NAME; LADEINDE OLUWATAMILORE KOFOWOROLA

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QUESTION; 1) DO A TWO PAGES REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7,POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA, IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITCS.

2) DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8, CITIZENS ROLE IN A DEMOCRCY, IN SALIENT ISSUES IN GOVERNMENT AND NIGERIA’S POLITICS.

 REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7

Political parties in Nigeria

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation. Liberal-democratic systems, they help to keep government accountable to public opinion; even in autocratic system of government, they help the government maintain its hold on power. Political parties are an important link between government and the people. The first modern electoral democracy was the united state of America, and it was here that the first parties developed. In Britain, 1867 was the first year in which there was a reasonably widespread extension of the votes. Politics parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalists’ movement in the 1920s. this chapter aims at discussing the evolution of political parties in Nigeria.

**Conceptual clarification of the idea of political party**; there are so many definitions of political parties as the political thinkers. 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. Herman Finer, defined it as an organized body with voluntary membership, its concerted energy being employed in the pursuit of political power. Joseph LaPalomabara defined political party as a formal organization whose self-conscious, primary purpose is too place and maintain in public office person who will control alone or in coliation, the machinery of government. Political party is a group of officials or would-be officials who are linked with a sizable group of citizens into an organization.

Characteristics of political party

1. The major or central feature of political party is to capture governmental power through constitutional means. This means of capturing such powers must also be peaceful and lawful.
2. The party ideology serves as the basis for classifying parties as either leftist, rightist, liberal, communist, labour, conservative, etc.
3. Political party must be national-minded.
4. Every political party should be an organized body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organizational structure. Etc……

Types of political parties

**Elistist/cadre parties;** this is a political party that draws its membership from the highest from the highest echelon of social hierarchy in a country. The party boast of members who are intellectuals like doctors, lawyers, lecturers, or people who are business tycoons.

**Mass parties;** this is a political party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership. Mass parties takes such names as; people’s party, labour party etc….

**Ideological party;** this is a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party.

**Broker party;** it’s a party formed with its members drawn from upper and lower classes of the society. Its to reconcile the conflicting interest of the rich and poor by carrying out policies of social justice for the interest of all.

**Charismatic or personality party;** this is political party formed or led by individuals with charisma. It involves around the personal qualities of the leader.

Functions of political party

Political recruitment, political education, political representation, interest aggregation, political stability, organization of government, electoral competition and governance, goal formation, provision of alternative government and policies.

Political parties in Nigeria; political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movements. According to Ikelegbe, nationalists nagitators formed groups and associations, to organize colonial misrule. For this purpose the National congress of british west Africa territories was formed in 1920. Herbert macaulay, H.O. Davies, Ernest Ikoli, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo and others were precursors of political pareties In Nigeria.

Early political parties(1920-1950); the NNDP( Nigerian National development party was regarded to be t he first political party that was formed in Nigeria. It was also introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of NNDP in 1923. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay regarded as the father of nationalism. The NYM was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians led by Ernest Ikoli, Samuel Akinsanya and Dr.J.C Vaughan. The NCNC was formed in 1944. NCNC was the first political party to sek total independence for Nigeria.

Political parties in Nigeria (1950-1966); two parties emerged between 1950 and 1951 the AG(Action group) and the NPC( northern people’s congress). The AG emerged from the Egbe Omo Oduduwa which was formed in 1945 as a pan Yoruba cultural society. It was stated as a political wing in 1950. Its leader was Obafemi Awolowo. Main aim was to provide leadership to and capture political power in the western region. The NPC was formed in 1949 by Dr.Dikko and others. It constituted itself to be a political party in October 1952. Main purpose is to combating ignorance, idleness, injustice in the northern region and control of the government in the North……… some problems confronted the pre-independence political parties which are; the political parties were without national outlook, the political parties laid more emphasis on personalities rather than issues, political party defection weakened or led to the collapse of political parties during this era.

Political parties in second, third, fourth republic of Nigeria; the NPN was officially launced in September 1978 in lagos after lifting of ban on party politics by military govt. The unity party of Nigeria, on its part, was an offshoot of the Action group AG, and its main support base is in the yorubaland. The aims of the UPN were embodied in its four cardinal point programmes, which were free education, free health service, free employment for the able citizens. The third party registered in the second republic, peoples party NPP reincarnated from the NCNC. The GNPP was led by Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim. In The third republic of Nigeria two parties, the social democratic party SDP and the National republican convention NRC, were established by the government. The registration of SDP was approved by the armed forces ruling Council with chief Tony Anenih as its national chaiman. The National republican convention NRC, on the other hand was registered through the approval of the armed forces ruling council with Chief Tom Ikimi as its national chairman. In the fourth republic three political parties were registered in preparation towards the fourth republic in 1998 by the independent national electoral commission (INEC). They are; (AD,APP(ANPP)PDP) alliance for democracy, All people’s party, People’s Democratic party. Since the inception of the fourth Republic, however, other political parties have been registered by INEC.