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1. Do a Two Page Review of Chapter 7, “Political Parties in Nigeria,” In Salient Issues in Government and Nigeria’s Politics.

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Political parties exist in every form of politics in the world today, to the democratic system, it help uphold government opinion and processes, in the autocratic system, it gives power to the government. Political parties turned out to be an agency in all aspects of politics. It came into existence in the 19th century politicians used it as a device to get people of the same interest help in elections but it later turned to have other uses and became a well-known feature in the world of politics. The US had the first political parties, being the first modern electoral democracy. Eventually as the years went by, it spread all over Europe and the world. Nigeria developed political parties due to national consciousness and Nationalists’ movement in the 1920. This birthed a new government in Nigeria.

Many scholars who have defined political parties over the years have varied, although they were all right, the best definitions still stand. R. G. Gettel defined political party as a group of people aiming to control the government and carry out its policies. Herman finer said that politics in an organised body with voluntarily membership in pursuit of political power. Joseph LaPalombora defined politics as a formal organisation, with purpose primarily for placing and maintaining public office person who will control the machinery of government alone. The rest of the scholars who defined political among the likes of Agbaje (1999), burke (1975), dowse and Hughes (1972) and Shively (2008) centred round the main idea of politics, government, people and state. Generally, a political party is a group of citizens more or less organised having some agreement in broad principles of national policy with an effort to capture political power by some constitutional means. A few Characteristics of political parties is the act legally capturing the political power of the state, political ideologies, nationally minded, structured body, political party manifestoes and constitutions. The types of political parties that exist range from elitist/cadre political parties to charismatic political parties. They cadre parties, mass parties, ideological parties, broker parties and charismatic parties.

the chapter 7 page 8 goes on with the functions of political parties which are primarily, political mobilization and recruitment which consists of 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, and goal formation. The discussion of political parties in Nigeria starts with sentiments the nationalist used to inspire their movement. Early precolonial political groups were form in the early 20s- 50s. The NNDP (NIGERIAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTY) the first political party to be formed in Nigeria in 1923 and was led by Sir Herbert Macaulay, its political activities and campaigns were aided by a newspaper called Daily News launched in 1925. The Nigerian youth movement (NYM) was formed in 1934 by a group of young Nigerians which included by Ernest okoli, Samuel akinsanya and dr. j. c. Vaughan. The party agitated for national unity and autonomy from the British system, it participated in elections around that era and won. The NCNC (national council of Nigerian and Cameroon) formed in 1944 which was renamed Nigerian convention of Nigerian citizens when Cameroonians to seek independence from Nigeria.

The two major political parties which arose from 1950-51, were Action Group (AG) and Northern’s people congress (NPC) respectively. The 1951 elections resulted to the formation of these parties through the Macpherson’s constitution. The Action Group emerged from the Yoruba society while the NPC emerged from the northerners. As a result of this, there was diversity in political goals. In the second republic, about 53 different political parties emerged to contest for the 1979 general elections in Nigeria. Different political parties set forth their goals and manifestoes when the ban on politics was lifted in 1978. The third republic was led by general Babaginda who administered Nigeria with the two party system policy. They were led by the military junta in power.

The fourth republic and most recent republic was pioneered by three newly registered political parties in the independent national electoral commission (INEC). PDP emerged the winner of the 1999 elections and have control political power for over 16years being the most successful party of this republic registered by INEC.