**LESSON NOTE 7-8**

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| **MEANING OF CENTRALIZED STATE**    The term pre-colonial refers to a time and era before the coming of the British. There are two important eras in the history of Nigeria; the pre-colonial and post-colonial eras.  A centralized state is a state in which power, control and authority resides in the hands of a single ruler. This state structure of a structure of a state or country where the power of government are concentrated in one person or authority allows the ruler to make laws, interpreter the laws and implement the law.  CHARATERISTICS OF CENTRALIZED STATE.   1. There is presence of strong and influential person( sultan, emir, oba or alaafin) 2. There is an element such as religion, which unifies all the people as one under the leader or ruler. 3. They are large in nature 4. They are strong, influential and not easily conquered. 5. They possessed and retained strong identities.   Examples of centralized states in Northern and Southern part of Nigerian. They include:   * The Hausa states * The Kanem-Bornu empire * The Nupe kingdom * The Oyo empire * The Igala kingdom * The Benin kingdom * The Niger Delta and the Calabar kingdoms. |

**LESSON NOTE 9-10**

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| **THE HAUSA STATE, THE KANEM-BORNU EMPIRE AND THE NUPE KINGDOMS**  **The Hausa kingdom**    The Hausa kingdoms were a collection of states by the Hausa people and existed long before they were conquered by the Jihadist who took over the state during the years of the 19th century. Two major systems of administration evolved in the Hausa land and they are:   1. The Sarauta system: this system was based on kingship which was the traditional system of government practiced under the Haber rules with the title of Sarki. 2. The Emirate system: which began after the Sokoto and Jihad in 1804 and involves an Emir regarded as the monarch and supreme authority in all aspects of life. All emirates are accountable to the sultan of Sokoto, the Calipher or supreme head and is aided by the following officials; The emirs ministers, district heads the village heads and the Alkali court   **The Kanem-Bornu**  The Kanem-bornu empire was founded in the mid9th century by Saif ibn Dhi Yazan of Himyar. It lasted until the 1900s and ruled by the Saif dynasty until its demise. The political and social organization of the Kanem-Bornu was based on kingship with the power resting on the Mai. Other political officers like the council of twelve (Nokena) the Khadi (chief judge), Galadima, Kaigama etc.  The empire began to crumble following the weakness of the states and eventually end of the Saif Dynasty in 1846.  **The Nupe Kingdom**    It was founded in the central parts of three states (Kogi, Kwara, Niger states) of the present day Nigeria. They adopted islam towards the close of the 18th century and was subsequently incorporated into the Sokoto caliphate system. The political head is known as the Etsu and the political organization was two level; Central and provincial. The powers of Estu Nupe were regulated by customs and taboos guided by officials such as Shaba, Kpotuh and Maku. |

**LESSON NOTE 11**

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| **THE OYO EMPIRE, THE IGALA AND THE BENIN KINGDOM**  **The Oyo Empire**    The empire was founded by Oranmiyan, the son of Oduduwa who founded Ile Ife in the 15th century. An important feature was the emergence of kingship structure of government. The political structure of Oyo empire weaved around 4 major organs namely;   1. The Alaafin or Ikeji Onisa: the traditional ruler, political and spiritual leader of the Oyo and considered as the representative of God on earth. The king was assisted by executive agencies. 2. The Oyemesi: king makers made up of 7 noble chiefs headed by Basorun (prime minster). Their main function is selecting the new Alaafin, checking the king excesses and reporting issues to him. 3. The Ogboni: a very powerful society which possessed judicial powers, involved in policy making and influenced events in the society. They were headed by the Oluwo and they also served to check and balance the excessive powers of the Alaafin. 4. The Eso: the military arm of the government which assisted the Alaafin.   **The Igala Kingdom**  **Attah of Igala**  Located in the present day Kogi State of the North central geopolitical zone of Nigeria. It was founded by one Abute Eje in the 7th century CE with its capital in Idah. It started as a group of nine independent villages which became known as the Igala Mela and later developed into a centralized state. It was first headed by Attah Ayaba, and the Attah had remained as the title of the political and spiritual leader of the kingdom. The Attah was assisted by the council of states made up of 9 chiefs who advises the king on effective administration of the kingdom.  **The Benin Kingdom**    The system of succession in centralized Benin empire was primogeniture in order to reduce succession disputes instituted by Ewuare. This system conferred upon the eldest son of the king to succeed him at his death. Oral tradition seems to focus on the activities of kings and queens, as evident in the Benin history where attention is on the dynasties of Ogiso and Eweka.   * Ogiso dynasty: the history of Benin can be traced to the rule Igbo said to be the founder in about 900 AD of the Ogiso dynasty and headed by a King (Ogiso) the title of the early benin king. At the initial stage, the kingdom was known as Igodomigodo. The Ogiso had chiefs (Enigie) whom he appointed to rule in outlying areas and help his administration. The Ogiso dynasty failed because of the weakness of the personalities of the rulers and was suspended because of the political crisis in the kingdom. A republician ruled by neither a king nor queen was established and two administrates Evian and Ogiamwen ruled. * The Eweka dynasty: the people’s refusal to accept the republican rule, and in order not to create a vacuum because of the political crisis the Oni of Ife was sent for to request for a king to rule the Benin kingdom, the Oni responded by sending prince Oranmiyan. He became the king of Benin and later married princess Erinwinde and proceeded to birth a son Eweka. Prince Eweka eventually founded the Eweka dynasty and the title of Benin kingdom. The Oba had the following officials who worked: Uzama (kingmakers) Eghavbon’ore (the appointed town chief) Eghaerbon´ogbe who are the palace chiefs and Edaiken (heir apparent) |