

## GOVERNMENT

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### AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIA STATE

The historical background of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial in Nigeria. The pre-colonial is the period before the coming of the colonialists to Nigeria while the colonial period refers to the era that colonial administration was established in the country Nigeria

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. Prior to the emergence of the Nigerian state, pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. The country is bordered to the south by the bights of Benin and Biafra, which are on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic ocean. On the west, Nigeria is bordered by Benin, on the north by Niger, and on the east by Cameroon. Nigeria stretches roughly 700 miles from west to east and 650 miles from south to north.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeologists evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since Palaeolithic period 500,000-9000BC. The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment, from gathering fruits to inventing tools during the early stone age and later refined during the middle stone age and later the late stone age.

The scientific and technological development of early Nigerian societies

.Nok Culture; The discovery of a terracotta head of a monkey by tin miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveries in other places such as Wamba, Katsina-Ala and Jema.

. Benin Civilization; Benin was important for its art-work. Its craftsmen carved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass.

. Ife civilization; Ife is important because of its terracotta and bronze head.

. Igbo Ukwu Civilization; they are known for bronze object

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### Historical background of pre-colonial system in Yoruba land

The Yorubas are one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria and are united by language. The Yorubas trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba kingdom. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home for the Yoruba people.

#### The Oke Oramfe Version of the origin of the Yoruba

Oke Oramfe is located in Ile-Ife. It is believed to be the centre from which the world was created. According to the legend there was a period when the world was covered in water, the almighty God then decided to send Obatala or Orisa Nla or Orisa Alase and they were given five pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white piece of cloth and a cockerel. Obatala got drunk and Oduduwa led the party to the world and subsequently the earth was formed and Oduduwa became the ruler.

Political structures of the pre-colonial Yoruba land. The political structures of the Yoruba kingdoms were similar in nature. Each consisted of a capital town, subordinate towns, villages and farmlands.

The Oyo empire is a typical example of a pre-colonial administration in Yorubaland

- . The Alaafin Administration
- . The Ogboni Cult's Administration
- . The Army

### Historical Background of pre-colonial political system in Igbo land

The Igbo people are best known for their segmentary or acephalous way of life. The Igbo's are grouped into five sub-cultures

- , The Igbo of eastern Nigeria
- . The Igbo of south-eastern Nigerian
- . The Igbo of North-eastern Nigeria
- . The Western Igbo
- . The Northern Igbo

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According to Nri version, the ancestor of the Igbo, Eri descended from the sky and sailed down the river Anambra. When he arrived at Aguleri, he met some autochthonous group of people who had no living memory of their own and settled with them. As their population increased, some groups migrated to other parts of Igboland to establish their own settle.

In Igbo traditional society, there was no highly centralized authority but instead they had what they called a diffusion of authority into different groups.

### Historical background of pre-colonial political system in hausa land

Hausa land is located in Northern Nigeria. Hausa land before 1804 were made up of fourteen states and they were two distinct groups which are Hausa Bakwai having seven legitimate hausa states, Daura, Biram, Zaria, Katsina, Kano, Rano, and Gobir and Hausa Banza having the seven illegitimate hausa states, Nupe, Gwari, Yauri, Bauchi, Zamfara, Kebbi, Yoruba.

The Sarki was known as the head of any typical Hausa state. Islam was introduced to Hausa land in the fourteenth century and by the fifteenth century it was accepted as the religion of the ruling class.

### Colonial administration and indirect rule system in Nigeria historical background

The British who have often been credited with the creation of Nigeria were not the first Europeans to land in Nigeria. The Portuguese were the first to arrive Nigeria through Bini kingdom. By 1900, the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the british colonial office. The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first ever almagamation of the british in Nigeria. British government amalgamated Lagos colony and protectorate with the protectorate of Southern Nigeria. The second amalgamation was that of 1914 in Jnuary 1914, the british government amalgamated northern and southern Nigeria.