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Assignment : Review Chapter of 2

Introduction:

The historical of Nigerian government and politics involves the pre-colonial period and the colonial period in Nigeria. The Nigerian state is a colonial creation. It is a product of historical arrangement that arose out of European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa.

The Scientific And Technological Development Of Early Nigerian Societies

Information on the major landmark in early Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done on places where man lived in Nigeria in the remote places. Some of these place were: Nok, Igbo-ukwu, Ife and Benin.

Nok Culture /Civilization

The discovery of a terracotta (burnt clay) head of a monkey by tin miners in Nok in 1936 prompted more discoveri8in other places such as Samba, Kastina-Ala and Jema.

Benin Civilization

Benin was important for its art-work. The craftsmen of Benin carved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass

Ife Civilization

Ode is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads. Objects such as stools and figures were carved on hard stones called quartz while animal and human figures were from granite and decorated with iron nails.

Igbo-ukwu Civilization

Some bronze object and ornament were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at Igbo-ukwu in 1939. This eventually led to the excavation of three sites the area by an archaeologist called Thurstan Shaw.

Traditional Political Institution in Pre-Colonial Nigeria

In this section, three majority ethnic groups of Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa-Fulani in Nigeria traditional political system of government shall be examined.

Political Structure of the Pre-Colonial Yoruba Land

Each town has a king known as “Oba” who resides in the palace called “Aafin”. The Oba is both the spiritual and political head of the kingdom.

The king also had other rulers of lesser rank and status. The lesser rulers were in charge of the subordinate towns. Another group of rulers were the “Baale” and the “Oloja”, the Baale were the third rank of rulers and they were in charge of the villages. The Oloja were the fourth rank of rulers and they ruled over the farm lands. The town (ilu) was the basic political unit, while the subordinate towns were the bedrock on which the administration of the whole kingdom was based. Each town was divided into smaller units to wards to facilitate smooth administration.

These wards were under ward heads known as “Ijoye”. The wards were in turn subdivided into compounds (agbo-ile) under the compound head known as Baale. Each compound was a group of patrilineal related people known as “idile”, headed by the most senior male member of the family. The chiefs acted as advisers to the king and served as a link between king and members of the ward.

Political Structure of the Pre-Colonial Igbo Land

In the Igbo society, there was no highly centralized authority. They practiced a decentralized system of government. The family was the smallest political unit in the Igbo traditional society. Each family was headed by an “Ozo” title holder.

Age grade was organized on a village basis. The association or age grew from childhood and took a common name to commemorate an event associated with the time of their birth.

Oha-na-eze was a form of general assembly in traditional Igbo society. All the male adult members usually met in this assembly to perform legislative functions.

The secret societies consisted of the diviners' masquerades, “Ubinuknabi” at Arochuku, the “Amadisha” of Ozuzu, and so on. They acted as intermediaries between the living and the ancestors.

Political Structure of the Pre-Colonial Hausa Land

The Emir was an absolute monarch in his emirate, he was the political, administrative and spiritual leader. The Emir's cabinet included:

1. Sarkin Fada: The spoken man of the Emirates and the organizer of palace workers
2. Waziri: The Prime Minister
3. Galadima: The Administrator
4. Madawaki: The Commander and Head of Emirate Army
5. Magaji: Treasurer
6. Sarkin Dan Doka: Inspector General of Police Force

7. Sarkin Ruwa: Minister-in -charge of water resources or the river fishing official
8. Sarkin Pawa: Head of chairman of Butcher at Abattoirs
9. Yaro: Chief of Superintendent of Prisons in the Emirate

The Birth of Nigeria as a Geo-Political Entity

The May 1906 amalgamation is known as the first-ever Amalgamation of the British in Nigeria. British government amalgamated Lagos colony and Protectorate with the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria to form the new colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

The second Amalgamation was that of 1914. In January 1914 the British government amalgamated Northern and Southern Nigeria the principal reason for this is the same as that of May 1906. “ to use the better financial position of the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria to cover the cost of administration and development in the financial weak colony and Protectorate of Lagos, then saddled with the White Elephant of a railway in the need of extension since 1901 “. The northern Protectorate was not as economically buoyant as the colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria.