

de Gaulle's 'FrancAfrique' collapsing: NATO/France/Western Allies lose area 4x the size of Ukraine

Pro-Russian, anti-French military coups in several Francophone African states are an indirect consequence of the Ukraine war

Much like WWII destroyed the British Empire, the Russia-Ukraine war threatens to end FrancAfrique

France's ambitious CO2 emission goals at risk as Niger accounts for over 50% of Areva's uranium supplies

Risk of political disintegration awaits behemoth Nigeria if military operation devolves into a 'Ukraine-type' fiasco



Great wars have a penchant to destroy brittle empires and accelerate the rise of new powers. WWI ended the reign of the Russian Czars, destroyed the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires and led to the global rise of the USA. WWII ended British colonialism and accelerated the civil rights movement in the United States. The Russian war in Afghanistan accelerated the collapse of the Soviet Union, led to the rise of Mikhail Gorbachev and indirectly led to the rise of the Taliban and the 9/11 attacks. The Iraq wars removed a key obstacle to the re-emergence of Iran (Persia) as a quasi regional hegemon and triggered the Arab Spring. In short, great and long wars have profound unintended consequences for third party nations far removed from the immediate theater of operations. Increasingly the

war in Ukraine seems to be accelerating the end of France's long standing quasi-colonial relationship with its African ex-colonies - 'FrancAfrique, originally formulated by former French President Charles de Gaulle.'

Over the past two years, a land area more than 4x the size of Ukraine, previously aligned to Paris, has now become largely aligned to Moscow in a major geopolitical shift. The recent military coup in Niger following in the footsteps of similar events in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso raises the prospects that other French aligned regimes in the region could be equally vulnerable to the virus of coup making taking hold in the Sahel. Of the major remaining Paris aligned regimes, **Senegal** may be the most vulnerable to a putsch.

With Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso previously expelled from the major West African regional body, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the odds of a successful military intervention in Niger are slim despite the threat by ECOWAS to do so with aerial and intelligence support of key NATO members, the USA and France. While Nigeria may yet emerge victorious with its credentials as a regional quasi hegemon bolstered in any war to 'restore democracy' to Niger, Nigeria, itself riven by strong ethno-religious and economic centrifugal forces, could disintegrate under the brunt of heavy military losses - especially if the soldiers deployed into the deadly fight in Niger become seen as disproportionately hailing from the Christian south. Many southern christian elites believe that Nigeria's northern elites are too closely aligned with their extended kin in neighboring Niger.

Unlike the late 1980s successful interventions in Liberia, and more recently in Sierra Leone, Nigeria's military is today a shell of what it was once - driven much like the Russian military with internecine turf battles and massive levels of corruption around procurement. Nigeria may yet face its Waterloo in Niger if a military intervention occurs next week. At the 30th July emergency summit hosted by Nigeria's new President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, a 7 day ultimatum to Niger's new military leaders to give up power or be forcibly dislodged was issued - effectively backing up the new president into a corner to stand by by his strong demands or be ridiculed.

Unlike in Burkina Faso and Mali, where France has no major strategic economic interests, 50% of Areva's uranium comes from Niger to power France's electricity grid. Thus the fall of Niger into Moscow's hands poses a serious long-term threat to French energy stability - especially its goals of reducing CO2 emissions to 50% of their 1990 levels in just 7 years. Supply chain constraints on Niger's uranium to France may torpedo that ambitious goal.

For more in-depth ongoing analysis of this crisis, please contact

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