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**HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE**  
The evolution of Nigeria involves the pre-colonial and colonial periods in Nigeria.  Nigeria is a colonial creation and is a product of historical arrangement that emerged from the European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonisation of Africa.   
  
Pre colonial Nigeria was made up of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. These included the Borno Empire, the Hausa states and the Sokoto caliphate in the north, the Igbo segment art societies in the east, Benin Kingdom and the Oyo empire in the west. The historical, social and cultural makeup of these ethnic groups differ considerably.  
  
Nigeria is bordered to the south by the bights of Benin and Biafra found on the gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic ocean, bordered on the west by Benin, on the north by Niger and in the east by Cameroon and the lake chad separate Nigeria from the country of chad.  
  
The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is uncertain however there are archaeological evidence that shows the fact that man had settled in Nigeria since the paleo lithic period which is 500,00 - 9000BC. Artefacts mostly stone tools  found by archaeologists further confirmed that Nigerians also took part in stone age civilisation.  
  
Early man living in Nigeria had to cope with his environment. He needed food hence, he went to hunt animals and gather fruits. Early man soon began to make different tools for chopping and cutting.  
  
The major landmarks in early Nigerian history were oceanns where man lived in Nigeria in the past. They are referred to as the centres if ancient civilisation and included: Nok, Igbo Ukwu, Ife and Benin among others. These centres of ancient civilisation show the scientific and technological developments of early Nigerian societies.  
  
Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa-Fulani groups in Nigeria are the three major ethnic groups in Nigeria traditional political system of government.  
  
Firstly the Yoruba’s are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria and are united by language. They trace their origin to oduduwa who was the founder of the yoruba kingdom and Ile Ife is seen as their ancestral home. There are various versions of the traditions of origin of the yoruba. The political structures of the yoruba kingdom were similar in nature. Each consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands. Each town has a king called the oba who lives in the palace called Aafin.  
  
From the historical Background of pre colonial political system in Igbo land The Igbo people are known for their segmentary and acephalous way of life because they had no centralised states. They have a diffusion of authority into diverse rooms They had no kings and are grouped into five sub-cultures; the Igbo of eastern Nigeria, south-eastern Nigeria, north-eastern Nigeria, the western Igbo and the northern Igbo.  The most popular version of the migratory stories of origin of the Igbo people is the one that points to Israel and are based on the similarities between the cultures of the igbo and ancient Hebrew. The nri version is seen as the only authentic version of origin of existence in the tradition of the Igbo. Although their was no highly consideration some political institutions existed in each village to perform legislative,  executive, administrative, military and judicial functions and such institutions included  family council of elders, age grades, and secret societies.  
  
Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria and before 1804 was made up of fourteen states which were divided into two groups of seven ,the Hausa bakwai that is the  legitimate states which includes Daura, Biram, Zaria, katsina, Kano, Rano and Gobir, and the Hausa banza that's the Hausa illegitimate states and includebaucpe, Gwari, yauri, Bauchi zamfara, kebbi, yoruba.  
  
The snarky was known as the head of any typical hausa state and he worked with a retinue of officials in a well organised court. Sarkin kazar which means ruler of the land was the full title given to an efficient head if hausa state and he combines both political  and religious/ spiritual functions.  
  
Islam was introduced to hausa land in the 14th century and was accepted as the religion of the ruling class.  
  
In the historical background of the colonial administration of Nigeria, the british were not the first europeans to land in Nigeria but rather it was the portuguese who were the first Europeans to arrive in Nigeria through Bini kingdom. The trans-atlantic slave trade was the unfortunate channel that first put the british in contact with Nigeria. The struggle among European powers for colonies led to the partitioning of Africa among them in the 19th century hence, as from 1898,the british government sought to establish and maintain a colonial state in Nigeria and they achieved this by the removal of all opposition to the imposition if colonial rule and the exoansion and consolidation of British authority over the territory later known as Nigeria.   
  
By 1900 the whole of Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British colonial office and the May 1906 amalgamation was the first ever amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. This amalgamation was observed to be purely economical.  
  
The second amalgamation was in January 1914, where the british government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria and its principal really was the same as that of the May 1906 which was purely economic.