the fourth rank of leaders and they ruled over farmlands. The pattern of administration in Yoruba land is hierarchical. The government of the old Oyo Empire is a typical example of the precolonial administration in Yoruba land. The first organ of government is the alaafin of Oyo. The alaafin was the head of the empire and was resident in the capital, his powers were often limited and regulated by the oyomesi a council of seven members headed by bashorun who acts as prime minister. Apart from the alaafin cabinet, members of the oyomesi cult constituted another arm of government, it is a powerful cult called the ogboni cult.it played mediatory role in conflict between oyomesi and alaafin. The army was another arm of government in traditional Yoruba society. Its head is called are- ona- kankanfo who lived outside the capital. Oyo Empire also had provincial government which included prince, minor kings and bale. The alaafin used beeru annual festivals to renew his allegiance of the provincial governors to him. Historical background of pre-colonial political system in Igbo land, the Igbo people are best known for their segmentary way of life because from the ancient times they had no centralised states. Igbo are grouped into five sub culture: the Igbo of eastern Nigeria, the Igbo of south- eastern Nigeria. The Igbo of north- eastern Nigeria, the western Igbo and the northern Igbo. One of the most popular versions of the migratory stories of origin of the Igbo people is the one that points to Israel because of the similarities between the culture of the Igbo and the ancient Hebrew. Professor Onwuejeogwu regards the nri version as the only authentic version of origin of the tradition of the Igbo. According to the nri version, the ancestors descended from the sky and sailed down the river anambra. At aglueri he met some group of people who had no living memory of their own and settled with them. In the Igbo traditional society there was no highly centralised authority but instead they had what could be called a diffusion of authority into different groups. The family was the smallest political unit in Igbo tradition each family was headed by an ofo title holder. Among the ofo title holders one of them was recognized as the most senior to others he is known as okpra who held the ozo title and presided over the council of elders meeting. Age grades was organised on a village basis and were strongly organised by the northern and southern Igbo peoples. The communities organised themselves through age grades for work, war and government. Oha Na eze was a form of general assembly in traditional Igbo society. The secret societies consisted of the diviners, masquerades, ubinuknabi at arochukwu, and the amadisha of ozuzzu and so on. They acted as intermediary between the living and the ancestors. The Igbo believe in reincarnation. Historical background of pre-colonial political system in Hausa land, Hausa land is located in northern Nigeria. Hausa land before 1804 was made up of fourteen states and there were 2 distinct groups the first group consists of seven sates known as Hausa bakwai and the second group consists of the remaining seven states and were known as Hausa banza. Oral tradition attributed the origin of the Hausa states to Amn named bayajida. He killed a monstrous snake that oppressed the people of daura and he marries the queen. The queen had 6 sons already and she produced another son bayajidda and each of these sons ruled the seven Hausa city states. The sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. He worked with a retinue of officials in a well organised court. Between 14th and the 15th century the socio political organisations of Hausa states took another shape. For instance Islam was adopted and this gave birth too many new political institutions .the sharia law stated taking shape. The jihad of ‘Uthman Dan fodio of 1804 further strengthened and consolidated the religion in this area. The jihad led to the conquest of the existing old Hausa kingdom, the overthrow of the political leadership by the Fulani and the establishment of the caliphate and Fulani emirates in northern Nigeria. In every state conquered, the former Hausa ruler was replaced by a Fulani emir. The emir was an absolute monarch of his emirate. The emir was assisted by a group of people: sarkin fada, waziri, galadima, madawaki, mgaji, sarkin dan doka, sarkin ruwa, sarin pawa, yari. The judicial administration of Hausa Fulani was based on the Islamic legal system called sharia. Historical background of colonial administration and indirect rule system in Nigeria, the British who have been credited with the creation of Nigeria were not the first Europeans to land in Nigeria. The Portuguese were the first Europeans to land in Nigeria through bini kingdom. The Atlantic slave trade was the trade that was trade carried on across the Atlantic Ocean between the Europeans and the Africans. After 3 centuries of shameful slave trade, came the so called period of legitimate commerce. The struggle among the Europeans powers for colonies led to the portioning of Africa among them in the 19thcentury. The scramble for Africa, by these European powers led to the portioning of Africa after the berlin conference of 1884. Britain colonised Nigeria, Ghana, the Gambia and Sierra Leone in West Africa. As from 1898 the British government sought to establish and maintain a colonial state in Nigeria. The birth of Nigeria as a geo political entity, before the year 1900, all the different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration. But by 1900, the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British colonial office. The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914. In January 1914, the British government amalgamated northern and 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.