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**INTRODUCTION:**

Political Parties are essential features of politics in the current mass Participation that helps to keep the leaders accountable about the Peoples choices and help government maintain its hold on power and also serve as a link between government and its people.This system was developed by politicians in order to same minded people to support them and the Political Party went on to become an essential feature in Politics. Political Partes in Nigeria developed following nationalist contributions and Politics growth.

**CONCEPT CLARIFICATION OF POLITICAL PARTY IDEA;**

It is defined as a group of organized citizens who act as a Political unit and use the Political Power to control government and control its Policy according to R.G.GETTEL

According to AGBAJE ,it is defined as People bonded in Policy and oPinion in support of a general Political cause which essentially is thr Pursuit,capture and retention for as long as democratically feasible of government and its offices

**CHARACTERISTICS;**

its main feature is to capture government Power through constitutional means,They always have a party idealogy and Party manifesto and they are guided by Party constitution.

**TYPES;**

**ELITIST**;a Political Party that draws membership from the highest social hierarchy in a country

**MASS PARTIES**;they draw their membershio from all section of the society.Membership is wide

**CHARISMATIC**;this is a Party formed or led by indivivuals with charisma

**FUNCTIONS;**

Political education

Interest aggregation,

Organisation of government

Political Parties in Nigeria

Political stability

**POLITICAL PARTIES IN NIGERIA**

According to Ikelegbe,nationalists agitators formed groups and associations to organise against colonial misrule and this served as its Primary objective.The fulcrum for the creation of these Parties in Nigeria was constitutional development,The constitutions created and retained legislative seats and councils and Provided a system of indirect elections to Nigeria Legislative houses.The founders of some initial Parties were Dr.Ernest Okoli,Nnamdi Azikiwe,Herbert Macaulay and the rest.

**Early Politics in Nigeria(1920-1950);**NNDP(1st Political Party) was formed and led by the Father of Nationalism.It was initially based in Lagos and won all 3 seats available in Lagos.The Lagos Daily News launched in 1925 helped to aid its activities

NYM was fomed in 1934 led by Ernest Ikoli and co.Promotion of National Unity and National consciousness were their Primary aim.The Party won elections and won in 1938

NCNC was formed in 1944 and renamed in 1960 and this was the first Political Party organised to seek total independence led by Nnamdi Azikiwe and Herbert Macaulay.They campaigned against the Richard’s constitution .

**(1950-1966):**AG and NPC emerged between 1950 and 1951 from cultural associations.AG emerged from Oduduwa Egbe and led by Obafemi Awolowo and its aim was to capture Power in the western region.NPC emerged from Mutatein Arewa and formed by Dr.Dikko and co and its aim was combacting ignorance ,idleness and contolling government in the North.This multi system gave rise to other minor Political Parties such as UMBC led by the Late.J.S.Tarka founded in 1955,NEPU led by Late Mallam Aminu Kano and UNIP a sPlinter cell from NCNC.

These Pre independence Parties faced challenges such as ;

They didn’t have a national outlook

Too much emphasis on Personalities rather than issues

Inter and Intra Political Party conflict

**Political Paries in Second Republic In Nigeria:**

After the lifted ban,53 Political associations had their eye on the 1979 elections but only 6 were successfully registered and they were NPN,NPP,GNPP,PRP,UPN,NAP

NPN held by a lot of social clubs ,tribal unions and former NPC leaders.Their major Progrrames were sharing of food and shelter and Provision of good education.The Party held the Presidential office for between 1979 and 1983

NPP was reincarnated from NCNC and its main support base was the Igbos and its members were admirers of the Late Nnamdi Azikiwe and its aim was towards full employments for Nigerians and Promoe equality among all sections of Nigeria.They won and controlled 3 states.

**Political Parties in Third Republic In Nigeria:**

Two constitutional political parties the SDP and NRC were established by the government and were registered in accordance with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The SDP was led by Chief Tony Anneih as its national chairman with its registered offices at the National capital and engaged in favouring Public ownership and controlling national economy.The both controlled the senate and House of representatives after winning the June 12 1993 Presidential elections.

The NRC had Chief Tom Ikimi as its national chairman and had its registered offices all over the country and the favoured more Private institutions and more state regulations and Paid less attention to free education and social welfare Politics.

**Political Parties in Fourth Republic In Nigeria:**

3 Political Parties were registered to contest for the Presidential elections and they included AD,ANPP,PDP.AD contested between 1998 and 1999 election and won governorship elections in 6 states and some state assembly seats.APP won 9 gubertorial elections in north west and middle belt and also won some assembly seats and aaligned with AD to Present a candidate for the 1999 Presidential election.PDP has its major aim as intergirty and they won the Presidential election and maintained its hold for 16 years.

**CONCLUSION**

Nigeria have numerous Political Parties now such as PDP,APGA,APC,LP,KP,ID,DFC and face some challenges now such as high level of corruption which has made Politics a business and Party leaders seeing it as a means to further their Personal interest