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## Niger on the axis of evil



Sources: Rebellion

*African postcolonial history has been plagued by coups d'état, the vast majority of them aimed at deepening systems of dependency on the old metropolises. The few processes that aspired to a radical change in the status quo established by the colonialists were violently aborted: Lumumba, Cabral, Sankara, are some of the names that led truly independence movements and were opportunely executed by the West as a warning to those who tried to follow them.*

To this honorable list we could add the Ghanaian Kwame Nkrumah and the South African Nelson Mandela, who although they were not killed, paid with exile the first and decades of imprisonment Mandela for his daring. Although perhaps the closer in time is Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, whose tragic end did not It only ended with his Pan-African dreams,

but with a reality. Your country, the The continent's most progressive leader, for more than a decade since his assassination Debate between Balkanization and a Civil War that no one could venture an end to becoming in the best Somali style, a state unsuccessful.

It is precisely this background that compels focus attention on the recent series of military coups that have taken place produced in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea (Conakry) and Niger that may be able to aspire to install a new progressive wave on the continent and give Hopes for its 1,400 million inhabitants, subjected to the plundering of its natural resources, fundamentalist terror and climate change.

Regarding the coup in Gabon on August 30, there are to make it clear that it responds to totally different characteristics, so that it is impossible, so far, to assimilate it to those named above. It was even known that the ousted president, Ali Bongo, continued A lineage of 56 years of corruption, is already free and soon He will go into exile where he will remain under the protection of his more than 1,500 million Dollars.

We know that Africa has become a battlefield, of trade moment, between China and the United States and to a lesser extent Russia.

Beyond this dispute, the one that continues to maintain the The real power on the continent is the United States, which where it does not directly does so via the old colonial powers, essentially France. and the United Kingdom, turned into appendages of its will and its strategy.

In this context, it will be necessary to follow carefully the course of The four nations that were called the "coup belt of the Sahel", which until now have operated practically in unison conforming, in fact, in a true regional bloc.

This unprecedented phenomenon in the continent is forcing France directly and the rest of the Western powers that through the *United Nations* has a military presence in its territories, begin to withdraw military personnel installed for a decade under the excuse of the fight against terrorism.

The popular sectors have registered these interventions as a true occupying force, which they actually are, as not only They have independent command without any control of local governments, but that, on the contrary, it is these forces that had or have interference direct on African governments.

This, fundamentally, is where the Reasons for the four armies that have rebelled since 2020 to be changing the histories of their countries.

This situation is not free and for which they do not stop paying Very high price in lives for their daring. Just to refer to the most Recently, we will mention the attack of last September 5, where close 60 men from the Burkinabe security forces were killed and dozens were injured in Koumbri commune in Yatenga province, north of the country, in combat with *mujahideen* belonging to some of the *khatibas* of *Daesh* or *al-Qaeda* that operate in Burkina Faso since 2015.

It is important to note that since September 2022, when the young soldiers led by Captain Ibrahim Traoré took power and distanced themselves from France forcing the withdrawal of all Operation forces. *You know*, that like the *Barkhane* in Mali they had done nothing against Terrorists, the number of actions and murders of *Wahhabi* gangs, have tripled compared to the previous year and a half, so that the Ouagadougou authorities suspect that the renewed *vigour of the takfirists* is due to the aid package that some "foreign" intelligence is doing. *toasting the terrorists*, who in Monday's attack also lost Dozens of fighters turning that battle into the most important since Captain Traoré rules the country and that will certainly not be the last.

### **A powder keg called Niger**

While in the three blows prior to Niger, the On July 26, each of the new governments implemented measures of isolation against the power that France maintained in each of its former colonies, none has been as radical and urgent as that of the Nigerien Council officials. *National for the Safeguarding of Our Homeland* (CNSP), which have demanded Paris the withdrawal of its ambassador, Sylvain Itte, to which an unleashed French President Emmanuel Macron, in an unusual measure that only shows his Lack of

willingness to negotiate and desperation for the times that come, has refused to obey the sovereign order of the General's Government Abdourahmane Tchiani, leader of the CNSP.

Macron has initiated a dispute that further strains the relations, not only with Niger, but with all the allied nations between the that Algeria is counted, a regional power and a key country for any armed in North Africa.

Macron insists Niger has no right to withdraw Itte's diplomatic credentials and, doubling down on the stakes, has denied authority of the CNSP to decide on the presence of its personnel diplomat and the 1,800 military personnel intended primarily to protect its uranium mines, now haunted by the new provisions of Niamey, which among other measures has raised the price of this fundamental mineral for France, since between sixty and seventy percent of the energy French electricity comes from nuclear power plants fueled in large Part for the Nigerien uranium.

What Macron feared from the outset has just To happen, the military junta ordered an increase of 0.8 euros per kilo to Two hundred euros per kilo. Which will certainly not make a dent in the economy But it will be an intolerable grievance as well as a terrible example for France. The metropolis, which has so far enjoyed this advantage.

While this is happening, massive demonstrations are they are producing for what, as has already happened in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea (Conakry), foreign military forces leave the country.

For its part, the United States, which has the presence of about 1,100 men of the *African Command* (AFRICOM) distributed in three bases, especially built for drone operations within the framework of the a strategy that intends, or intended, to use Niger as the epicenter of its actions to contain both the Chinese and Russian advance on the continent, where Russian President Vladimir Putin, more than because of Russian action, because of clumsiness of the West, it is considered a factor of liberation and stability.

The Biden government was different from Macron, from the government of the CNSP, looking for a diplomatic channel, which did not cease to be a surprise. Washington feared that a military intervention against Niger by ECOWAS forces (West African Economic

Community) encouraged primarily by France and Nigeria from practically the first hours of the coup, was a invitation letter to Russia, so Washington waits for the CNSP to take a definite course.

In view of these new measures, the expulsion of the ambassador, the withdrawal of troops and mainly increases in uranium prices, the Nigerien Government became part of the growing axis of evil.

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