

Regional and Global Repercussions of the Niger Coup

The coup has many possible consequences for Niger and the Sahel region. But the main concerns revolve around security issues linked to terrorist organizations and concerns about the expansion of Russia's influence in the region. Russia's potential to expand its influence in the region using the Wagner group is raising international concerns.



Local and Broader Impacts

Although the coup will have a ripple effect economically and in foreign relations, it will soon affect Niger even more, leading to new security problems. Before the coup, Niger was a strong ally of many Western countries and organizations, especially France, the European Union and the United States. Therefore, progress towards reducing radical insurgency will backfire and have the potential to mask attacks that would be portrayed as violent due to the coup. Moreover, Niger's new leaders could potentially have more contact and interaction with the Wagner group. Wagner already has a presence in Africa, namely Sudan, the Central African Republic, Mali and Burkina Faso. Wagner's presence is of great concern as these countries may be able to align themselves with Russia's geopolitical goals and extend their influence in Africa to a higher level.

Russia's expansion of its influence in Africa means providing access to economically viable and more resources, while at the same time positioning itself in the place of the West. The Wagner group has met with the military governments in Mali and Burkina Faso to reduce radicalization and terrorism, but this has not led to any improvement in the problems. Post-coup developments are multiplying concerns about the growth of radical insurgency in Niger and the Sahel region.

From an economic point of view, the military takeover; While there are also great risks for investments and trade in the mining field, there are many conclusions to be drawn from this. Niger is a country rich in oil and natural gas and as such, especially since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it has been a promising potential partner supplier for European countries looking to source energy from sources other than Russia. Due to hostilities towards the West and the growing influence of Russia's

direct investment. However, since the instability of military coups also means that the pre-existing democratically elected government always has the potential to be reinstated through negotiations and/or foreign military interventions, this should not be an assumption that should be fully asserted. The government's ability to stave off a coup in 2021 has further strengthened this potential.

Another concern arising from the coup is the potential for further clashes and violence across the entire Sahel. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has drawn up a plan to intervene militarily in Niger in order to reinstate President Mohamed Bazum and his government and dismantle the military junta. Potential violence and the consequences of military interventions include increased crime, more radical and terrorist attacks, and the exodus of affected populations. Therefore, the coup has many possible consequences for Niger and the Sahel region. The main concerns revolve around security issues linked to terrorist organizations, as well as concerns about the expansion of Russia's influence in the region.

As mentioned earlier, Russia's potential to expand its influence using the Wagner group is causing concern internationally. While the war between Russia and Ukraine is still ongoing, this influence will allow Russia to gain greater access to resources that will help invade Ukraine. For Europe, this could mean Russia increasing its influence over Europe, potentially leading to more new invasions.

The relationship between France and Niger has also become unpleasant. The military junta accuses France of organizing and planning military interventions to reinstate President Bazum. In Niger, accusations against France spread among coup supporters, while the French Embassy was also set on fire. In addition, Niger meets about 15 percent of France's uranium

However, the coup has numerous implications in the international arena in addition to Niger and the Sahel region. Growing Russian influence, radicalization, terrorism, conflict and concerns about economic resources are of great importance.