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**COURSE: Government and political  
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**QUESTION:** Do a two page review each of Chapter 7  
“Political Parties in Nigeria,” In Salient issues in Government and  
Nigeria's Politics

## **Chapter seven review; Political parties in Nigeria.**

Political parties are an important link between government and the people. They are an essential feature of politics in the modern age of mass participation, for instance, in liberal-democratic systems, they help to keep the government accountable to public opinion and in the autocratic system of government, they help the government maintain its hold on power. The first modern electoral democracy was the United State of America, and it was here that the first political parties developed. In Britain, 1867 was the first year in which there was a reasonably widespread extinction of the votes. Moreover, political parties before independence in Nigeria were not without some challenges and some of them include; the political parties were without national outlook, the political parties placed more emphasis on personalities rather than issue, Intra-party and Inter-party conflicts in most cases placed more polarised the political parties and thereby splitting them into factions, and so on. Therefore, political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of nationalist consciousness and sentiments and nationalists.

Political parties in Nigeria developed following the growth of the nationalist consciousness and sentiments, and nationalist movement. According to ikelegbe, the nationalists agitators formed groups and associations to organise against colonial misrule. Thus for this reason, the National Congress of British West Africa Territories was formed in 1920, the West African Student Union in 1925 and the Lagos Youth Movement in 1934. However, the elective principle introduced by Clifford constitution of 1922 gave rise to the formation of the first political party in Nigeria, the Nigerian National Development Party(NNDP). The political party was exclusively based in Lagos and led by Herbert Macaulay. Also , the Nigerian Youth Movement was formed in 1934 while the National Council of Nigerian and Cameroon was in 1944. Political parties that emerged in the first republic(1950-1966) were; the Action Group and the Northern People's Congress. Political parties in the second republic include; the National Party of Nigeria, the Nigerian people's Party, The Great Nigeria people's party, the People's redemption Party and the Unity Party of Nigeria, a sixth party was the Nigerian Advance

Party which was registered to contest the 1983 elections. Political parties in the third republic include peoples' Democratic Party and others, However, other political parties like; Action Democratic Party, Action peoples' Party, among others were also created in the fourth republic.

One of the various types of political parties is Elite/Cadre Parties; A political party that draws its membership from the highest election of social hierarchy in a country, they consist of members who are intellectuals like doctors, lawyers, lecturers, or people who are business tycoons, traditional rulers. Another of the various types of political parties is mass parties; a political party that draws its membership from all sections of the society and have wide membership, these parties take such name as; peoples party, labour party, workers party, e.t.c, and their main manifestoes are aimed at alleviating the suffering of the masses. The third type of political party is ideological party; this is a political party formed with political ideology or benefits which form the bases of the party. The fourth political party is the Broker party; a political party with its members drawn from the upper and lower classes of the society, the purpose of this party is to reconcile the conflicting interests of the rich and poor by carrying out policies of social justice for the interest of all. Lastly is the charismatic or personality party, which is a political party formed or led by individuals with charisma.

The various functions of political parties include; political mobilisation and recruitment, political education, political representation, interest aggregation, political stability, conflict management and political integration, organisation of government, provision of alternative government and policies, electoral competition and governance, goal formation.

Lastly, some characteristics of political parties include; every political party must be national minded, political parties should be an organised body, because it can only derive strength from an effective organisational structure, political parties always have a broad principle of public policy adopted by its organisation, which is referred to as party ideology.