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**MATRIC NO: 19/MHS02/087**

**DEPT: MHS/NURSING**

**CHAPTER 15:**

 **TRADITIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN PRE COLONIAL NIGERIA**

Nigeria is a very diverse country which is divided into three major groups which are the Yorubas, Igbos and Hausa-fulanis.

The YORUBAS are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria united by language. They believe that oduduwa is the founder of the Yoruba kingdom. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people from the oduduwa extended his authority to the other Yoruba towns and villages. Most of the Yoruba kingdom have similar political structures consisting of capital subordinate towns, villages and farmland. Each town has a king called the OBA who resides in a palace called ALAFIN. The OBA is the spiritual and political head of the kingdom. He has supreme authority and has certain priviledge but certain limitation known as EWO which are placed on his power.

THE IGBOS operated a government without kings and are best known for their segmentary and cephalous way of life. One of the most popular versions of the migrations stories believe the igbo people migrated Israel while another believe they have been in their present abode from the beginning. The most senior amongst the OFO tittle holders is known as the OKAPARA who also held the OZO tittle and presided over the council of elders meeting where issues affecting the lives of the people were discussed.

The HAUSAS asre mostly located in the northern part of Nigeria. They are divided into twp which is the Hausa Bakwai [legitimate state] and Hausa Banza [illegitimate state].it was between the 14th and 15th centuries that the socio political organization of hausa states took another shape. After the acceptance of Islam by the hausas, the old rulers were replaced by Fulani emirs. The Emir was an absolute monarch and owed allegiance only to Dan fodio and his two representatives at sokoto at gwanda.

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE IDEA OF PRESSURE GROUP**

Pressure group is a formal and organized body with a common interest whose fundamental aim is to put pressure on any governmental institution with the goal of influencing governmental policies and law to its own advantage. It is also referred to as fundamental representative. This is the idea that various pressure groups represent different sectors of the society based on function.

**TYPES OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

**INTERESTING GROUPS**; This group is seen as sectional groups representing the people in the society e.g convection on business integration[CBI]

**CAUSE GROUPS**; this groups are promotional groups which seek to promote particular causes e.g charities and environmental groups.

**INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS GROUP**; insiders groups are regularly consulted by the government. They also have regular access to ministers or legislators. Outsiders group have no access or links to the government and its machineries.

ANOMIC GROUPS; They have unpredictable actions and behaviors as they work based on the moment and situation in the society.

**FUNCTIONS OF PRESSURE GROUPS**

. It serves as a link between government and the day and people it governs.

. it serves as a source of information to the government.

. acts as watch dogs on the government.

. promotes public participation in the activities of the government of the day.