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**ASSIGNMENT**

Make a review of chapter **7** of the text book.

**Political Parties In Nigeria**

Political parties are essential features of politics in the modern age. They help to keep governments accountable to public opinion, they also help the governments maintain its hold on power. Politicians developed the idea of political party at that time as a device to help themselves and like-minded friends get elected.

The first modern electoral democracy was the united state of America, and it was where the first parties developed. Different definitions of political parties has been given by various political thinkers such as; **I.R.G** gettel, Herman Finer,Joseph Lapalombara, Agbaje(1999),Burke 1975, Huges (1972).

Political parties is a group of officials or would-be officials who are linked with a sizable group of citizens into an organization; a chief object of this organization is to ensure that its officials attain power or maintain power.(shively, 2008)

**CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTY**

* The major or central major feature of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means .
* Political parties always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization which is referred to as party ideology.
* Every political party must be national minded.
* Political party should be an organized body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure.
* Political powers has party manifestos which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.
* Political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government.

**TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

* Elitist/cadre parties
* Mass parties
* Ideological parties
* Broker parties
* Charismatic or personality parties
* **ELITIST/CADRE PARTIES**

This a political party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership.

* **IDEOLOGICAL PARTIES**

This a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the basis of he party.

* **BROKER PARTIES**

This political party formed from its members drawn from upper and lower classes of the society.

* **CHARISMATIC PARTIES**

This political party is formed or led by individuals with charisma or personal qualities of the leader.

**Functions of the political parties**

* Political mobilization and recruitment
* Political education
* Political representation
* Interest aggregation
* Political stability
* Conflict management and political integration
* Organization of government
* Provision of alternative government and polices
* Electoral competition and governance
* Goal formation.

**Political parties in Nigeria.**

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements(kelegbe 2010). The fullerum fit the emergence of parties formation in Nigeria was constitutional development.

**Early political parties 1920-1950**

The Nigerian National Development party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. It was introduced by Clifford constitution in 1922. Which was led by **Herbert McCauley** regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism. The Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsaya and Dr. J.C Vaughin the (NCNC)Nigerian council of Nigerian Cameroon ,was formed in 1944 which was later renamed the national convention of Nigeria citizen in 1960 when some parts in Cameroon broke away from Nigeria.

The NCNC was the major Nigerian party until 1950, Nnamdi Azikiwe became it president in 1946 after the Herbert maculey’s death.

**Political parties in Nigeria;1950-1956** The

* (AG) Action group
* (NPC) Northern Peoples Congress smaller parties include;
* (NEPU) Northern Element Progressive Union.
* (UMBC) United Middle Best Congress.
* (UNIP)United National Independent party.

**Problems that confronted pre-independence political parties**

They were certain challenges that these political parties faced.

1. The political parties were without national outlook. They had regional support and ethnic loyalty.

2. The political parties placed more emphasis on personalities rather than issues.

3. Intra-party and inter-party conflicts is not cases polarized the political parties and thereby spill it if them into factions

4. Political parties defection weakened or led to the collapse of political parties during this era.

**Political parties in the second republic in Nigeria**

The ban on political parties was lifted in September 1978 ,following that about 53 political associations sought to contest the 1979 general elections. Five of this associations , were registered by the Federal Electoral commission. These were the

* National party of Nigeria (NPN)
* The great nigeria people party (TGNPP)
* The people’s redemption party (PRP)
* Unity party of Nigeria (UPN)
* Nigerian advance party (NAP)

**Political parties in the third republic of Nigeria**

The constitution, objectives policies, and programmes of the two political parties were set up by the military government. These are;

* Social Democratic Party (SDP)
* National republican convention(NRC)

**Political parties in the fourth republic**

Three political parties in the preparation towards the fourth republic in 1998 by the independent national electoral commission (INEC) these are;

* Alliance for democracy (AD)
* All people’s party(APP) changed in 2002 to All Nigeria people’s party
* People’s democratic party(ADP)

These parties are organized and administered at the ward, local government area, state, zonal and national levels and have registered offices at all 1999 general elections.

**Political parties in the fourth republic**

Since the inception of the fourth republic, however other political parties have been registered by INEC. So Nigeria now has the following political parties;

* Abundant Nigeria Renewal Party(ANRP)
* Action Alliance(AA)
* Action people’s party
* Advanced allied party (AAP)
* Advanced congress of Democrats (ACD)
* Advanced Nigeria Democratic Party(ANDP)
* Advanced people’s democratic Alliance(APDA)
* African action congress (AAC)
* African Democratic Congress (ADC)
* African people’s alliance(APA)
* All blending party(ABP)
* All grand alliance party (AGAP)
* Freedom and justice party(FJP)
* Democratic people’s party(DPP)
* Coalition for change(C4C)
* Alternative party of Nigeria(APN)
* Justice must prevail party(JMPP)
* Green Party of Nigeria (GPN)
* Change advocacy party(CAP)
* Alliance for new Nigeria (ANN)

There are so many other political parties, moreover the aim or political project of most Nigerian parties has been the development of a national system for sharing out the “national cake” as a system of patronage. This is why the parties are established as coalitions of various factors of regional and economical rent-seekers.