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**TWO PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7 ‘ POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation.In liberal democratic systems ,they help to keep government accountable to public opinions; even in autocratic system of government ,they help the government maintain its hold on power.In either case, political parties are an important link between government and the people (Dickerson and flanagan 2002).in the political process of a given political system,the party is an essential political agency.The first modern electoral democracy was the United States of America and it was here that the first parties developed.By the 1820s there were more 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 reasonably wide spread extension of the votes

Definitions:

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 at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies.However,Joseph Lapalombara defined political party as a formal organization whose self conscious primary purpose is to place and maintain in public office person who will control alone or in coalition, the machinery of the government.

A political party is a group of citizens more or less organized having some agreement in broad principles of national policy with an effort to capture political power by some constitutional means.

**Characteristics of political parties**

1)The major or central feature of political party is to capture government power through constitutional means but capturing power by some violent or unlawful means cannot be allowed in the arena of a political party.The means of capturing such powers must be peaceful and lawful

2)political parties must always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization which is referred to as party ideology

3) political parties have party manifestos which guide their conduct during and after winning elections

**Types of political parties**

Elitist or cadre parties.mass parties, ideological party, broker party ,charismatic or personality party

**Functions of political party**

1)political mobilisation and recruitment

2)political representation

3)political education

4)interest aggregation

5) conflict management and political integration

6)Goal formation

**Political parties in Nigeria**

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements(ikelegbe,2010).According to ikelegbe, nationalist agitators former groups and associations to organize against colonial misrule

**Early political parties 1920–1950**

The Nigeria 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 give rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923.NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of Nationalism.The party was exclusively based in Lagos and has no national colouration.it won all the three seats allocated to Lagos in the legislative council in the elections of 1923,1928 and 1933

The Nigerian Youth movement was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Okoli ,Samuel Akinsanya and Dr J.C. Vaughan

**Political parties in Nigeria 1950–1966**

According to ikelegbe 2010;two major political parties emerged between 1950 and 1951.These were the Action Group(AP) and the Northern People’s Congress (NPC).These parties emerged from cultural association because of the prospect of the 1951 elections following the macpherson constitution .Rhe action group emerged from the Egbe Omo Oduduwa. Egbe Omo oduduwa was formed in 1945 as a pan Yoruba cultural society The AG was stated as the political wing of the Egbe Omo Oduduwa in 1950.it was formally inaugurated in April 1951.Its leader was Obafemi Awolowo the general secretary of Egbe Omo Oduduwa .The main Aim of the AG was to provide leadership to and capture political power in the western region.The Northern People Congress (NPC) emerged from the jam Iyya mutanein Arewa. The cultural association was formed in 1949 by Dr Dikko, M Yahaya Gusau,Aminu Kano and Abubakar imam.The jam’iyya constituted itself into a political party the Northen people Congress in October 1951.

**Problems that confronted pre independence political parties**

The political parties were without national outlook.They had regional support and ethnic loyalty

The political parties placed much emphasis in personalities rather than issues

**Political parties in the second republic in Nigeria**

The ban on politics was lifted in September 1978, following that about 53 political associations sought to contest the 1979 general elections.Five of these associations were registered by the federal Electoral commission .These were the National Party of Nigeria(NPN),The Nigerian People Party (NPP),The Great Nigeria People Party (GNPP),the People Redemption Party(PRP)and the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN).A sixth party the Nigeria Advance Party(NAP) was registered to contest the 1983 elections.

**Political parties in the third republic in Nigeria**

**General Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the transition to civil rule decree through which two political parties were registered in accordance** without constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria 1989.Thus for the first time,Nigeria had a constitutional two party system.The constitution ,objectives, policies ,programmes of the two political parties were set up by the military government

The two parties, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican convention (NRC) were established by the government.

**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 political associations that struggled for registration as political parties .The names of the registered parties are the Alliance For Democracy (AD),All People Party(APP) which in 2002 changed its name to All Nigeria People’s Party (ANPP) and the People Democratic Party (PDP),These parties are organized and administrated at the ward,local government areas,states,zonal and national level and have registered offices at all levels

The political parties contested the 1998 and 1999 general elections

**Political parties in the fourth republic**

Since the inception of the fourth republic,however other political parties have been registered by INEC.so Nigeria now has the following political parties

Abundant Renewal Nigeria Party(ARNP),Action People Party(APP),Action Democratic Party (ADP),Advance Allied party (AAP),All Progressive congress (APC),Better Nigeria Progressive Party(BNPP),Change Advocacy party (CAP),Coalition For change(C4C),Democratic Alternative (DA),Democratic people Congress (DPC),Fresh Democratic Party(FRESH),Green Party of Nigeria (GPN),Hope democratic Party(HDP),Independence Democrats(ID),Justice Must prevail Party(JMPP),Kowa Party (KP),Labour Party(LP),Modern Democratic Party(MDP),National Action Council(NAC),People For Democratic Change(PDC),People’s Democratic Party (PDP),People Progressive Party(PPP),Rebuild Nigeria party(RNP),Social Democratic Party (SDP),United Democratic Party (UDP),We The People Nigeria (WTPN),Youth Democratic Party (YDP),zenith Labour Party (ZLP)

**Conclusion**

As things stand now,Nigeria political parties face some challenges

First,there is an extremely high level of corruption Which has made politics a competitive business.second the regulatory Frame work for the establishment of parties should be changed so that new parties do not have to form coalitions of their wealthy as a basis for their registration .Moreover the aim or political projects of most Nigerians project has been the development of a national system for Sharing out the “national cake” as a system of patronage