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**QUESTION: REVIEW CHAPTER 7**

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. They help to keep government accountable to public opinions, and also to maintain its hold on power. Political parties are important link between government and the people. According to R.G. Gettel, “ political parties 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.” **CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTY**

1.political parties has party manifestoes 2.Every political party must be national- minded. 3..Political parties are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials.

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA** Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movement (Ikelegbe,2010). Herbert Macaulay,H.O.Davies,Ernest Ikoli,Nnamdi Azikiwe,Obafemi Owolowo and others were precursors od political parties in Nigeria. **EARLY POLITICAL PARTIES 1920-1950**. The Nigerian National Development (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. the formation of NNDP in 1923.NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism.

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA 1950-1966** The two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951. These were the Action Group (AG)and the Northern People’s Congress(NPC). The Action Group (AG) emerged from the Egbe Omo Oduduwa. While the Northern People’s Congress (NPC)emerged from the Jam'iyya Mutanein Arewa .

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE SECOND RREPUBLIC**. The ban on politics was lifted in September,1978.Following that about 53 political associations sought to contest the 1979 general elections. Five of this associations, were registered by the Federal Electoral Commission. These were The National Party of Nigeria(NPN),The Nigeria people’s Party (NPP),The Great Nigeria People’s Party (GNPP), the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP)and the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN).

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE THIRD REPUBLIC IN NIGERIA.** General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule decree through which two political parties were registered in accordance with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1989. Thus**,** for the first time, Nigeria had a constitutional two party system. The constitution,objectives,policies and programmers of the two political parties were set up by the military government.

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE FOURTH REPUBLIC**

Three political parties were registered in preparation towards the Fourth Republic in 1988 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 Peoples Party (APP)which in 2002 changed it name to All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and the People’s Democratic Party (PDP). These parties are organized and administered at the ward, local government area,state,zonal and national level and have registered offices at all levels. Since the inception of the Fourth Republic, however, other political parties have been registered by INEC. They include: Action Democratic Party (ADP), Action Alliance (AA), Acorrd (A), All Grassroots Alliance(AGA),African Action Congress (AAC), Allied Peoples Movement (APM),Change Advocacy Party (CAP), Democratic Alternative (DA), Democratic People’s Party (DPP),Hope Democratic Party (HDP),Green Party of Nigeria ((GPN), Independent Democrats (ID), Kowa Party (KP),Liberation Movement (LP), National Rescue Movement (NRM), Nigeria for Democracy (NFD), National Conscience Party (NCP), People for Democratic Change (PDC),People’s Trust (PT), Peoples Democratic Party ( PDP),Social Democratic Party (SDP),Socialist Party of Nigeria (SPN),United Patriots (UP).