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COURSE TITLE: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

COURSE CODE: GST 203

QUESTION: REVIEW CHAPTER 7

**Introduction**

Chapter 7 of the book *“Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria’s politics” edited* by Temidayo David Oladipo and Idowu Oluseyi Olaleye talks about the idea of the concept of political parties. The chapter seven of this book is written by Idowu Oluseyi Olaleye, he is a lecturer in the Department of Political Science, College of Social and Management Sciences, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. The title of chapter 7 *“Political Parties in Nigeria”* is a very important topic in relation to the course taught, it gives the readers an overview on the idea of the political parties, characteristics of political parties how political parties work and functions of the political parties

A political party is a group of officials or would-be officials who are linked with a sizeable group of citizens into an organization ; a chief object of this organisation is to ensure that its officials attain power or maintain power. Features of political parties include; they have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organisation, which is referred to as party ideology , every political party must be national-minded i.e. in aims and functions, it must take into consideration the interest of the nation, it should be an organised body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure, has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections, they are guided by party constitution which direct the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government.

There are various types of political parties which include;

* Elite/ Cadre Parties: they draw membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country
* Mass Parties: draws it membership from all sections of the society
* Ideological Party: formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party
* Broker Party; draw membership from upper and lower classes in the society
* Charismatic or Personality Party: formed or led by individuals with charisma

The political parties have various functions which include; political mobilisation and recruitment, political education, political representation, interest aggregation, political stability, conflict management and political integration, organisation of government.

Political parties in Nigeria include;

* Early Political Parties(1920-1950)- NNDP(Nigerian National Development), NYM(Nigerian Youth Movement)
* Political Parties(1950-1966)- NPC( Northern People’s Congress), AG(Action Group)
* Political Parties in The Second Republic in Nigeria- NPN( National Party of Nigeria), GNPP(The Great Nigerian People’s Party), UPN( Unity Party of Nigeria)
* Political Parties in The Third Republic Nigeria- SDP(Social Democratic Party), The National Republican Convention(NRC)
* Political Parties in the Fourth Republic – AD(Alliance for Democracy), PDP(People’s Democratic Party)

Problems faced by pre-independence political parties include; they were without national outlook, they placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues, etc.

**Conclusion**

I would recommend this chapter seven of the book “Salient Issues in Government and Nigerian Politics” to anyone taking this course and wishes to have an in- depth knowledge of the idea of the concept of political parties. This chapter seven of the book written by Idowu Seyi Olaleye would be very helpful to students taking this course as it is very detailed and comprehensive.