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SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 2.

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation; it’s a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonisation of Africa. Nigeria is bordered one the west, east, north and south by Benin Republic, Cameroon, Niger and Bights of Benin and Biafra which are on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean respectively. Before colonisation, Nigeria consisted of independent chiefdoms, empires, states and kingdoms like the Sokoto Caliphate, Borno Empire, Oyo Empires, The Igbo sedimentary societies in the East among others.

EARLY MAN IN NIGERIA: The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archeological evidences that point to the fact that man settled in the region since the Palaeolithic period(500,000- 9000BC) and these evidences also pointed strongly to the fact that man took part in the stone-age civilisation. A skeleton excavated at Iwo Eleru near Akure in Ondo state was found to be dated far back as 12,000 years ago ie the country has been inhabited since that time.

HIS ACHIEVEMENTS: In the quest for survival, man needed to hunt for food( both animals and fruits) and this lead to man graduating from inventing cutting and chopping tools made from pebbles(commonly called the Oldowan-type tools) to hand axes which were oval and pointed in shape. These tools were made and refined from the Early Stone Age through the Late Stone Age. Another type of tool called the heavy chopper was also invented and it seemed to be more efficient than the last 2 and this was first seen at Sango Bay in Uganda thereby earning the name ‘Sangoan'. More advanced technology has been found in parts of Nigeria during the bronze and metal age and this was the time were many sculptures were found to, first in a village called Nok.

Places like Nok, Igbo Ukwu , Ife and Benin are usually referred to as the centres of ancient civilisation and information on the major landmarks in early Nigeria history was made possible by excavation in these places.

NOK: The discovery of a terracotta(burnt clay) head of a monkey by tin miners in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as Wamba, Katsina-Ala and Jema and the areas where this figurines where found were called the Nok culture. This culture is believed to be a transitional civilisation between stone age and the Iron age in Nigeria as stone and iron objects were found. This culture existed between the 5th and 2nd century B.C.

In Benin civilisation, objects were carved in wood and ivory and cast in bronze and brass and Art historians claim that bronze casting was introduced into Benin by an Ife artist. Ife civilisation gains importance because of its terracotta and bronze head which has strong similarities to the Nok culture.

It is said that Benin probably learnt bronze sculpture from here. Igbo Ukwu civilisation started by the accidental discovery of bronze objects in 1939 while digging a toilet pit leading to further excavation in other 3 sites by Thurstan Shaw.

The Yorubas are knew of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language and their origin is traced to Oduduwa and Ile-Ife was regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba people. OKE ORAMFE'S version of the origin of Yoruba states that Oke Oramfe which is located in Ile-Ife is believed to be the centre from which the world was created with 5 pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth and a cockerel lead by Obatala who later got drunk and then Oduduwa. The Oba is a king found in each town who is the spiritual and political head but has limitations known as ‘eewo' put in place so as to prevent tyranny at any point. Rulers of lesser ranks and statuses include Baale( incharge of villagers)and Oloja(Which in charge of farmlands). The town was the basic political unit while subordinate towns were the bedrock on which the administration of the whole Kingdom was based.The pattern of administration was hierarchical.

Oyo empire: the first organ of government in the oil empire was the King known as alaafin of Oyo. This empire was very unique in its system of government as it had inbuilt cheques and balances that stabilised its for centuries. The elephant was assisted by priests, officials and eunuchs. The Ogboni Cult's Administration, made up of free and prominent members of the society played a mediator role in any conflict between the Oyomesi and the Alaafin .The Army,another arm of government was charged with the responsibility if stabilising the empire, expansion as well as keeping dissident territories in check. It’s head has the title Are-Ona-Kankanfo.

