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Summary of Chapter 7

Political parties are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass communication. Political parties are an essential link between government and the people. Political party crops up in all aspects of politics. It is an invention that first popped up in the nineteenth century in response to the appearance of elections involving large numbers of voters. The first modern electoral democracy was the United State of America and it was here that first parties developed. The Democratic Party which was traced to be the oldest party in the world. In Britain 1867 was the first year in which there was a reasonably widespread extension of the votes.

According to R.G. Gettel the political party is a group of citizens more or less organized, who acts as political unit and who by the use of political power aim at controlling the government and carrying out its general policies

According to Herman Finer, political party can be defined as an organized body with voluntary membership its concerned energy being employed in the pursuit of political power

According to Joseph LaPalombra defined political party as a formal organization whose self-conscious, primary purpose is to place and maintain to public office person who will control alone or in coalition, the machinery of government.

**Characteristics of Political Party**

The major feature is to capture government power through constitutional means

Political parties always have a broad principles of public policy adopted by its organization which is referred to as Party Ideology

Every political party must be national ideology.

**Types of Political Parties**

Elitist or Cadre parties: these are parties that draw their membership from the highest echelon of social hierarchy

Mass parties: these are parties that draws their membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership

Ideological Parties: these are parties that reformed with political ideology

Broker Party: these are political parties that get their members from the upper and lower classes of the society.

Functions of political parties

Political mobilization and recruitment, political education, Interest aggregation, Political Stability.

The Nigerians people Congress of British West African Territories was formed in 1920, the West African Students Union in1925 and the Lagos Youth Movement in 1934. Herbert Macaulay, Davies H.O, Ernest Ikoli, Nnamdi Azikwe, Obafemi Awolowo were precursors of the political parties in Nigeria were in the forefront of political activities and party formation in the 1920s. the Nigerian National Development (NNDP) was regarded as the first political party that was formed in Nigeria by Clifford Constitution of 1922 which gave rise to the formation of NNDP. NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay who is regarded as the father of Nigeria nationalism. The party was exclusively based in Lagos and had no national coloration.it won all three seats allocated to Lagos in the legislative council in the election.

The NYM was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerian citizens the party contested and won elections to the Nigerian legislative council and Lagos town council in 1938. The NCNC was formed in 1960.

**Problems faced by the Pre- Independence Political Party**

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

The political parties placed much emphasis on personalities rather than issues.

Intra party and inter party conflicts in most cases polarized the political parties and there by splitting them into factions.

Political parties in the Second republic were National Party of Nigeria, Peoples Redemption party etc.

Examples of parties in the third republic were Social Democratic Party and National Republican Convention.

The fourth republic political parties were Alliance for Democracy, All Peoples Party, All Nigerian Peoples Party etc.

Political parties in Nigeria face some challenges such as high level of corruption which has made politics competitive business. 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. Politics in Nigeria is seen as a dirty game the respect level attached to the profession has reduced and it does not have any respect attached to it.