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Sahel, France in a tunnel



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Amid threats and tensions, the ultimatum that ECOWAS had issued to Niger has expired. The collective West cries out against the "coup" and supports the deposed President Bazoum, who won the elections by fraud. Bazoum is the man of France, since he has always had as a priority the interests of Paris in his country and not those of the Nigeriens, repressing the opposition and even going so far as to give hospitality to the French troops expelled from Mali.

Contagion to the other countries of the region, Senegal in the first place, is the greatest Western fear and that is why ECOWAS (Economic Community of West Africa), a docile African instrument of Western devotion, seems so far determined to prepare a military intervention against Niger. It can hardly masquerade as a democratic response to the

overthrow of an elected government, rather it is clear that it is the West that determines which coups are possible and which are not, which to support and which to fight. Because in Mali, as in Guinea, as in Burkina Faso and Niger, the distinctive element of the military uprisings is only one: they have the support of the respective populations, which makes the "coup" a military pronouncement that reflects the popular demands, that sweeps the elites in favor of the latter.

Paris Feel your finger on the trigger and evaluate the chains of mistakes made by Western contingents in the Sahel. But what complicates his design of a Violent restoration is a problematic overall picture, in which only the Enemies appear clear and insidious.

USA. has no intention of wage war in Africa, and for various reasons. The global conflict that Washington leads against the emergence of a multipolar design has China and Russia as main adversaries, but, unlike France, in the short Africa is indeed of strategic importance to the US, but not vital. No it is Latin America, nor Europe or Asia. Under the current conditions of The US, whose economic recovery looks tenuous, mired in a war from which no concrete strategic gains would be obtained is not sustainable politically, militarily and economically. It was not by chance that he officially denied the French version of the Russian role in Bazoum's ouster, stating that it did not there is responsibility of the Kremlin in the Niger affair.

Evidently, as commander-in-chief of NATO, he cannot leave Paris alone, which reminds him that the war to safeguard the empire has several fronts, and will probably leave Paris, the capital most involved, the last word. For its part, Washington knows that the compromise with the side of the Ukrainian Nazi regime has already strained the US coffers and its military capabilities enough to engage fully in another war. So it supports France, out of Atlanticist "communality" and also to prevent Paris from backing down in Ukraine, but without direct involvement.

G.B. If Washington does not ask you to Intervene instead, you stand aside. You have no intention of entering into a conflict in which it would have nothing to gain, of course, unless Nigeria exposes itself to the risk of a progressive uprising, which would cause quite a few headaches in London.

Germany. Has taken a leadership role in military and intelligence support to Ukraine and cannot re-enter The African chessboard, where its Nazi history now demands extreme caution. There's none no "Afrikakorps" on the horizon: Berlin would possibly prefer see Paris weakened than at the head of a political-military initiative where it should be added by obligation and not by interest.

Italy. She is decidedly against to any kind of military initiative. Defends at all costs the decisions of The United States and there is no possible deviation from the path indicated by Washington. The tensions between Rome and Paris, on immigration, do not push towards a shared management in Europe and Rome likes to give back to France what it wants. received in Libya.

All the hypotheses of the intervention see the need for the formation of a "casus belli", and since it is not possible to allege the desire to plunder Niger, a military scenario needs a political condition, that is, that French troops be called to the rescue by other African countries. Disinformation will provide alarming and egregious news about vague human rights violations and about Bouzum's own personal fate that will try to justify intervention. Later, he will be in charge of forming a government in exile with notables of the deposed regime, just those who have just been released in an assault by French commandos a few days ago on a house where some of the old junta were held.

In plan The most complex element concerns the two countries of a certain military importance that should pave the way for France: Chad and Nigeria. But Both are dealing with internal problems of no small importance.

Nigeria, in particular, seems unable to confront the guerrillas of Boko Haram and the Islamic State of Africa, as well as organized crime and not being able to take down terrorist groups of a few hundred people is not exactly a great record for Face regular troops from three countries. To this is added a reality Very difficult economic between inflation, debt and lack of growth in one of the world's leading oil-producing countries.

The President, Bona Tinubu, fragile and corrupt, already convicted in the US for Drug trafficking, is considered one of the worst figures in history Politics of the African country and is mired in a deep crisis political and lacks the authority to deal with it. The Niger Observatory for Rapid Crisis Response (OSPRES) has been launched pronounced emphatically against any interference in Niger, as well as that the Council of Political Parties (which declares itself a friend of the junta of Niamey) and trade unions. Taking into account the popular support for the junta and the Growing resentment against the French, they have openly declared their opposition to any intervention that makes Niger look like an invader and not a liberator. The fear is to cause a fire that would spread to thousands of kilometers and to Nigeria.

Chad, for its part, although closely linked to France, has in its president Idriss Deby (installed by a coup d'état in 2021 and, therefore, unfit presentable by a "democracy crusade" for obvious reasons) a problematic interlocutor for Washington and Brussels,

after they were caught planning a "color revolution" of which they had blamed Russia in a media falsehood operation. Deby did not take the bait and, instead of expelling the Russian ambassador, expelled the German. What makes us think carefully of a NO for its possible use is the fact that a few days ago Deby visited Niger and met with the government junta, to which he assured that "never and for no reason will Chad launch military operations against Niger, since the new government is loved by its people".

Senegal, which is strictly French, has a very delicate internal situation and the arrest of the beloved opposition leader, Ousmane Sonkò, is having a strong impact on internal balances, which call for caution when entering into conflict with a country whose political leaders are well regarded and do not threaten Dakar in any way. A military intervention would expose the government to a risk of internal upheaval and propose an image of the country as a French outpost against free Africa.

In Summary, it is a complex panorama that should contain the intervention military. Paris is between not wanting to give in and not being able to intervene, if it doesn't want to that all the ideological and media construction of a Russophobic character on the The intervention in Ukraine collapses like a miserable house of cards.

All of this It does not mean at all that plans for military intervention should considered secondary, quite the opposite. In some respects, the Complexity and risk could even be an accelerator of the initiative French military. Paris cannot afford to leave Africa with its tail between The legs because - more than a question of image - it is a question of survival of your model.

But the revolts of recent years in the *banlieues*, the rise of a third and fourth generation of immigrants from North Africa, almost all of them of the Islamic religion, which has been able to put the country in check in recent months, has exhibited a rejection of French political identity that in the event of a war against Niger could become a real "internal front", very difficult to tackle for a government lacking any authority like Macron's.

The unleashing of a social and political crisis of vast proportions, at the same time as a complex military adventure full of uncertainties, which risks producing a domino effect in accelerating the liberation processes, will have to be carefully evaluated by the Elysée. Niger, with the entire Sahel, may become the last page of French neocolonialism. *Grandeur*, more than an ambition, runs the risk of becoming a tomb.

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