THE IGBOS on the other hand have always been known for their sedimentary way of life as from ancient times, they had no centralised states and operated without kings. The Igbo are grouped into 5 sub-cultures which are The Igbo of Eastern Nigeria, The Igbo of South-Eastern Nigeria, The Igbo of NorthEastern Nigeria, The Western Igbo and The Northern Igbo. They trace their origins back to Israel and consider themselves as off-shoots of the lost tribes of the Hebrews who migrated southward. Here, there is a diffusion of authority into different groups in other words, they practice direct democracy as there were no traditional rulers and no hereditary claims to the traditional stools as there were never an Igbo kingdom. The family is the smallest political unit in Igbo traditional society and it is headed by an Ofo. Now, among Ofos, one is recognised as the most senior and he is known as the Okpara who holds the Ozo title and presides over the council of elders meeting where issues affecting the lives of people are discussed.

Age grade was also organised on a village basis as the communities organised themselves through this for work, war and government. Youths cleared paths and public places and also served as police while the elders enforced their decisions in war, guarded the settlements, fought on the battlefield and collect fines from offenders. Oha-na-eze was a form of general assembly where all male adult members met to perform legislative functions and these meetings where held on open village square. The decisions taken here were absolute and final. Here, the life of every individual is highly respected as recognition is based on capabilities and age rather than family background. Elders formed the core of most village administrations and were highly respected accordingly.

The Secret societies which consisted of the diviners' masquerades, Ubinuknabi at Arochukwu, the Amadisha of Ozuzzu etc played very significant roles where they acted as intermediary between the living and the ancestors, they atone for the sins of members of the community by performing rituals or

offering sacrifices in order to all appease the gods. The Igbos believe in re-incarnation; profaning of deities was a very serious offence as their religious lives were surrounded by mysticism and superstitions.

HAUSAS: The Hausa land, located in Northern Nigeria before 1804 was made up of 14 states and they were 2 distinct groups. The 1st which consists of 7 states called ‘Hausa Bakwai'( legitimate states) and the remaining 7 called ‘Hausa Banza'( Illegitimate states). Oral tradition attributes the origin of these states to a man named Bqyajidda(an Arab prince) who travelled from the sahel from Baghdad and stayed a monstrous snake who oppressed the people of Daura and married the queen who already had 6 sons already but had one more with Bayajidda.

The ‘Sarki' is the name given to the head of any typical Hausa state who works with a retinue of officials in a well organised court. Sarkin Kasar( meaning ruler of the land) was the full title given to any effective and efficient head of Hausa state. This individual combined both political and religious/spiritual functions and he was also the chief executive and judge of the state but he was aided by a council. Islam was introduced in the 14th century, accepted as the religion if the ruling class by the 15th century and strengthened and consolidated further by the Jihad of Uthman Dan Fodio. This Jihad led to the conquest of existing Hausa kingdom, the overthrow of the political leadership by the Fulani and the establishment of the Caliphate and Fulani Emirates in Northern Nigeria. Each of the emits owed allegiance to Dan Fodio and his 2 representatives at Sokoto and Gwandu..

The judicial administration of Hausa-Fulani was based on the Islamic legal system called Sharia and these courts were established throughout the Emirates and headed by a judge called Alkali. The chief justice of the Sharia courts was called Grand Khadi. Village heads handled minor issues but more serious ones were referred to the Emir.

The Portuguese were the Europeans to land in Nigeria through Benin kingdom(Ray de Sequeira 1472 in Ewuare's reign) and ( Alfonzo de Aviero in 1484 in Ozolua's reign) due to demand for slaves for plantation systems of agriculture.

Britain governed Nigeria by means of a system popularly referred to as Indirect rule ( a system of Britain ruling 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. Sir Fredrick Lugard is best known as the father if the ‘January 1914’ amalgamation( where the Northern and Southern Nigeria where amalgamated). The first amalgamation took place in May 1906 where Lagos colony and protectorate with the protectorate of Southern Nigeria were amalgamated to form the new colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria but this was done by the British without consulting the Nigerians so it was safe to say that the aim of this amalgamation was purely economic ie to use the better financial position of the protectorate of Southern Nigeria to cover the costs of administration and development on the financially weak colony and protectorate of Lagos then saddled with the white elephant of a railway in need of extension since 1901.