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REVIEW ON CHAPTER 7: POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA.

Political parties are an important link between the government and the people. They are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. The political party crops in all aspects of politics. It is an invention that first developed in the nineteenth century in response to the appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters. The idea of a political party was developed by politicians to help themselves and like-minded friends get elected, but the party proved to have many more uses and as well went on to become a ubiquitous feature of modern politics.

The chapter aims to discuss the evolution of political parties in Nigeria.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION OF THE IDEA OF POLITICAL PARTY

There are as many definitions of political parties as to the political thinkers. Political parties perform so many tasks that it is difficult to establish a single definition. A political party is a group of officials or would-be officials who are linked with a sizable group of citizens into an organization; a chief objective of this organization is to ensure that its officials attain power or maintain power.

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTY

1. Every political party must be national-minded
2. The major feature of political parties is capturing governmental power through constitutional means.
3. It is an organized body.
4. Political parties have manifestos that guide their conduct during and after winning the election.

TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES

1. **Elitist/Cadre parties:** This type of party draws membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.
2. **Mass Parties:** This political party draws membership from all sections of society.
3. **Ideological Party:** They are political parties formed with political benefits.
4. **Broker Party:** This is a political party formed with its members drawn from upper and lower classes of the society.

5. **Charismatic/Personality Party:** This party is formed or led by individuals with charisma.

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

1. Electoral Competition and Governance
2. Political Education
3. Political Representation
4. Interest Aggregation
5. Goal Formation
6. Political stability
7. Conflict management

POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

The development of political parties followed the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements. The fulcrum for the emergence of parties' formation in Nigeria was constitutional development.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA 1950-1966

Between 1950-1951 two political parties emerged according to Ikelegbe, 2010. These parties emerged from the cultural association, because of the prospects of the 1951 election following the MacPhersons constitution. The AG was started as the political wing of the Egbe Omo Oduduwa in 1950. It was formally inaugurated in April 1951. Its leader was Obafemi Awolowo, the general secretary of Egbe Omo Oduduwa. The main aim of AG was to provide leadership to and capture political power in the western region. The Nigerian multi-party system of the first republic gave rise to the emergence of many political parties apart from the three major political parties.

Problems that confronted pre-independence political parties

1. The political parties were without a national outlook;
2. The political parties placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues;
3. The defection of political parties led to the collapse of political parties during this era;

4. Intra-party and inter-party conflicts in most cases polarized the political parties and thereby splitting them into factions.