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**REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7 – POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

**INTRODUCTION**

Political parties help government maintain its hold on power and it a very important link between government and its people.

**WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY?**

A political party performs so many task s in the political process that it is difficult to establish a single definition. However, A political party can be defined as an organized body with voluntary membership who act as a political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general politics.

**TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

1. **Elitist/Cadre parties**
2. **Mass parties:**  Has wide membership from all sections of the society and their manifestoes is aimed at alleviating the suffering of the masses.
3. **Ideological parties:** they are formed with ideology or benefits which forms the bases of the party.
4. **Broker parties:** Aims to reconcile conflicting interests of the rich and poor by carrying out social justice for all.
5. **Charismatic or personality parties:** Formed or led by individuals with charisma. It is mostly about the personal qualities of a leader.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF A POLITICAL PARTY**

1. To capture governmental power through peaceful and lawful constitutional means.
2. They always have party ideology - a broad principle of public policy that serves as the basis for classifying parties as either leftist, rightist, liberal, communist, labor, conservative, etc.
3. Every political party must be nation minded. I.e. takes into consideration the interest of the nation.
4. They should be an organized body
5. They should have party manifestoes that guide their conduct during and after winning an election.
6. Political parties are guided by party constitution which directs their conduct within and outside government.

**FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

1. Political mobilization and recruitment
2. Political education
3. Political representation
4. Interest aggregation
5. Political stability
6. Goal formation
7. Organization of government
8. Conflict management and political integration
9. Electoral completion and government
10. Provision of alternative government and policies.

***POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA***

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movements. The fulcrum for ‘the emergence of parties’ formation in Nigeria was constitutional development. The first political party formed in Nigeria was **The Nigerian National development party (NNDP)** in 1923 and was led by Herbert Macaulay. The party was based in Lagos with no coloration. The national council of Nigerian and Cameroon (NCNC) was formed in 1944 it was the first political party to be organized to seek total independence for Nigeria. Two major parties emerged between 1950 and 1951. These were Action congress and Northern People’s congress(NPC)

The Nigerian first multi-party system gave rise to the emergence of many political parties. Some small parties were formed as a result of disagreement from the major parties. Since the inception of the fourth republic, other political parties have been registered by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Nigeria now has over 50 political parties amongst which we have the Peoples democratic party (PDP), All progressive congress (APC), Democratic people’s party (DPP), etc.

***Problems That Confronted Pre-Independent Political Parties.***

1. The political parties placed much emphasis on personalities than issues.
2. They were without national outlook they had regional support and ethnic loyalty.
3. Inter- party and intra- party conflicts in most cases polarized the political parties and thereby splitting them into fractions.
4. Political party defection weakened or led to the collapse of political parties during that era.

**CONCLUSION**

The Nigerian political party is currently facing lots of challenges which includes high level of corruption, unfavorable conditions for small parties without connection to god fathers, etc. many leaders of political parties sees their party activity as a means of making money and sharing the national cake. There is a need to change and put and end this mentality of theirs and ensure that political parties begin to help the government again, protect and take into consideration the interest of the nation and promote the development of Nigeria .