AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE

THE EVOLUTION OF NIGERIA STARTS FROM THE PRE COLONIAL ERA TO THE POST COLONIAL ERA.BEFORE COLONIALISM NIGERIA WAS A GROUP OF KINGDOMS, EMPIRES AND CHIEFDOMS SUCH AS THE BORNO EMPIRE, SOKOTO CALIPHATE, THE IGBO SOCIETIES, THE OYO EMPIRE ETC. NIGERIA IS LOCATED IN WEST AFRICA AND IS BOUNDED BY THE BIGHTS OF BENIN TO THE SOUTH, THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO THE WEST, BENIN REPUBLIC TO THE NORTH, AND TO THE EAST, CAMEROON. NIGERIA COVERS AN AREA OF LONGITUDE 3® AND 15® ,LATITUDE 4®AND 14®.

MAN BEGAN TO LIVE IN THE AREA CALLED NIGERIA TODAY SINCE THE PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD 500,000-9000BC. IN PLACES CALLED NOK, IGBO UKWU, IFE AND BENIN. DIFFERENT CULTURES IN NIGERIA HAVE THEIR MYTH OF ORIGIN IN NIGERIA BUT THE THREE MAJOR ETHNIC GROUPS WOULD BE FOCUSED ON.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF THE YORUBAS:

THE YORUBAS TRACE THEIR ORIGIN TO ODUDUWA AND ILE-IFE THEIR ANCESTRAL HOME. SOME OF THEM BELIEVETHAT OKE ORAMFE IS THE CENTRE IN ILE-IFE THE WORLD WAS CREATED. THEIR POLITICAL STRUCTURES CONSISTED OF A CAPITAL TOWN, SUBORDINATE TOWNS AND VILLAGES WITH THE KING OR HEAD RULER TO BE CALLED OBA AND HIS PALACE, AAFIN. THE OBA IS THE SPIRITUAL AND POLITICAL HEAD OF THE KINGDOM.

THE IGBOS: THE NRI VERSION IS THE ONLY AUTHENTIC MYTH OF THE IGBOS. WHERE THE FIRST MAN DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN AND SAILED INTO ANAMBRA AND SETTLED WITH SOME PEOPLE IN AGULERI WHO HAD NO MEMORY OF THEIR OWN. THEY THEN STARTED TO MIGRATE TO OTHER PARTS OF IGBOLAND TO ESTABLISH THEIR SETTLEMENTS.

THE IGBOS HAVE NO HIGHLY CENTRALISED AUTHORITY.

THE HAUSAS:

THE SARKI WAS KNOWN AS THE HEAD OF ANY TYPICAL HAUSA STATE. HE WORKED WITH A RETINUE OF OFFICIALS IN A WELL ORGANISED COURT. SARKIN KASAR, WHICH MEANS RULER OF THE LAND WAS THE FULL TITLE GIVEN TO ANY EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT HEAD OF HAUSA STATE. THE SARKIN KASAR COMBINED BOTH POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS/ SPIRITUAL FUNCTIONS. HE WAS ALSO A COUNCIL OF STATE. AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, THE GOVERNMENT WAS MODELLED AFTER THAT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

THE MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WERE PROJECT OFFICERS APPOINTED BY UTHMAN DAN FODIO AND EACH HELD A TITLE SPECIFYING THE SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS HE PERFORMED IMPORTANT TITLE HOLDERS IN THE EMIR CABINET INCLUDED:

1. SARKIN FADA; THE SPOKESMAN OF THE EMIR AND ORGANISER OF PALACE WORKERS.

2. WAZIRI: THE PRIME MINISTER OF EMIRATE

3. MADAWAKI: THE COMMANDER AND HEAD OF EMIRATE ARMY.

4. GALADIMA: THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CAPITAL CITY

5. MAGAJI: GOVERNMENT TREASURER IN CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT TREASURY

6. SARKIN DAN DOKA: INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE FORCE CALLED DAN DOKA

7. SARKIN RUWA: MINISTER IN CHARGE OF WATER RESOURCES OR THE RIVER FISHING OFFICIAL

8. SARKIN PAWA: HEAD OF CHAIRMAN OF BUTCHERS AT THE ABATTOIRS

9. YARI: CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS IN THE EMI