

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK TWO (2)

SUBJECT: HISTORY

CLASS: JSS2

TOPIC : NON-CENTRALIZED STATES IN THE PRE-COLONIAL NIGERIA (ORON)

INTRODUCTION

A non-centralized state is the one in which political power is distributed among various units of government, power is not concentrated at the centre. The non-centralized states are those states that had no constituted and centralized powerful kings that ruled them. They were led by leaders who shared common blood relationship. They had no powerful kings, no structured political government. Everyone was involved in the governmental process through representatives from the family (the oldest male in the family), village male elders, clans, age grade etc, their economy, culture, traditional religion, customs, market etc, where all intact before the coming of the white man.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A NON-CENTRALIZED STATE

1. They were not ruled by kings or monarchical system of government.
2. They were ruled by the eldest male in the family or village
3. There were no court of laws, therefore people were guided by taboos, customs and religions of the land.
4. Before any major decision were taken against any offender, the oracle must be consulted at the general assembly.
5. Tittle taking was in existence, as wealthy and influential personalities took tittles.

TRADITIONS AND ORIGIN OF ORON

Unlike many, Niger delta tribesmen, did not have a dependable history to trace its origin. It is believed that Oron settled in their present location (Akwa-Ibom and cross river) by 2370BC.

However, Oron story revealed that Abang a great wrestler in Oron was over powered by slave traders and was sent to Egypt. He escaped from Egypt and found his way back to Oron, having established his presence in Cameroon.

SOCIO- POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF ORON

Oron had non- centralized political structure. The following featured in her political structure;

1. The head was known as "Ahta Oron". He ruled with other chiefs.
2. Secret societies and associations; these help in carrying out decision for people.
3. Age Group: they help the council of priest in enforcing their decisions.
4. Council of priests : this also helped the council of priests in enforcing their others.

SOCO- ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE ORON PEOPLE.

Oron people are industrious and hospitable. Their main occupations include;

- Fishing
- Farming
- Trading
- Craft creation etc.

HOMEWORK

1. Trace the origin of the Oron people.