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**ASSIGNMENT; DO A TWO PAGE REVIEW OF CHAPTER 7**

**Chapter seven**

Political parties in Nigeria

In Nigeria, political parties are like a link between the citizens and the government. They help to voice out the needs and complaints of the citizens. Political parties emerged in Nigeria for the first time in the 19th century. It was created for the sole reason of uniting people with uniform goals but turned out to carry through other various functions.

        The first party to be created was in USA in the 1820s. This came side by side with democracy practice and growth in Nigeria.

Various thinkers and philosophers like R. G  Gettel, Herman Finer, Joseph LaPalombara, Agbeje, Dowse and Huges and many more  have attempted to explain the meaning of political parties and have generally seen it to be “A Group of persons bonded in policy and opinion in support of a general political cause which essentially is the pursuit, capture and retention for as long as democratically feasible, of government and its offices.

           Characteristics of political parties

1. To capture governmental power through constitutional means (peacefully and lawfully
2. The political parties always have a broad principle of public policy adopted by its organization
3. Every political party must be national minded
4. Political parties should be an organized body, because it can only derive strength organized.
5. They possess the characteristics of party manifesto to guide conduct
6. They are directed by the party constitution which direct the party’s conduct

Types of Political parties

1. Elite/cadre parties
2. Mass parties
3. Ideological parties
4. Broker party
5. Charismatic or personality party

Functions of political party

1. Political mobilization and recruitment
2. Political education
3. Political representation
4. Political stability
5. Interest aggregation, etc

The **Nigerian National Democratic Party** (**NNDP**) was [Nigeria's](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria) first [political party](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_party).

Formed in 1923 by [Herbert Macaulay](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert_Macaulay) to take advantage of the new [Clifford Constitution](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clifford_Constitution), which succeeded the 1914 Nigerian Council. The NNDP successfully organized various Lagos interest groups into a single group that was able to compete politically. The (NNDP) ran many candidates for seats in the 1922 elections for the [Lagos Legislative Council](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lagos_Legislative_Council&action=edit&redlink=1), winning three seats. The party won all the seats in the elections of 1923, 1928 and 1933. Though, the party's major function was to put candidates into the legislative council, it had a broader objective of promoting democracy in Nigeria, increasing higher Nigerian participation in the social, economic and educational development of Nigeria. The party continued to dominate [politics](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics) in [Lagos](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagos) until 1938, when the [Nigerian Youth Movement](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Youth_Movement) (NYM) overtook it in elections.

The party's name was adopted in 1964 by [Samuel Akintola](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Akintola) for his party as part of a process of unseating the left-leaning [Action Group](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Action_Group_%28Nigeria%29) led by [Obafemi Awolowo](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obafemi_Awolowo) from power in the [Western Region](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_State_%28Nigeria%29).[1][2]

Party member [Augustus Akinloye](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus_Akinloye) later became chairman of the [National Party of Nigeria](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Party_of_Nigeria) in 1978.

**The presidential system of government** practiced in **the Second Republic of Nigeria** (1979-1983) favored the existence of a multi-party system. The then Electoral commission of Nigeria, the**Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO)**, registered five political parties out of about 52 parties that showed up for the **1979 general elections**which was to usher in the**second Republic in Nigeria**. The five political parties registered for the 1979 general elections were:

\* **The National Party of Nigeria** (NPN) with **Alahji Sheu Shagari** as the presidential candidate

\* **The Unity Party of Nigeria** (UPN) having **Chief Obafemi Awolowo**as the presidential candidate

\* **The Nigeria People’s Party** (NPP) with **Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe** as the presidential candidate

\* **The Great Nigeria People’s Party** (GNPP) with **Alhaji Ibrahim Waziri** as the presidential candidate

\* **The People’s Redemption Party** (PRP) having **Mallam Aminu Kano** as the presidential candidate

These are the five political parties that contested in the 1979 general elections in Nigeria.

In 1982, **FEDECO** registered the **Nigeria Advance Party** (NAP), led by a Lagos based lawyer, **Mr. Tunji Braithwaite**, making six political parties that contested in the 1983 general elections.

**Note**: **The National Party of Nigeria** (NPN) won the 1979 elections and the 1983 elections also, which led to the General Election Crises of 1983 and later to the military intervention of December 31, 1983.

Third republic political parties

The constitution of the Third Republic was drafted in 1989. General [Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibrahim_Babangida) (IBB), the [military head of state](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Nigeria), promised to end military rule by 1990. This date was subsequently pushed back to 1993. In the spring of 1989, IBB lifted the ban on political activity, which had been in place since the coup of 1983.[1] The conference[[*citation needed*](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] established two political parties: the centre-right [National Republican Convention](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Republican_Convention)(NRC) and the centre-left [Social Democratic Party](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Democratic_Party_%28Nigeria%29) (SDP). The parties were required to draw from a national rather than regional or tribal basis. [Gubernatorial](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gubernatorial) and state legislative elections were conducted in December 1991. The civilian governors elected in this balloting took office in January 1992.

 Fourth republic political parties

The **Fourth Republic** is the current [republican](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic) government of [Nigeria](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria). Since 1999 it has governed the country according to the fourth republican [constitution](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Nigeria). It was in many ways a revival of the [Second Republic](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Second_Republic), which was in place between 1979 and 1983 and suffers many of the same problems, such as multiple ministries which made policy planning difficult.[[*citation needed*](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] Nigeria adopted the constitution of the Fourth Republic on May 29, 1999.