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CHAPTER 2: The Nigerian state is a colonial creation in which Nigeria came into existence by the arrival of colonialists. Nigeria is a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventful culmination in the colonialization of Africa. Before the creation of Nigeria, what we call Nigeria was now divided into independent states, kingdoms and empires. These include the borno empire, the hausa states and the Sokoto caliphate in the north. All the ethnic groupings significantly differ in the historical, social and cultural make ups.

Now, during the early years of man in Nigeria, the time man started in Nigeria is unknown but these are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which points to the fact that man had settled in the region that is Nigeria. Stone tools that archaeologists found further confirms that Nigeria took part in stone civilization. The stone age can be divided into several periods which are; early stone age (3,000,000 – 35,000 BC), middle stone age (35,000 – 15,000 BC) and late stone age (15,000 – 500 BC). In those days, man had to work very hard to survive in his environment. He had to hunt and kill animals to eat then man started to invent tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools. All the stone tools made by man were used for various purposes indeed, one of the most active periods of technological efforts in Nigeria was during this period, around 500BC to 200AD. During this period, there were people who lived in Nigeria that made sculptures. Many were of human heads and figures. During the early history of the Nigerian society, some places which are collectively called the centre of ancient civilization, these are areas where information on the major land marks in early Nigeria were found, they discovered a terracotta (burnt clay) head of a monkey by ten miners in 1936 which promoted more discoveries in other places such as wamba, katsina, ala and jema. The areas where these artifacts were found are called Nok culture or civilization, they are known for their artwork. The craftsmen there carved

with wood and ivory and cast object in bronze and brass. One of the items they made was used in the FESTAC symbol in 1944 and it was the ivory mask. Then in the Ife civilization, they are known for their terracotta and bronze heads. The stones and figures were carved on hard stone called quartz. Some of the bronze heads were said to be portraits of some of the rulers. Art historians believe that Ife art originates from the Nok culture because of the similarities in the two. While the Igbo uwku culture, bore bronze objects and ornaments were accidentally discovered in 1939 and archaeologists excavated the land and it was called Thurstan Shaw. The sites excavated at Igbo uwku have been dated to the middle of the 9th century AD.

Now we talk about the political system of government of three major ethnic groups. In the Yoruba region, they trace their origin to Oduduwa as their founder. There are many versions of the traditions of origin. To Johnson in his book, the Yorubas originally came from the north-eastern region of Africa. Then they also believed in uke jamte which is located Ile Ife is the centre of the world. The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature. Each consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farm lands. Each town has a king known as 'Oba' and enjoys the privileges but has limitations to his powers. And the king also has lesser rank of rulers who oversee the subordinate towns. The government of old Oyo empire is a typical example of pre-colonial administration in Yoruba land. The first organ of government in Oyo empire is the king known as Alaafin of Oyo. Firstly, there is the ablation administration, which where Oyo empire is unique and exceptional in its system of government. Secondly, ogboni's cult administration which consists of the members of the oyomesi cult, there are a constituted arm of government and then there is the army. In the army, they are very organised.

In Igboland, they are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. They are grouped into five sub cultures which include, the Igbo of eastern region, south region, north eastern region of Nigeria, the western and the northern Igbo. The Igbo believe that they descended from Israel. In Igbo traditional society, there was no highly centralized authority but insisted that they had what could be called a diffusion of authority into different groups. The family was the smallest political unit in the Igbo traditional society. Age grade was organised in a village basis.

Hausa land is located in northern Nigeria, Hausa land before 1804 was

made of fourteen states, and they have two distinct groups. The first group consisted of seven states called 'Hausa bakwari' states, that is, Hausa legitimacy states. The queen had six sons already, and she produced another son with Buyiyide and each of these sons rule one of the seven Hausa city states, becoming the first kings. The 'sarki' was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. Sarken karsa, which means 'ruler of the land' which combine both political and religious/spiritual functions. He was also the chief executive and judge of the state, but he was aided by a council of the state.

The birth of Nigeria as a geo-political entity all stated before the year 1900, all the different parts of Nigeria conquered by the British still under their original administration. The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. They amalgamated Lagos colony and protectorates with the protectorates of southern Nigeria. Then the second amalgamation was in 1914. In January 1914, the British government amalgamated northern and southern Nigeria, Sir Frederick Lugard Clater became (lord) is best known as the father of 'January 1914' amalgamation British, therefore governed by means of system popularly known as 'indirect rule'.

