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**CHAPTER 7(POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA)**

According to 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 of controlling the government and carrying out its general policies” .

Characteristics Of Political Parties

1. The major features of political party is to capture government power through constitutional means.
2. Political parties always have broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization which is referred to as party ideology.
3. Political parties has party manifestoes which guard their conduct during and after winning elections.

**TYPES OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

1. Elitist or cadre parties: this is a political party that draws the membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country.
2. Mass parties: it draws its membership from all the sections of the society and have wide membership.
3. Ideological parties
4. Broke parties
5. Charismatic or personality parties.

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTY

1. Political metabolization and recruitment.
2. Political education.
3. Political metabolization.
4. Interest aggregation.
5. Political stability.
6. Conflict management and political intergration.
7. Organizations of government.

**Political parties in Nigeria**

Political parties developed following the growth of the naturalists consciousness and sentiments and naturalists movements.

1. Early Political parties 1920-1950

 The Nigerian national development party [NNDP] was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. The elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923.

 PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONTED PRE-INDEPENDENCE POLITICAL PARTIES

* The political parties were without national outlook
* The political parties more emphasis on personalities rather than issues.
* Intra-party and inter party conflict in most cases polarized the political parties there by splitting them into fractions.
1. Political parties in the second republic of Nigeria

 The ban on parties was lifted in September ,1978. Following that about 59 political associations sought to contest the 1979 general elections. Five of these associations , were registered by the Federal Electoral Commissions.

1. Political parties in the third republic 0f 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.

1. Political parties in the fourth republic

 Three political parties were registered in preparation towards the fourth republic in 1998 by the Independent National Electoral Commission [INEC] among several parties political association that struggled for registrations political parties.