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SUMMARY OF CHAPTER TWO.

AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE.

The historical background of the Nigerian state has to do with the pre-colonial era and the colonial era. The Nigerian state is a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa. The pre-colonial Nigerian state comprised of chiefdoms,states,kingdoms and empires such as the Borno empire, the Hausa states, the Igbo segmentary socities etc. The country is bordered on the west by Benin, on the north, by Niger, and on the east by Cameroon. Nigeria stretches roughly 700 miles from west to east and 650 miles from south to north, covering an area between 3 degree and 15 degree longitude and between 4 dregree and 4 degree latitude.

The time when man began to live in Nigeria is unkown but some archaelogical evidences have pointed to facts shown that man settled since the Palaeolithic period 500,000-9000BC. The early man in Nigeria fends for himslef by hunting and eating fruits and began to invent pebbles. As time passed, he began to invent hand axes which had oval and pointed shape and were used in cutting .These tools were located in Nigeria by acheaologists at St Acheul in Northern Nigeria. Hunting materials were also discovered in Plateau and Ondo states. Other materials were also found in places like Ile-Ife, Jebba, Esie, Igbo-Ukwu and Benin.

The findings of Nigerian history were made after the exacation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past. These places are usually refered to as centres of ancient civilization. the places or civilizations include:

a) Nok Culture/Civilization

b) Benin Civilisation.... ETC.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDS OF PRECOLONIAL NIGERIA.

THE YORUBA PEOPLE

The yorubas are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria and they are united by their language. The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba kingdom. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. There are different versions of the origoin such as:

The Oke Oramfe's Version of the origin of the Yoruba.

The administaration of the Yoruba people can be based on the Oyo empire administration. There were different organs such as :

a) The Alafin Administration

b) The Ogboni cult's Administration.

c) The Army.

THE IGBO PEOPLE

The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. This is because ever since ancient times they never had a centralised state.They are divided into sub groups such as:

a) The Igbo of Eastern-Nigeria.

b) The Igbo of Southern Nigeria.

c) The Igbo of North-Eastern Nigeria.

d) The Western Igbo and

e) The Northern Igbo.

There were no equilvalents of Oba ,Alafin or of palaces over most parts of Igbolands. This is why it was very difficult to reconcile the various versions of the migratory stories of the orign of the Igbo people. The most popular ones are the ones that points to Isreal. In the Igbo political administration, the family is the smallest political unit. Then there was the Age grades , the general assembly and even secret societies.

THE HAUSA PEOPLE

The hausa land is located in the Northern part of Nigeria. They are divided into two distinct groups. The first group consists of seven states called the Hausa Bakwai states and they are known as the Hausa legitimate states. The second group consist of the rmemaing seven statges known as the Hausa Banza states and they are the Hausa Illegitimate states. The first group consists of Daura, Biram, Zaria, Katsina ,Rano, Kano and Gobir while the second consists of Nupe , Gwari, Yauri, Bauchi,Zamfara,Kebbi,Yoruba.

In the the Hausa administration, there was there head who is known as the Emir and he was the absolute monarch in his emirate. He was the political, administrative and spititual leader. He controlled economic activities and other functions . While peforming all these, he was aided by some appointed cabinet members. Few of which are:

a) Sarkin Fada- The Emir's spokesman and the organiser of the palace workers.

b) Waziri- The Prime Minister of the Emirate.

c) Galadima- The adminitrator of the capital city....ETC

COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA

The British who colonized the Nigerian state had used various mean to over take the state. The first of all introduced the Gun Boat diplomacy and they also had to take some measures in order to attain the Nigerian state during the scramble for Africa in the 19th century such as the removal of all visible opposition to the imposition of colonial rule , expansion and consolidation of the British authority over the territory laer known as Nigeria.

The Nigerian state was fully conquered by the Britsh in 1900. There was amalagamation on may 1906 were the British amalgamated the lagos colony with the protectortate of southern Nigeria. the second amalagamation was done on january 1914 where the British government amalgamated the Northern protectorate and the Southern protectorate. Sir Fredrick Lugard is best known as the father of the January 1914 amalgamtion. The British went further and introduced the policy of indirect rule whereby the British rules her colonies through local traditional rulers. The British officers defined the framework of the policies to be adopted and left the implementation to the local personnel or the rulers.