

CHAPTER 2

The historical background of Nigeria government and politics involves the pre-colonial period in Nigeria. The pre-colonial period is the period before the coming of the colonialist to Nigeria, while the colonial period refers to the era that colonial administration was established in the country, the Nigeria state is a colonial creation, it is a product of a historical arrangement that arise out of the European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Nigeria precolonial Nigeria comprises of different independent cureflans, states kingdoms and empires. These anong others include the Borno empire, the Hausa states, and the sokoto caliphate in the north, the igbo segmentary societies in the east, benin kingdom and the oyo empire in the west and several ethnic identities in the benue valley.

EARLY MAN IN NIGERIA

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unkown but there are arcuacological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the palaethnic period 500,000-9000BC.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF EARLY MAN

The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment, first the need food so for the purpose he began to hunt the animals to gather fruits. He later began to invent tools consisting of pebbles made into chopping and cutting tools.

ARCHEAOLOGIST CALLED THE TOOLS THE OLDWOMAN TYPE TOOLS

This is because this type of tools was first identified by the archreaologist in the olduval gorge in Tanzania. He began to make hand axes, these were tools which were oval and pointed in shape. they also had a cutting edge and were trimmed from both side. These tools were made during the early stone age and late stone age.

THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY NIGERIAN SOCIETIES MAJOR LANDMARK IN EARLY NIGERIAN HISTORY

The information in the major land marks in early Nigerian history was made possible through the excavation work done one pace where man lived in Nigeria in the very remote past. Some of the places where man lived in Ife and BENIN among others.

IFE CIVILISATION

This is important because of its terracotta and bronze heads objects such as stools and figures were carved on hard stone called, quartz while animal and human figures were carved from arenite and decorated with iron nails.

BENIN CIVILISATION

This was important for its artwork. The craftsmen of the Benin carved in wood and ivory and cast objects in bronze and brass. Art historians claim that bronze casting was introduced into Benin by ife-artist. They cast wooden doors and ivory, mask one of which was the ivory mask used as festac symbol in 1977

NOK CULTURE CIVILISATION

The discovery of a terracotta (burnt clay) head of a monkey by tonmers in NOK in 1936 promoted more discoveries in their places such as wamba, katsina, ala, and jema, the area where these terracotta figures were found is called the NOK CULTURE OR CIVILISATION AREA.

Igbo ukwu civilization

Some bronze objects and ornaments were accidentally discovered while digging a toilet pit at igbo ukwu 1939. This is eventually led to the excavation of three sites in the area by an archaeologist called Thurston straw. The three sites included a burial chamber, a pit and a compound wall.

TRADITIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN PRE-COLONIAL NIGERIA

In this section the three majority ethnic groups

Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa