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**CHAPTER SEVEN (7) REVIEW.**

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA.**

The main aim of political parties is to capture power but there are other characteristics like they are national minded which means they consider the nations interest. They have their party manifestos that guides their conduct before and after winning elections. They have their own code of conduct that guides the officials in a political party. There are different types of political party; cadre parties, their members are drawn from the highest rank in the social hierarchy; mass parties, they draw their members from all ranks in the society, ideology parties, thisnoarty is formed to promote ideological interests, brokers party, they draw their members from both the rich and the poor so that the conflict between this two social status could be resolve by carrying out policies that promote social justice, charismatic party, this led by a person with personal qualities of a leader.

Political parties can be regarded as one of the essential features of politics in the modern age of mass participation in government affairs by citizens. They are seen as a link between government and the people. The political party crops up 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. Politicians developed the idea of political party at that time as a device to help themselves and like-minded friends get elected, but the party proved to have many other uses as well and went on to become a ubiquitous feature of modern politics. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist’s movement in the 1920s. Different political thinkers have come up with different definitions to political parties:

* R.G Gettel: ‘Political party is 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.’
* Herman Finer: ‘An organized body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of Political Power.’
* Joseph LaPalombara: ‘A formal organization whose self-conscious, primary purpose is to place and maintain in public office person who will control alone or in coalition, the machinery of government.’
* Agbaje (1999): ‘A political party is a group of persons bonded in policy and opinion in support of a general political cause, which essentially is the pursuit, capture and retention, for as long as democratically feasible, of government and its offices.
* Edmund Burke: ‘A body of men united for promoting by their joint endeavors the national interests upon some particular principle in which they are all agreed.’

From the above opinions we can derive 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.

Characteristics of political parties:

1. To capture governmental power through constitutional means.
2. Broad principles of public policy call party ideology.
3. They are national-minded in aims and functions.
4. Organized body.
5. Party manifestoes.
6. They are guided by a party constitution.

Functions of political parties:

1. Political mobilization
2. Political education
3. Interest aggregation
4. Political stability etc.

Types of political parties:

* Elitist/Cadre Parties: Draws membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country like doctors, lawyers, traditional rulers etc.
* Mass Parties: Draws membership from all aspects of the society and have wide membership.
* Ideological Parties: Formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.
* Broker Parties: Formed with members drawn from upper and lower classes of the society.
* Charismatic or Personality Parties: Formed and led by individuals with charisma.

Early Political Parties (1920-1950): NNDP (Nigerian National Development Party) of 1923 led by Herbert Macaulay, NYM (Nigerian Youth Movement) 1934, NCNC (National Convention of Nigerian Citizen) 1944

Political Parties in Nigeria 1950-1966: AG (Action Group) 1945, NPC (Northern Peoples’ Congress) 1949, NEPU (Northern Element Progressive Union) 1950, UMBC (United Middle Belt Congress) 1955, UNIP (United National Independent Party).

Political Parties in the second republic: NPN (National Party of Nigeria), NPP (Nigerian People’s Party), GNPP (Great Nigeria Peoples Party), PRP (Peoples Redemption Party), UPN (Unity Party of Nigeria), NAP (Nigerian Advance Party)

The Third Republic had two major; the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and National Republican Convention(NRC). The SDP registration was approved by Armed Force Ruling Council with Chief Tony Anenih as their national chairman, the party predicted its campaign of populist, people's welfare and change from bad leadership, corruption, underdevelopment and crisis. The party won presidential election of 12th June 1993. The NRC,was registered through the approval of Armed forces Ruling Council with Chief Tom Ikimi as their national chairman, this party favoured private initiatives and cared less about free health and education.

The Fourth Republic, three political parties were registered by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Alliance for Democracy, they sponsored and contested throughout Nigeria during 1998 and 1999 general elections and won political power in six states in the south-west region between 1999 and 2003 and several Dtates Assembly seats and Local government elections. All Peoples Party (APP) won nine gubernatorial elections in northwest and middle belt zones during the 1999 elections and won several State Assembly and National Assembly seats. It aligned with AD present joint candidate during the 1999 Presidential election. The People's Democratic Party had the major aim of maintaining and preserving integrity, United sovereignty of Nigeria. It won he presidential elections in 1999 and maintained its stronghold presidency for sixteen years.