

**SUBJECT:** History  
**TOPIC:** Igala Kingdom

### **SOCIO-POLITICAL ORGANISATION**

The head of the Kingdom was the King known as the Atta. The Atta appointed councilors who helped him in admiration. He organized and headed the troops in times of war. The Atta was surrounded with taboos, customs, court rituals. The death or removal of an Atta from throne followed laid down rules of succession.

The councilor assisted the Atta, they were the Atta's sons and grandson. They served as intermediaries between the central government and local government. The titled one collected tributes and assisted in political and judicial matters. They also followed the Atta to the battle field and organized troops for him.

There was the Royal Councilors/ or lineage council of elders groups and they represented the Atta's lineage and other lineage groups. They were the Atta's highest representative. They include Amacho, Hodo Aduga, Akogu and Ocholi.

Next was the Igala Mela or nine King makers. The leader of the Igala Mela was the Achadu. Their functions includes to control the election of the new Atta chosen from among the four lineage groups. They Controlled rituals on land and shrine, they carried out ceremonies on ascension to the throne of new Atta after the death of the old one. They have the powers to remove an unpopular king from the throne.

They officiated annual land festivals which were owned by clans at all levels. They ensured succession to the throne.

The hamlet was a community of Kinship of members who were related by birth or marriage. Each hamlet had a self – contained unit covered with judgment on land disputes, criminal cases and divorce

### **DECLINE AND FALL OF IGALA KINGDOM**

- a. The Administration
- b. The breaking up of Igala Mela in the 13<sup>th</sup> century
- c. The military became weak.
- d. Declaration of independence by vassal states.
- e. The Royal Niger Company's Interference in Igala.