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REVIEW OF CHAPTER SEVEN; POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA

This chapter is mainly about the history, origin and present state of political parties in Nigeria. It tells us about some of the difficulties faced by political parties, their policies and importance in politics. It also tells us the necessity of political party i.e. how political party affects the number of people involved in politics and the voting process. It tells us how politicians developed the idea of political party. The first modern electoral democracy was the united states of America which was where the first political party developed. A political party performs so many tasks in the political process and as a result of that it is difficult to establish a single definition. But from this chapter the most preferred for me is the definition given by 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 it general policies. Political party has various characteristics and one of them is that they capture governmental power through constitutional means and this must be done in a peaceful means. Every political party must be national minded. There are various types of political party and they are; the elitist parties these party draw the mass party its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country. The mass party draws membership from all sections of the society and thus has high membership. The ideological party is formed with political ideology; the Broker party is formed with member from the upper and lower classes of the society. The basic aim of this society is to reconcile the conflicting interest of the rich and poor by carrying out policies of social justice for the interest of all and lastly, the charismatic party; it is formed by individual with charisma and that is why it is also called the personality party.

Now the function of a political party in general is that; they give political education, political stability, political representation, e.t.c. Political parties was developed in Nigeria following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movements. The Nigerian National Development party [NNDP] was regarded as the first political party formed in Nigeria. The elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923.some problems that confronted pre-independence political parties are; they were without national outlook, they placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues. This chapter also gave a brief history on the political parties of the second, third and fourth republic of Nigeria leaving us with the list of the present day political parties of Nigeria.