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Assignment: 1. Do a two page review of Chapter 7, "Political Parties in Nigeria," In Salient issues in Government and Nigeria's Politics

2. Do a two page review of Chapter 8, Citizens Role in a Democracy, In Salient issues in Government and Nigeria's Politics

 **Chapter 7**

Political parties in Nigeria.

Political parties are essential are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. They help to keep governments accountable to public opinion; even the autocratic system of government. They help the government maintain it’s hold on power. Politicians developed the idea of political party at the times as a device to help themselves and like minded friends get elected, but the party proves to have many other users as well and went on to become a ubiquitous feature of modern politics (shively,,2008)

The first modern electoral democracy was the United state of America and it was here that the first parties developed. By the 1820s, there were well organized parties, and the Democratic Party which can trace its roots back to that time, is the oldest political part in the world. In Britain, 1867 was the first year in which there was a reasonably widespread extension of the votes.political parties in Nigeria developed following growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements in the 1920s.

Conceptual clarification of the idea of political party

According to R.G. Gettel political part is a group of citizens more or less organized, who act as political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies. A political party performs so many tasks in the political process that it is difficult to establish a single definition. A political part 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 organization is to ensure that it’s officials attain of power or plantain power.

Characteristics of political party

1. The major or central feature of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means.
2. Political parties always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organizations, which is referred to as party ideology.
3. Very political party must be nation minded ie in aims and functions, it must take into consideration the interest of the nation.
4. Political part should be organized body because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure
5. Political parties had party manifestos which guide their conduct during and after winning elections.
6. Political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government.

Types of political parties

1. Elitist/cadre parties: this political party that draws its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.
2. Mass parties: this is political party that dress its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership.
3. Ideology party: this is a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party
4. Broker party: this is political party formed with its members drawn from upper and lower classes of society
5. Charismatic or personality party: this is political party formed or led by individuals with charisma it revolves around the personal qualities of the leader.

Functions of political party

1. Political mobilization and recruitment
2. Political education
3. Political representation
4. Interest aggregation
5. Political stability
6. Conflict management and political integration

Organization of government

Early political parties 1920-1950

The Nigerian national development party was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. The elective principal introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP In 1923. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigeria nationalism. The Nigerian youth movement was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and DR J.C Vaughan. The party contested and won elections to the Nigerian legislative council and Lagos town council in 1938. The national council of Nigerian and Cameroon was formed in 1944 it was later re named the national convention of Nigerian citizens in NCNC as the first political party to be organized to seek total independence for Nigeria

Political parties in Nigeria 1950-1966

According to Ikelegbe, 2010 two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951 these were action group (AG) and the norther people congress (NPC) these parties emerged form cultural associations because of the prospects of the 1951 elections following the Macpherson constitution. The action group was started as the political wing of the Egbe Omo Oduduwa in 1950 it was formally inaugurated in April, 1951 its leaders was Obafemi Awolowo , the general secretary of Egbe Omo Oduduwa . The main aim of the action group was to provide leadership to and capture political power in the western region.

The northern people congress emerged from the Jam’iyya Mutanein Arewa . The cultural association was formed in 1949 by DrDikko, M. Yahaya Gusau, Aminu Kano and Abubakar imam. The main purpose of the association was combatting ignorance idleness injustice in the birthed region and control of the government in the north.

Problems that confronted pre-independence political parties

1. The political parties were without national outlook. They had regional support and ethnic loyalty
2. The political parties placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues
3. Intra-party and inter party conflicts in most cases polarized the political parties ant thereby splitting them into factions
4. Political party defection weakened or led to the collapse of the political parties during this era

Political parties in the second republic in Nigeria

The ban of politics was lifted in September,1978 following that about 53 political party associations sought to contest the 1979 general elections. Five of these associations were registered by the federal electoral commission. These were the national party of Nigeria, the Nigeria people party, the great Nigeria people’s part, the people’s redemption party and the unity party of Nigeria.

Political parties in the Third republican in Nigeria

General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule decree through which two political parties where registered in accordance with the constitution of the federal republican of Nigeria 1989 this for the first time Nigeria had a constitutional two party system the constitution, objectives , policies and programmes of the two political parties were set up by the military government. The two parties the social Democratic Party and the national republican convention were established by the government party officials were elected after ward, local government and state congresses and and national conventions were forced by government officials

Political parties in the fourth republican

Three political parties were registered in preparation towards the fourth republic in In 1998 by the independent national electoral commission (INEC) among several political associations that struggled for registration as political parties the names of the registered parties are the alliance for democracy(AD) all people’s party (APP) which in 2002 changed its name to all Nigerian people’s party (ANPP) and the people’s Democratic Party (PDP) theses parties are organized and administered at the ward, local government area, state, zonal and national levels and have registered offices at all levels. These political parties contested in 1998and 1999 general elections.

Alliance for democracy sponsored and contested elections throughout Nigeria during 1998 and 1999 general elections it gained power in six states of the south west while the all people’s party won 9 gubernatorial elections in the north west and middle belt zones during 1999 elections. The third party the people’s Democratic Party, had as its major aim maintaining and preserving the integrity, unity and sovereignty of Nigeria as one indivisible political entity. PDP won the presidential elections in 1999 and maintained its strong hold in the presidency for sixteen years.

In conclusion Nigeria’s political parties face some challenges. First there is an extremely high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business. Second the regulatory framework for the establishment of parties should be change so that new parties do not have to forge coalition of the wealthy as a basis for their registration. Nigerians are engendering the development of the Nigeria.