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SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 7 (POLITICAL PARTIES IN N IGERIA),

Political parties are an essential feature of politics. They keep government accountable to public opinion. Political parties were first developed in the nineteenth century because of the elections that involved a large number of voters. It was a device created by politicians to give themselves and opportunity to be elected. The first modern electoral democracy was in the United States of America. In Britain, in the year 1867. A lot of people voted. Political parties in Nigeria developed due to the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalists movements in the 1920s.

Conceptual clarification of the idea of political parties

Different scholars such as R. G. Gettel. Joseph LaPalomara, Dowse and Hughes etc. have a different definition of political parties. Political parties can be defined as a group of officials or would-be officials who are linked with a sizable group of citizens into an organization whose objective is to ensure that its officials attain power or maintain power. It can also be defined as a party that joins people together in a formally organized structure.

Characteristics of political parties

1. Capturing power through constitutional means
2. Political parties always have a broad principles of public adopted by its organisations
3. Every political parties must be national minded
4. It should be an organised body because it only derives strength from an effective organisational strength
5. Political parties have parties’ manifestos that guide their conduct before and after election.

Types of political parties

1. Elitist/Cadre Parties: It is a kind of political parties that draw its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country. Example Lawyers, Doctors, Lecturers etc.
2. Mass parties: This political party have wide membership because they draw members from all section of the society.
3. Ideological party: It is formed with political ideology or benefit
4. Broker party: The members of this political parties Is drawn from both the upper and lower class of the society.
5. Charismatic or personality parties: They are formed or led by individuals with Charisma.

Functions of political parties

1. Political stability
2. Political education
3. Interest aggregation
4. Organisation of government
5. Conflict management and political integration etc.

Political parties in Nigeria

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and national movements. In the **early political parties in Nigeria (from 1920-1950),** Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was created and it was regarded as the first political party formed by the Nigeria army. The NNDP was introduced by the Clifford constitution of 1922. In 1923, the NNDP was headed by Herbert Macaulay who is regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism. The National Youth Movement (NYM) was formed in 1934 and it was led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and Dr. J.C Vaughan. The National council of Nigeria and Cameroon (NCNC) was formed in 1944. The NCNC was the first political parties to be organised to seek total independence for Nigeria, between 1946 and 1948. The NCNC was the major Nigerian party until 1950. For **Political parties in Nigeria, from 1950-1966** two major Political parties emerged during this time specifically between 1950 and 1951, they are; Action Group (AG) and Northern People Congress (NPC). The Egbe Omo Oduduwa was formed in 1945 as a pan Yoruba cultural society. Obafemi Awolowo led this party. The Nigerian multi-party system of the first republic gave rise to the emergence of many political parties at part from the three major political parties. These political parties include; Northern Element Progressive Union (NEPU), United Middle Belt Congress (UMBC), United National Independent Party (UNIP) etc. For the **Political parties in the second republic in Nigeria.** Only five political associations were registered out of the Fifty three associations sought to contents in the 1979 general election. They are;

1. National Party of Nigerian (NPN)
2. The Great Nigeria’s Peoples Party (GNPP)
3. Nigeria People Party (NPP)
4. Peoples Redemption Party (PRP)
5. Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN)
6. Nigerian Advance Party of Nigeria (NAP)

It is in the **Political parties in the third republic Nigeria** that for the first time in 1989, Nigeria had a constitutional two party system, Social Democratic System (SDP), The registration of this party was approved by the Armed forces ruling council with Chief Tony Anenih and National Republican Convention (NRC), It was registered by the approval of the armed forces ruling council with Chief Tony Ikimi.

**Political parties in the fourth republic**

In preparation for the fourth republic in 1988, three political parties were registered by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The names of the registered parties are the;

1. Alliance for Democracy (AD)
2. All Peoples Party (APP)
3. All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP)
4. People Democratic Party (PDP).

After the fourth republic many other political parties have been registered by INEC