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ANSWER

Political parties are an essential feature of politics. The first modern electtoral democracy was the united state of America, and it was here that the first parties developed. By the 1820s, there were well-organised parties, and the Democratic party, which can trace its roots back to that time, is the oldest poliyical party in the world. According to Herman Finer defined political party as an organized body with voluntary membershio, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political power. There are six characteristics of poliyical party which are;

* The major feature of politicall party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means
* Its to always have a party ideology
* Every political party must be national minded
* It should be an organized body
* They must have party manifestoes
* They are guided by party constitutions.

There are five types of political parties which are;

* Elist Parties
* Mass Parties
* Ideological Parties
* Broker parties
* Charismatic parties

The political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments. The National Congress of British West African students union in 1925 and the lagos youth movement in 1934. According to Ikelegbe, 2010; two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951. These were the action group (AG) and the Northern People’s Congress (NPC). The Action group emerged from the Egbe Omo Oduduwa Egbe Omo Oduduwa was formed in 1945, as a pan yoruba cultural society. The Nothern People’s Congress emerged from the jam’iyya mutanein Arewa. In 1949 by Dr Dikko, M. Yahaya Gusau, Aminu Kano and Abubakar Imam. The main purpose of the association was combating ignorance, idleness and injustice in the northern region.

The third party in the second republic which is the Nigerian People’s Party (NPP) reincarnated from the NCNC with its main support as igbo by its leader as Nnamdi Azikiwe. The Great Nigeria People’s Party (GNPP) was led by Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim. Its ethnic base was kanuri, its major campaign programme and slogan was ‘’ politicians without bitterness.’’ General Ibrahim Babangida promulated the transition to civil rule decree through which two political parties where registered in accordance with the constitutionof the federl republic of Nigeria, 1989.

Three poltical parties were registered in preparation towards the fourth republic in 1998 by the independent national electoral commission (INEC) among several political associations that struggled for registration as political parties. The All People Party (APP) won nine gubernatorial elections in the north-west and middle-belt zones during the 1999 elections.