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**Question: write a review of chapters 7 and 8 in salient issues in Government and Nigeria's politics.**

***Chapter 7:***

Political parties are essential features of politics in this age of mass participation. In Liberal-democratic system, they keep government accountable to public opinion; in autocratic system, they help maintain power involving large numbers of voters. they are important link between government and people. It was invented in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in response to the appearance of election. According to R.G Gettel, "political party is a group of citizens more or less organized, who acts as a political unit and who uses the political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out the general policies". it can also be understood as a formal organization whose self conscious primary purpose is to place and maintain in public office person who will control alone or in collaboration , the machinery government.

A feature of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means. Party ideology refers to political parties always having a broad principle of public policy adopted by the organization. A political party must be national minded. Political parties should be organized bodies and have party

manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections. Political parties should be conducted by party officials and members within and outside the government.

Types of Political parties includes: cadre parties, mass parties, ideological party, broker party, charismatic or personality party. All these types have functions which they perform; e.g, political education, political mobilisation and recruitment, political representation, political stability and many more.

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and national movements. The fulcrum for the emergence of parties formation in Nigeria was constitutional development.

Some problems that confronted pre-independence political parties are:

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

There is an extremely high level of corruption that has made politics a competitive business. Most party leaders see their political party as a way to pursue their business interest. There is need to arrest this trend and make political parties to be directed to fostering cohesion among Nigerians and engendering the development of Nigeria.