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**Political parties in Nigeria(Chapter 7)**

**In modern ages there's no politics without the mention of the word political parties. When it comes to the liberal-democratic systems, political parties help keep accountability of public opinion and even in autocratic systems too; they help the government maintain its hold of power. In other words, political parties serve as a link between the government and the people, it can also be seen as a group of citizens more or less organized who act as a political unit and as a result of that uses political power with the aim of controlling the government.**

**It was first created in the nineteenth century in response to elections having large number of voters. Political parties exhibit the following characteristics which are to; Capture the government power through constitutional means. But such means must be peaceful and lawful.**

**They organize manifestos, Nation minded and so on...Political parties are of types which are; Elitist, Mass, Ideological, Broker and Charismatic party.**

**In Nigeria, the major reason for the formation of political parties was to end the misguidance of the British Empire. The national Congress of British West African Territories (1925) and the Lagos Youth Movement (1934), formed by nationalist like Herbert Macaulay, H.O.Davies, Ernest Okoli,Nnamdi Azikiwe,Obafemi Awolowo along with others.**

**But the first recorded political party was The Nigerian National Development Party (NNDP), the elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of the party, NNDP was led by Herbert Macaulay who is referred as the father of Nigerian nationalism as of then other political parties began folding into existence throughout the first republic, second, third, fourth and down to the current republic including the current Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressive Congress (APC) along with many others.**

**But as the days go by, political parties in Nigeria faces difficult challenges including corruption which**

**has made politics a competitive business. Most political leaders see their political parties as means to further their business interest which is not right, there's need to arrest this political trend and make political parties mainly for the sole purpose of its existence which is to further the development of this country.**