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GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 7

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. in the political process of a given political system, the parties is an essential political agency. Politicians developed the idea of political party at that time as a device to help themselves and loke minded friend get elected, but the party proved to have many other uses as well and went on to become a ubiquitous feature of modern polities.

The first modern electoral democracy was the United State of America, and it was here that the first parties developed. By the 1820s, there were well organized parties, and the Democratic party, which can trace its roots back to that time, is the oldest political party in the world. In Britain 1867 was the first year in which there was a reasonable widespread extension of the votes. Similarly, all over Eu1rope, whenever a reasonable large and varied electorate was established with the coming of democracy, the political parties appeared. Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalists’ movements in the 1920s.

A 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 and carrying out its general policies.

 Characteristics of political parties

* The major or central feature of political party is to capture government power through constitutional means.
* Political parties always have abroad principal of public policy adopted by its organization, which is referred to as party ideology.
* Political parties has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning election.

 Types of political parties

* Mass parties
* Ideological party
* Broker party

 Functions of political party

* Political education
* Political stability
* Political representation
* Interest aggregation
* Goal formation.

 Early political parties 1920-1950

The Nigerian national development party (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as a father of Nigerian nationalism. The party was exclusively based in lagos and no national colouration. It won all the tree seat allocated to lagos in the legislative council in the elections of 1923, 1928, 1933.

 Political parties in Nigeria

According to Ikelegbe, 2010; two major political parties emerge between 1950 and 1951. These were the Action group (AG) and the northern people congress (NPC). These parties emerge from culture associations because of the prospects of the prospects of the 1951 election, following the macphersons constitution.

 **Problems that confronted pre-independence political parties**

* The political parties were without national outlook.
* The political parties placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues;
* Intra-party and inter-party conflict in most cases polarized the political parties and thereby splitting them into factions;

  **Political parties in the second republic in Nigerian**

These were the : THE NATIONAL PARTYOF NIGERIA (NAP), THE NIGERIAN PEOPLES PARTY (NPP), THE GREAT NIGERIAN PEOPLES PARTY(DNPP).

**Political parties in the third republic in Nigerian**

The social democratic party (SDC), the national republican convention (NRC)

**Political parties in the fourth republic in Nigerian**

Alliance for democracy (AD), all people party (APP), all Nigerian peoples party (ANPP), peoples democratic party (PDP).

 Conclusion: as things stand now, Nigerian political face some challenges. First, there is an extremely high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business. Second the regulatory framework for the establishment of parties should be changed so that new parties do not have to forge coalitions of the wealthy as a basis for their registration.