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**REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7(POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA)**

 Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age. In the liberal-democratic systems, they keep government accountable to public opinion, also in autocratic system, they help government to hold on power. Generally, they create link between the government and people. political party was first developed in the nineteenth century to help like-minded friends get elected which made it a key feature in modern politics . The first modern electoral democracy was in the USA in 1820s, in which the oldest political party in the world, the Democracy Party can be traced. Also in 1867, in Britain many large electorate were established and in Nigeria, political parties developed as result of the growth of nationalist consciousness and movement in 1920s.

 The term political parties were defined by various political thinkers and some are stated below. According to R.G.Grettel, "political party is a group of citizens more or less organized, who act as a political units and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies". According to Joseph LaPalombara, "political party is a formal organization whose self-conscious, primary purpose is to place and maintain in public office, person who will control alone or in coalition, as the machinery of government". According Herman Finer, "political party is an organized body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political power". From this above definitions we can say that a political party is a group of citizens, more or less organized, having some agreement in broad principles of national policy with an effort to capture political power by some constitutional means.

 Some characteristics of political parties are to capture governmental power through constitutional means(major feature), they have party ideology which classifies them into liberal, commmunist,etc, they must be national-minded(have the interest of the nation), they should be organized, they should have a party manifestoes to guide their conduct before after winning an election, their members and party officials conduct should be guided by the party's constitution.

 There are different types of political parties, they are; Elitist Parties which draws members who are the highest echelon of social hierarchy in the country(intellectuals, traditional rulers,etc), Mass Parties which draws its members from all sections of the society (having wide membership and aims at reducing the suffering of masses), Ideological Parties are formed with political ideology(this ideology forms bases of the party), Broker Parties which draws its members from upper and lower classes of society(basic aim is to eradicate the conflict of interest between rich and poor) and Charismatic Parties formed by people with charisma and revolves around their leaders personal qualities. Political parties perform various functions like; political mobilization, recruitment, education , representation, integration, stability, interest aggregation, conflict management, organization of government, provision of alternative government, electoral competition, etc.

 Political parties started when nationalist formed associations to organize against colonial misrule, which brought about National Congress of British West Africa Territories formed in 1920, West African Students Union in 1925 and Lagos Youth Movement in 1934( with Herbert Macaulay, H.O Davis, Ernest Ikoli, etc being in the forefront) . In 1920-1950, parties were formed like Nigerian National Development Party which was the first party formed in 1923 led by Herbert Macaulay after the introduction of Clifford constitution of 1922. NNDP campaigns were aided by the Lagos Daily News newspaper launched in 1925. Nigerian Youth Movement formed in 1934 led by, Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and Dr.J.C.Vaughan to promote Nigerian unity and complete autonomy. National Council of Nigerian and Cameroon formed in 1944 later renamed National Convention of Nigerian Citizens since Cameroon broke away in 1960, they were first to organized for Nigeria's independence with Herbert Macaulay and Nnamdi Azikiwe as president and general secretary respectively. In 1950-1966, two parties emerged due to 1951 elections, they were Action Group, a cultural association of Egbe Omo Oduduwa(the Yorubas) was formed in 1950 but inaugurated in April 1951, they were led by Obafemi Awolowo and was aimed at providing leadership to and capture political power in the west. Northern Peoples' Congress, a cultural association of Jam'iyya Mutanien Arewa was formed in 1949 and in 1960 turned to a political party whose main aim was combating ignorance, injustice and control government in the north. This multi-party system gave rise to other smaller parties like Northern Element Progressive Union formed in August 1950 and led by Late Mallam Aminu Kano,etc. The some problems faced by pre-independence political parties are lack of national outlook, inter-party and intra-party conflicts,etc.

 Five political parties were also formed in the second republic of Nigeria after the ban was lifted in September 1978, to contest 1979 general elections. They are National Party of Nigeria which launched in September 1978 in Lagos, their goal was national unity with the slogan "one nation, one destiny" and provision of food, shelter and education. They won the presidential seat( for 4 years and 3 months) in 1979 and 13 state government seat in1983 elections ,the Unity Party of Nigeria(offshoot of Action Group) whose main support were Yorubas, their aim was to get free education, health services , employment and rural development in the country. In 1979 they won five seats and lost one in 1983 election and was the opposition party for NPN. Nigerian Peoples' Party was the third registered company(from NCNC) having the Igbo's' support as it main and was aimed at creating full employment and economic, social and political equality in all section of Nigeria, they won and controlled Imo, Anambra and Plateau. Great Nigeria Peoples' Party led Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim with the ethnic base of Kanuri. It major aim was creating politicians without bitterness and controlled Borno Gongola in 1979-1983 and the last part being Peoples Redemption Party.

 In the third republic of Nigeria, Nigeria adopted a constitutional two party system after the transition of General Babangida to civil rule, they are Social Democratic Party approved by the Armed Forces Ruling Council with Chief Tony Anenih as it national chairman. Their party's programmes were favoring more public ownership and control of the economy and they were said to have won the annulled presidential election of June12,1993 and controlled both senate and House Representatives. National Republican Convention approved by Armed Forces Ruling Council with Chief Tom Ikimi as its national chairman and its programmes were more of private initiatives and state regulations and paid less attention to free education and other social welfare policies.

 In the fourth republic, three political parties were registered by the Independent National Election Commission which were Alliance for Democracy who sponsored and contest in the1998 1nd 1999 general election and won seat in the States Assembly and the local government elections, All Peoples Party(later changed to All Nigeria People's Party) won 9 elections in the north-west and middle-belt zones in 1999 and joined with AD to get a candidate for presidency in 1999 and the last party was Peoples' Democratic Party whose aims were maintaining and preserving integrity, unity and sovereignty of Nigeria as one political entity and the won the presidential election in 1999(keeping power for 16 years). After the fourth republic over 90 parties were registered by INEC. This brought about cohesion among Nigerians and engendering development as party leaders see this as means to further their business interest.