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CHAPTER SEVEN

Political parties are essential features of politics in the modern age of mass participation. They help to keep governments accountable to public opinion even in autocratic system. They're are important link between the government and the people. It was first developed in the nineteenth century in response to the appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters. It was developed to help politicians and like minded friendship get elected.

The first modern electoral democracy was developed in the United States and it was there the first political parties developed . According to Gettel political parties are a group of citizens more or less organised who act as a political unit and efiby the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out it's general policies. There are a group of officials or would be officials who are linked with a sizable group of citizens into an organisation

Characteristics of political parties include the major or central feature of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means, they always have a broad principle of public policy adopted by its organisation which is referred to as



a party ideology, it has party manifestoes which guide their conduct during and after winning elections

Types of political parties include elite parties which draw its membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country, mass parties which draw its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership, ideology party is a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the basis of the party

Functions of political parties include political education, political representation, interest aggregation, political stability, organisation of government, goal formation, electoral competition and governance etc

Political parties developed in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalist movements. NNDP was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria. The Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to it. Two major political parties emerged next which were action group and northern peoples congress. Nigerias political parties face some challenges. There is an extremely high level of corruption which has made politics a competitive business. There is need to arrest this trend and make political parties to be directed to fostering cohesion among Nigerians

