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**ASSIGNMENT: GST 203 ASSIGNMENT; A TWO PAGE REVIEW ON CHAPTER 7 (POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA)**

From this chapter, the aspect of political party is seen from both a general view and Nigeria’s view and participation regarding political parties. It is seen as an important feature in politics. It was developed in the nineteenth century and the first parties developed from the United States of America. The definition of political parties range wide and there is no definite definition of what political party is. But they all have things in common which sums up to this definition: Political party is a group of citizens, more or less organised, having some agreement in broad principles of national policy with an effort to capture political power by some constitutional means. The definition above sums it all, but I will preferably choose Joseph LaPalombara’s definition which says that Political party is a formal organisation whose self-conscious, primary purpose is to place and maintain in public office persons that will control alone or in coalition, the machinery of government. There are several characteristics of political party, some are: to capture government power through constitutional means, every political party be national-minded, political party should be an organised body, Political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after election and political parties are guided by party constitution which directs the conduct of party officials and members within and outside government. There are also different types of political parties such as the: elitist parties, ideological party, broker party, mass parties, and charismatic party. Political parties also have certain functions which they must oblige to: political mobilisation and recruitment, political education, political representation, interest aggregation, political stability, organisation of government, provision of alternative government and policies, global formation, electoral competition and governance, conflict management and political integration.

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and sentiments, and nationalists movements. There were so many early political parties in Nigeria some were; Nigerian National Development party (NNDP) which was regarded as the first political party to be formed in Nigeria, the party was exclusively based in Lagos; The Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) was formed in 1934 by a group of Nigerian youths; The National Council of Nigerian and Cameroon (NCNC) was formed in 1944, The action group (AG) and the Northern people’s congress (NPC), etc. More political parties were formed. The political parties were confronted by problems during pre-independence, some were; the political parties were without national outlook, the political parties placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues, intra-party and inter-party conflicts in most cases polarised the political parties and thereby splitting them into factions, political party defection weakened or led to the collapse of political parties during this era.