**Structures and Functions of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Executive Branch**

* Functions
  + enforce laws
  + regarding legislation
    - proposing legislation
    - assenting to and signing bills
    - referring a bill back to the National Assembly for reconsideration
    - referring a bill to the Constitutional Court for a decision on the bill's constitutionality
  + summoning the National Assembly to an extraordinary sitting to conduct special business
  + responsible for various parastatals (government-owned corporations), such as universities, the National Broadcasting Commission, and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. However, Independent National Electoral Commission, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
  + appointing commissions of inquiry
  + pardoning or reprieving offenders
  + foreign diplomacy:
    - receiving and recognising foreign diplomats
    - appointing ambassadors and diplomats
* Cabinet oversees 20+ Federal Ministries
* By convention, there must be 1 Cabinet member from each of the 36 states

**Legislative Branch**

* Senate: 3 x 36 + 1 from Abuja = 109
* House of Reps: proportionate rep from 36. Total of 360.
* 4 year terms for both Houses.
* Functions
  + Propose and debate legisaltion.
  + Before any bill may become law, it must be agreed to by both the House and the Senate. Can override veto with 2/3 majority.
  + Senate has power to impeach judges
  + Senate confirms the President's nomination of senior diplomats, members of the federal cabinet, federal judicial appointments, and independent federal commissions.
* Leadership
  + Speaker of House presides over House of Reps
  + President of Senate, in line of presidential succession after VP
  + Dozens of standing committees in each chamber

**Judicial Branch**

* Fed and state courts are integrated into a single system of trial and appeal courts
* Supreme Court has both original and appellate jurisdictions
* SC is composed of the Chief Justice of Nigeria and not more than 9 justices, appointed by the President on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council and subject to confirmation by the Senate.
* Traditional authorities maintain their greatest influence in judicial powers
* 12 northern states maintain *sharia* courts
  + In 3 states, Sharia applies only in personal status issues (such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody), but otherwise the legal system is secular.
  + In 9 states, Sharia applies in full, including criminal law.

**The Federal Balancing Act**

* 36 states + Abuja, the federal capital territory
* States are divided into 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs)
  + Exec: State Governors, Deputy Governors, state civil service
  + Leg: State legislatures called Houses of Assembly
  + LGAs have varied from 301 to 774 since 1960; Defining state and local gov´t boundaries is not easy.
    - * Local administration of federal policy 🡪 unlikely to change b/c do not have independent sources of revenue
* Attempts to impose a unitary system in 1966 & 1990; Control of Nigeria by military governments for much of post-colonial era (blurring state powers)
* **Very decentralized** political system; power sharing with states, LGAs, and Ogas
  + - South has argued for greater state or regional autonomy; some southerners call for separate military forces (Hausa domination of military)
    - Formal and informal quotas adopted to calm regional tensions and to maintain Nigeria’s “federal character”
  + Various regions (and thus ethnic groups) guaranteed share of federal positions
  + Nigerian football team selected with attention to geographic representation
    - Competition among states for the distribution of fed oil revenues
      * Disagreements between president and Nat Assembly over amount of money that should be returned to oil-producing areas (“**derivation formula**”)
      * “**National cake**” 🡪 state and local govs as major recipients of slices. 60-80% of state and local funds from federal gov