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REVIEW ON CHAPTER 7

POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Political parties are very important for mass participation especially in modern age,they aid in keeping the government accountable and to help them maintain its hold on power,it serves as an important link between the government and the people,its an invention that first developed in the nineteenth century due to elections with large number of voters.

The first modern electoral democracy was the united state of America and it was here that the first parties developed,around the 1820s there were well-organised parties,In Britain 1867 was the first year in which there was a reasonably widespread extension of the votes,Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movement in the 1920s.

Conceptual Clarification of the idea of political party.

There are alot of definitions of political parties.One of which is 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 object of this organisation is to ensure that its officials attain power or maintain power,it should also be noted that a party joins people together in a formally organised structure.

Characteristics of political party.

- Major feature is to capture governmental power through constitutional means.

- A political party must be national-minded.

- Have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organisation.

- Has party manifestoes.

- Must be guided by party constitution.

Types of political parties

- Mass parties

- Broker party

- Charismatic or personality parties

- Ideological party

- Elitist/Cadre parties

Functions of political parties

- Political stability
- Organisation of government
- Interest aggregation
- Political education

Political parties in Nigeria

Developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements. NNDP Nigerian National Development Party was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria, introduced the Clifford Constitution of 1922, NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism. The Nigerian Youth Movement NYM was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli, the National Council of Nigerian and Cameroon NCNC was formed in 1944 it was the first party to be organised to seek total independence, the first president and general secretary were Herbert Macaulay and Nnamdi Azikiwe respectively.

Problems that confronted Pre-Independence political parties.

- They were without national outlook
- Placed more emphasis on personalities rather than issues
- Political party defection weakened or led to the collapse of political parties during this era.

Political parties in the second republic in Nigeria

The ban on politics was lifted in September, five associations were registered by the Federal electoral commission : NPN, NPP, GNPP, PRP, UPN, NAP (which was registered to contest in 1983 elections.

Political parties in the third republic Nigeria

General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule decree through which the two political parties (SDP and NRC) were registered in accordance with the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Political parties in the fourth republic

Parties like AD, APP, ANPP, PDP were registered, since the inception of the fourth republic and the registration of parties by INEC Nigeria now has a lot of political party.

The political parties face some problems such as corruption.