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# CHAPTER 7:POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

Political parties are essential features required in the modern age of mass participation.political parties help the government maintain their hold on power.Political parties were often used as a link between the government and the masses,Political parties being an organized group of people with the same ideologies set up candidates for election in order to implement their agenda

The first invention of political parties was developed in the 19th century as a device to help politicians and like minded people to get elected,but it was proven to be more than that and became a feature of modern politics,The first modern electoral political democracy was the United States of America,it was here that the first parties were developed and by the 1820’s,they were well organised parties,and the Democratic Party was traced back to the oldest political party in the world,Political parties in Nigeria were formed based on the growth of national consciousness,sentiments and nationalist movements in the 1920’s.Political parties performs so many task in the political process that it difficult to place a single definition

The major characteristics of political parties is to capture the governmental power through constitutional means,the means of capturing said power is not through violence but through peaceful and lawful means.Political parties operate through principles,these principles are party ideology and it serves as the basis for classifying parties as either communist,labour,conservative e.t.c.Every political party must take into consideration the interest of the masses,no political party should be called such if the nation is not taken into consideration .Political parties tend to achieve more when it is organized and well structured.political parties has manifestos to guide the conduct during and after winning elections.political parties have party constitution to guide the party officials and members

There are various types of political parties;Cadre parties which draws membership from the highest class of social hierarchy,they contain intellectual members like doctors,lawyer,lecturers e.t.c.Mass parties who draw its membership from all sections from the society and has a wide membership.Ideology parties are formed on the political ideology which forms the bases of the political party .Broker party is formed from members of the upper and lower classes of society,the aim of this party is to carry out policies of social justice to interest all and resolve conflicting interest of both the rich and poor.Charismatic party is formed or led by individuals with charisma.

Political education is a function of political party along with political stability,Organization of government and political representation among others e.t.c

Originally political parties in Nigeria was developed through the growths and sentiments of National consciousness and National movements.The National congress of British West Africa Territory was formed in 1920,Herbert Macaulay,Obafemi Awolowo,Nnamdi Azikiwe,Ernest Ikoli were precursors of political parties in Nigeria.The Clifford constitution of 1922 provided four elective seats in its legislative council,the Richards constitution of 1946 established regional executive councils and provided for a system of indirect elections to the much largely Nigerian legislative houses

The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party formed in Nigeria.NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay,regarded as the father of Nigerian nationalism,the party was exclusively based in Lagos,the party was formed mainly by its leaders and its political activities and campaigns were aided by a newspaper called Lagos Daily news launched in 1925

The Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli,Samuel Akinsanya and Dr. J.C Vaughan promoting Nigerian unity and national consciousness and achievement of complete autonomy within the British Empire were among the NYM in its charter published in 1938.The National Convention of Nigerian citizen formally known as the National Council of Nigerian and Cameroon (NCNC) was the first political party to be organized to seek total independence for Nigeria.the first president was Herbert Macaulay and general secretary was Nnamdi Azikiwe,the party was the major Nigerian party until 1950,Nnamdi Azikiwe became president in 1946 after Herbert Macaulay’s death