

The Ughievwen People of Western Delta of Nigeria Pre-Colonial Political System: A Monarchy or Republicanism?

OGHI, Felix Ejukonemu, *PhD*

Department of History and Diplomatic Studies
Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa
Edo State, Nigeria

Abstract

The popular opinion about Ughievwen precolonial political organisation is that which described it to have had a brief experience of monarchical rule in precolonial times when one Evwherha from Oginibo tried to impose himself on the entire division as king. Popular resistance to this administrative innovation prevented it from maturing into an institution. Following pressure from colonial authorities, the Ughievwen created the office of Otota in the early decades of the 20th century. The view continues that when Midwestern Region was created in 1963, the designation of the Otota was changed to Okobaro in 1964. Late Chief Ugen, the then Odede of Ebo society, the view maintains, became the first Okobaro. He was succeeded as Okobaro by Chief Okpako Dase of Otutuama from Owahwa subsection of Ughievwen with the title Owahwa I. How correct is this assertion? It is the position of this paper that this view cannot be sustained in the light of emerging evidences. Ughievwen land had a monarchical political structure before the advent of colonialism and that the position of “Ototaship” and “Okobaro” as implying king was an aberration prior to the coming of the British.

Keywords: Monarchy, Pre-colonial Political System, Republicanism, Ughievwen