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MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

GST 203: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7 OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

This chapter of the book enlightens us about political parties in Nigeria. It starts by letting us know the that political parties are an essential feature in the modern age of mass participation and the first modern electoral democracy was in the united states of America and it was there that the first parties developed. There are many definitions of political parties by scholars, According to RG Gettel he defined political party as a group of citizens more or less organized who act as a political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the Government and carrying out its general policies. There are several characteristics of political parties which one of them is to capture governmental power through constitutional means and they also have a broad principle of public policy adopted by its organization which is reffered to as party ideology etc… They are several types of political parties which are Elitist parties,Mass parties,Ideological party, Broker party and charismatic party. Functions of political parties were also discussed which are political mobilization and recruitement,political education,political representation,interest aggregation,political stability etc..The Author goes on to discuss the history of political parties in Nigeria.It developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements.Nnamdi Azikiwe,Obafemi Awolowo and some others were precursors of political parties in Nigeria.The Nigerian National Development party(NNDP) was regarded as the first political party in Nigeria and it was formed in 1923 during the Clifford constitution of 1922 and it was led by Herbert Macaulay..The Nigerian youth movement(NYM) was formed in 1934,The NCNC which is the National council of Nigeria and Cameroon was formed in 1944.

Two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951 which were the Action group and the Nothern people congress.The leader of the Action group party was Obafemi Awolowo while the Nothern people congress was emerged by the Jamiyya Mutanein Arewa and it was formed in 1949..There are several problems that confronted pre-independence political parties.The political parties were without national outlook they had regional support and ethnic loyalty etc. The several parties in the second republic were the national party of Nigeria,The Nigerian people party,The Great Nigerian peoples party,The people redemption party,The unity party etc….The third republic political party were the(SDP)social democratic party and the (NRC) national republican convention.Alliance or democracy(AD),All people party which in 2002 changed its name to All Nigeria people party and the people democratic party(PDP) were parties under the 4th republic.Other parties were also registered by INEC ADP,APP,ADC,AGA,ABP ETC…. In conclusion Nigeria political parties face some challenges,First there is high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business..