

## WEEK SIX (6)

### TOPIC : NON-CENTRALIZED STATE – URHOBO

Urhobo people are one of the largest ethnic group in Delta state. Urhobo people are located in south Southern part of Nigeria in the Niger Delta area.

Urhobo people share more affinity to Edo people of Benin, the Ijaw people and the Igbo people. Urhobo territory was occupied towards the end of Ogoiso Dynasty around 1170AD. This was a period when a group of people occupying Benin land left Edo in search of a new land where they can farm on and call their own. In other words, Urhobo land was occupied between 1200AD and 1500AD. Each of these groups eventually came together to form Urhobo nation. Take for instance, the Orogun, Olomu, Aghon, Abraka, Utuo, Uwherun and Mototo clans migrated from Benin land and are linked to Benin Kingdom. The Ewreni, clan migrated from Igbo land and a link to Igbo people. The Ughelli, Ewu, Agbarho, Ogele Ogo and Ughienvwe clans migrated from Ijaw land and are linked to the Ijaw people.

### SOCIO-POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF URHOBO PEOPLE

1. **THE VILLAGE GROUP** : the village group was the largest unit in urhobo. The village consists of people of same ancestor.
2. **COUNCIL OF ELDERS** : the council of elders can also be called **ekpako** was in charge of peoples affairs. They took important decisions concerning the whole village . **the Otota** was the spokesman .
3. **WAR COMMANDER** : **the lilletu** held the position of war commander not because of age but because he was part of the village council.
4. **THE OVIE** : the ovie was the political head who not only performed religious activities but held executives and legislative functions.

### THE ECONOMY OF THE URHUBO PEOPLE

The urhobo people engaged in ;

1. **FARMING** : the people cultivated cash crops like yam , cassava, maize , okoro , cocoyam , plantain etc. this yielded much income.
2. **ARTS AND CRAFTS** : durable arts and crafts were part of the economy’.
3. **TRADE** : they traded with other neighbouring communities both cash crops and other locally produced items.
4. **FISHING**
5. **LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

### ASSIGNMENT :

1. Discuss the traditional origin of uhrobo people.

