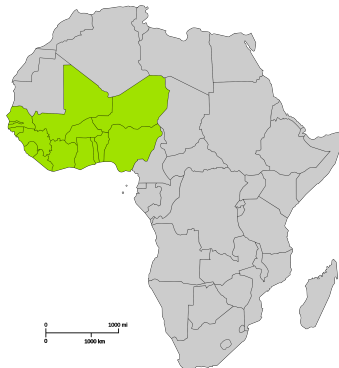


34% of West Africa, (an area larger than Germany + France + UK + Italy + Ukraine), drifts away from France towards Moscow

October 05, 2022

While Russia is losing tactical battles in eastern and southern Ukraine, it seems that its larger strategic attempts to topple the US-led (NATO) dominated global hegemonic order is accelerating in the most unusual place - West Africa. With Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba in Africa this week in search of elusive African allies for Kyiv, in West Africa, an area the size of Germany, France, UK, Italy and Ukraine combined has drifted away from the influence of France (NATO) and increasingly into Moscow's arms in recent months. In the past 60 days, embattled Russian President Vladimir Putin has made time in his busy calendar to speak twice to the leader of Mali, the ancient West African nation at the epicenter of the rupture of 'FrancAfrique,' the longstanding quasi-parasitic economic, political, security and diplomatic arrangement between France and its former African colonies. Guinea, Mali and Burkina Faso have all since 2021 seen their pro-Western governments overthrown, replaced by authoritarian military leaders sympathetic to Moscow..



Guinea ranks 1st in global bauxite reserves, 6th in the extraction of high-grade bauxite for aluminum and has 94% of Africa's mining production of bauxite. Mali is estimated to have 800 metric tons of gold deposits, 2 billion metric tons of iron, 5,200 metric tons of uranium, and 10 million metric tons of manganese. Burkina Faso also has large quantities of untapped reserves of gold, silver, and zinc. All three countries are reputed to have large reserves of battery metals such as lithium, a key ingredient for the green energy pivot.

Moreover with the US/French (NATO) operations in West Africa primarily focused on anti Islamist terrorist activities in the Sahel region – the geopolitical shifts of the three key nations away from France and towards Russia will complicate US military logistical operations in Africa. With nearly every West African democracy over the past three years having endured one form of attempted military intervention, and/or severe domestic political crisis, West Africa's democracies will continue to unravel and possibly see more violent youth protests triggering anti-democratic overthrows – unless the West entices China to share in a common political/economic agenda for Africa.

DaMina Advisors is a preeminent independent Africa-focused frontier markets risk research, due diligence and M&A transactions consulting and strategic advisory firm.

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