

Nigerian People And Culture

GST122

TOPIC: Nigeria History in Pre-colonial Times-Southern Nigeria

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The Southern Nigeria is predominantly inhabited by the Yorubas, the Binis, the Igbos, the Itsekiris, the Urhobos and the Izon people.

These ethnic groups witnessed major epochal development in the pre-colonial history of the people.

The Hamitic hypothesis was a theory formulated by C.G. Seligman in 1930 in his book Races of Africa.

This theory has it that everything of significance that took place in Africa south of the Sahara was brought about by the Hermits.

The Hamites or Hermits were pastoral Europeans from the Caucasian (white) race.

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Walter Rodney wrote the epochal book entitled How Europe underdeveloped Africa in 1972.

African historians depended on a number of sources such as written records, archaeology, cultural history or ethnology, historical linguistics, physical anthropology and oral tradition which help us to get insight into the history of African people.

The literary source of Nigerian history can be divided into three categories namely; works by Arab scholars, geographers and historians.

Archaeology is concerned with the historical science and method whereby the past is reconstructed through analysis and interpretation of excavated natural objects.

Cultural History or Ethnology is the method used by ethnologists in establishing the relationship between two cultures and the evolution they have experienced.

Historical Linguistics is a historical science whose subject is the establishment of genetic links between languages and groups of people.

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Oral Traditions consist of all verbal testimonies which are reported statements concerning the pasts such as narratives, legends, anecdotes, myths, proverbs, tales, poetry etc.

Major Cultures in Southern Part of Nigeria

The Ife and Benin cultures with Igbo-Ukwu were the major cultures that emerged in southern part of Nigeria.

The people of Ife developed a civilization which dated back to about the 6th century BC and 100AD.

The Benin kingdom was the first in Nigeria to have contact with Europeans who made it popular.

The Igbo-Ukwu is a town situated about 40km south west of Onitsha in Anambra state, which features include bronze, pottery, vessels, beads and other objects made of copper such as wristbands, belts, bracelets and earrings.

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TOPIC: The Nigerian History in Pre-Colonial Times - Northern Nigeria

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The pre-colonial people and state of Northern Nigeria covered the savannah and grassland people of the far north, namely; The Hausas/ Fulani, the kanuri and Borno People. Also, it covers The middle-belt people of jos plateau region and other group of the Niger Benue confluence and its hinterland.

Man's settlement has begun in north Nigeria since the Paleolithic period (early stone age) about 500,000-900 BC.

Archaeological evidence has it that the Northern Nigeria had a neolithic rvolution period of human activities and civilisation. The neolithic revolution shifted man attention from the dependency on hunting and collection of fruits to the domestication of animals and cultivation of plants.

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The introduction of Islam into Hausa land is said to have taken place between the 14th and 15th centuries.

In 1804, the learned Fulani scholar, Usman Dan Fodio declared Jihad (holy war) against the Hausa kings of Hausa.

A Jihad is a holy war declared by Islamic puritans against pagan society. The objective is usually to convert such societies into Darul-Islam (Islamic society).

The Jihad in Hausaland came to an end in 1809.



TOPIC: The Dynamics of the Evolution of Nigeria as a Political Unit

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The Europeans first had contact with the people of later day Nigeria in the mid-fifteenth century. This set of Europeans were the Portuguese.

The Portuguese first arrived Benin kingdom as early as 1482 during reign of Oba Ewuare.

It was the Portuguese who introduced the Trans-Atlantic slave trade which spanned over three centuries.

It started from late 16th century and was abolished in the early decade of 19th century by the British. The Trans-Atlantic slave trade which led to the forced depopulation of the areas was suppressed through operations of the British West African Naval Squadron (BWANS).

Slave trade was established in the year 1804.

The scramble and partition of Africa by the Europeans (Portuguese, British, France etc.) took place in the Berlin Conference of 1884/85. Nigeria came under the British.

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The first political party of Nigeria was Nigerian Democratic Party (NNDP) of 1922 established by Herbert Macauley.

Nigeria before her independence witnessed the introduction of three major constitution namely; Sir Arthur Richards - 1946, John Macperson - 1951 and Oliver Lyttleton - 1954 constitution.

It was Oliver Lyttleton of 1954 that gave Nigeria full Federalism (the status of a federal state).

The motion for self-government was moved by Chief Anthony Enahoro in 1953. He suggested that Nigeria's independence should be attained in 1956.

Nigeria became a Republic in October 1st, 1963.

Coup d'etat: is the unlawful removal of a democratically elected head, in most cases by military men.

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The second military coup was a counter-coup which occurred on July 29, 1966. This coup led to death of the then military Head of State, Aguyi Ironsi

TOPIC: History of Western Education in Nigeria

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Western Education was first introduced into Nigeria by the Portuguese who saw it as a fundamental importance to spreading of Christianity.

When the British took over from the portuguese who involved in slave trade, they established schools for the training of freed slave delivered from the hand of portuguese slave traders.

The first formal school in Nigeria was opened in Badagry on 24th Septmber 1842 by Rev. Thomas Birch Freeman and Mr. and Mrs. de Graft of Wesleyan Missionary Society.

The first private secondary school was C.M.S (Church Missionary Society) established in lagos 1859 by a Nigerian clergy man, Revd. T.B. Macauley (the father of Sir Hrbert Macauley).

The first set of students to fully recieve Western education in the Eastern Nigeria were girls.

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In 1962, the University College, Ibadan became a full fledge University.



TOPIC: National Economy: Balance of Trade and Economic Reliance

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Nigeria has a land mass of 98.521 million hectares of which about 74.036 million hectares are arable.

Nigeria is blessed with alluvial deposits in the West and Tin in the North, coal abundance in the East and petroleum in the southern part such as Edo, Delta, Rivers, Imo, Abia, and Akwa Ibom states.

Lead and Zinc are concentrated in Jos. Also brass, bronze and iron ore around Lokoja.

During the period of 1980-1992, Nigeria moved from a middle income country with a per capital GNP (Gross National Product) of about \$1500.00 to a low income country.

Balance of Trade is the difference between the value of merchandise or visible exports and the value of merchandise or visible imports.

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Balance of Payments refers to a systematic records of all economic transactions between the residents of the reporting country and residents of foreign country during a period of time usually a year.

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TOPIC: Education and National Development in Nigerian

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Education is the process by which the individual acquires the many physical and social capabilities demanded of him by the group he is born and within he must function.

Socialization is the process whereby the culture of a group of people is learned.

Education is a part of socialization process that is specifically organised to ensure that learning occurs.

The first post-independence National Education conference on curriculum development was organised in 1969 by Nigerian Educational council.

The formation of national policy on Education was in 1977.

Universal primary Education Programme (UPE) was introduced in 1976.

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Moral and Political Rights of Citizens



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Moral and Political Rights of Citizens

There are two types of rights; Moral and Legal Rights.

According to Hobhouse (1921) a true moral right is one which is demonstrable, justifiable by relation to the common good whether it is usually recognized.

Rights are said to be correlative with duties.

Legal Rights are rights backed up by the constitution of a state.

The totality of all rights and privileges accorded to a member of a state is known as Citizenship.

While the members are known as the citizens.

An individual can acquire the citizenship of a state through two main methods; by Birth and by legal process.

Citizenship by birth is also known as Jus sanguinis.



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Jus Solis refers to the law of soil or place, which proscribes that any person born within the territorial jurisdiction of a state is automatically a citizen of that state.

Citizenship by legal process is also known as naturalization which is another term for Application.

Method of termination of citizenship are by Marriage, naturalization, (revocation) and by expatriation (voluntary renouncement).