NAME:AMUKU GREATNESS EYANYUFUO

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**HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE**

The history of Nigeria in politics and government involved pre-colonial and colonial period, the precolonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialist while the colonial period is the period when the colonialist’s administration was established in the country. The precolonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, kingdoms, empires and states which differ in historical, cultural and social makeup which were the Benin kingdoms, Oyo empires, Igbo segmentary societies and Hausa states.

However, According to archeological findings man settled in Nigeria since the paleolithic period around 500,000BC-9000BC, artefacts like stone tools were found by archeologists who confirmed that Nigeria also took part in the stone age civilizations. Stone age was divided into three different periods that is the early stone age, the middle stone age and the late stone age, the man who lived in Nigeria during the stone age had to work hard to cope with his environment when he needed food and gathered fruits and with this he made some achievements, he invented cutting and chopping tools made up of stone, the early man advanced to making hand axes the tools made during the early stone age were refined in the middle stone age and late stone age, small stone were also used for hunting. The early man preceded to invent another type of food which is called the heavy chopper which was more efficient in cutting than the existing tools.

One of the most active periods of technological efforts was around 500BC to 200AD at this period, people made structures many which were human head and figures the site where found in the village of Nok, the figures varied in sizes, small objects and huge objects they were made of terracotta and artistic style. Nok, Igbo ukwu, Yoruba, Benin, Oyo, Hausa were the Centre of the ancient civilization and their history of scientific and technological development in Nigerian societies. The nok had the first discovery of terracotta (burnt clay) head of a monkey by tin miners in nok 1936, the nok culture existed between the 5th and 2nd BC. The Benin made objects carved in wood, ivory, bronze and brass. They also cast wooden doors and ivory and one of the masks was used at FESTAC symbol in 1977. The Ife civilizations important because of its terracotta and bronze heads and they carved objects such as stools, quartz and sculptures of past rulers. It is said that ife terracotta originated from nok and Benin learnt bronze sculpture from ife. In the Igbo-ukwu, bronze objects were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit in 1939, there were three sites that were found by archeologists is a burial ground, toilet pit and compound wall.

The precolonial government was mostly divided in the form of ethnic groups Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa. The Yoruba is one of the largest ethnic groups and they trace their history to Oduduwa who founded the kingdom, Oduduwa came from the north-eastern part of Africa and settled in ile-ife. According to the myth of the Yoruba Obatala and sixteen oye was given five pieces of iron, a cockerel, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth when Obatala the leader got drunk and Oduduwa seized the materials from him and led the group to a place in ile-ife called oke-oranfe. The political structure was hierarchical and each of the Yoruba kingdoms were headed by kings called the oba who wore a beaded crown called the ade, a slippers bata and a horsetail irukere, the subordinate towns were headed by the kings who wore white beads known as sese ofun, the third rank Baale who was in charge of villages while the fourth rank oloja was in charge of farmlands. The Oyo empire was headed by the known as the Alaafin of Oyo, the Oyo empire had placed check and balances which led to its stability for centuries, the Alaafin was assisted by an administration made priests, officials and eunuchs. The Alaafin powers were being regulated by the oyo-mesi a council of seven members who were headed by the Basho run who acted as prime minister, they chose the successor after the death of the Alaafin and they can dethrone an Alaafin but the Alaafin is expected to commit suicide, while the ogboni cult act as mediator between the oyo-mesi and the Alaafin. While the army is headed by Are-ona kankanfo who lives outside the kingdom.

The Igbo people is divided into the eastern, south-eastern, north-eastern, western and northern Nigeria, the Igbos lived a segmentary lifestyle with no centralized state and authority, their authority was divided into different groups, they practiced direct democracy and a decentralized system of government. The groups who had authority were the age grade groups, council of elders, family and secret societies. The family is the smallest political group and it is headed by the ofo title holder in the family, among the ofo holders the most senior of them is called the Okpara and also held the ozo title which makes him an elder. Age grade is an association that grew from childhood and took a common name to commemorate their birth, they guard the settlement and fight in battle field, the council of elders known as the oha-na-eze is a general assembly that perform legislative functions, the secret societies are the intermediary between the dead and the living since the official religion in the igbo society was traditional religion the secret societies performed and offered sacrifices at different shrines to ward of evil and appease the gds and goddesses.

Hausa land is located in northern Nigeria and before 1804 there were made up of fourteen states which are of two distinct groups, seven of them are called the Hausa bakwai that means the legitimate states while the remaining states is called the Hausa banza which are the illegitimate states, the illegitimate states consists of Yoruba, gwarri , Bauchi, yauri, Zamfara, Nupe and kebbi while the legitimate states consists of daura, biram, katsina, kano, rano, gobir and Zaria the history of Hausa started when bayajidda an Arab prince killed a monstrous snake that oppressed the people of daura and married the queen the queen who had six sons already had the seventh with bayajidda. The Hausa was headed by the sarki. He combined both political and religious functions he is the chief executive and judge of the state. But when Islam was introduced it gave birth to many political institutions and offices of the galadinma the administrator of the capital city, the waziri the prime minister of the emirate, the magaji the government treasurer, the sarkin rowa minister in charge of water resources, the sarkin dan dowa inspector general of the police force. .

Colonial administration, the British were not the first to arrive the Portuguese were the first to arrive and they started a slave trade system where slave were exported to Portugal annually from west Africa, this trans Atlantic slave trade brought the British in contact with Nigeria. The British conducted two amalgamations the first amalgamation was to use the financial position to cover the cost of development and administration in Nigeria while th second amalgamations was for the same reasons. The British governed the Nigerians by means of indirect rule which was then adopted by Nigerians.