THE RESURGENCE OF MILITARY COUPS IN WEST-AFRICA STATES: THE CASE OF NIGER REPUBLIC AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON PEACE, SECURITY AND TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Niger Republic is a country rich in mineral resources (uranium) with astounding and complex relationship with the West, a strategic country provided with supports and collaboration with the West (United States of America) when it comes to fight against terrorism in Africa. Relatively enjoying a stable civilian government before the seemingly unexpected military coup struck and pull out the roots of civilian government and short-lived the democratic government in power. This study aims at; identifying and examining the factors responsible for military coups in West Africa States and Niger republic in 2023, examining the interventions and reactions of Nigerian Government and Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and other international organizations towards the Military Coup in Niger Republic, identifying and assessing the implications of the Niger coup on Nigeria national peace, security and socio-economic development as a neighboring State and Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) in general. In this study, the Resource Curse Theory was used as the theoretical framework of analysis. The data used in this study are primarily and secondarily sourced. The interview was tailored towards eliciting information from key informants, including historians, political scientists, peace and conflict experts, international relations experts, diplomats, staff of foreign affairs ministry and other stakeholders. Secondary data were sourced from publications, editorials, articles, textbooks, journals, newspapers, internet materials in relations to the subject matter. The research work established the fact that security and welfare of the people which is the primary purpose and responsibility of the government has not been adequately attended to due to leadership failure and indiscipline among the political class. However, because of the far-reaching implications of the coup for national life and ECOWAS States at large, the study therefore, recommended, among other things, that all parties involved must embrace peace and come together in order to resolve the matter in a manner that will further promote peace and development in the sub-region.

KEYWORDS

Military Coup, Peace, Security, Transnational and Trade.

INTRODUCTION

Africa has the longest history of military rule (whether permanent or temporary) among the six continents in the world, as well as repeated coups (both failed and successful). It has become popular in certain parts of the continent, particularly in West Africa. Apart from the successful ones and the reappearance of military coups in West Africa following a few decades of civilian rule combined with democratic rule in some States, the military has made multiple attempts to seize power in the region (Akinola, 2021). Readily come to mind are the cases of; Mali, Gabon and Niger with a failed attempt in Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone, all in the year 2023, not minding the cases of military coup in the region between 2020 till date.

Between 1950 and 2023, there were 511 coup attempts worldwide in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Oceania, of which half resulted in success. Although, the mid-1960s saw the greatest number of coup attempts, there were also significant numbers in the mid-1970s and the early 1990s *(Powell and Thyne, 2011)*. Africa accounts for the largest number Military Coup with 214, of which at least 106 have been successful. Military coups occurred in virtually every part of Africa from the moment that many countries in Africa emerged or were liberated from the shackles of colonial claws, that is, in the immediate post-colonial period in Africa (Glennie, 2008). While most coups still maintain authoritarianism, post-Cold War coups have been more likely to produce democratic systems than their Cold War counterparts *(Miller, 2016)*.

Prior to the late 1970s and early 1990s, Africa was known for its constant military intervention in politics; however, as democratization waves swept the continent, liberal democracy came to be recognized as the ideal form of government (Akinola, 2021). Stakeholders in Africa's democratic transition have had to consider whether democracy is consolidating across the continent in the last ten years. The majority of African nations have not succeeded in achieving political development beyond what has evolved into the "ritualistic" handling of elections and political transitions, despite the promise of democracy. The several military coups that have occurred across the continent in the last two years have highlighted the incapacity to institutionalized democracy. *(Ratidzo and Adeleye, 2024)*.

Since the 1960s, military coups have been a common occurrence in Africa, presenting a serious threat to the continent's democratic progress. Although, they briefly stopped being the norm, recent coups in nations like Guinea, Sudan, Mali, Burkina-Faso, and the Niger Republic indicate that the military is gradually regaining control of government. Compared to other regions, there have been more coups in West Africa and the Sahel. Studying the resurgence of military coups in this area is crucial, as it delves into the underlying factors and new realities that have contributed to the appeal of military regimes throughout history. Accordingly, Akinola *(2021)* concedes that political unrest and socio-economic issues drive military interventions, but contends that regional organizations ought to take more aggressive steps to encourage adherence to democratic values.

West Africa is a sub-region that has experienced a long history of political instability, violence, and coups d'état. Since the end of colonial rule, many West African countries have struggled to establish and consolidate democratic institutions and practices. According to the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), between 1950 and 2023, there were 109 successful or attempted coups in West Africa, accounting for 65% of all coups in Africa. In the sub-Saharan area of the continent, it was established that the first coup which led to the removal of president Farouq of Egypt ushered in and marked the beginning of modern Egyptian governance under the leadership of Mohammed Naguib who was sworn in after the successful coup.

As a matter of fact, Niger Republic is one of the most coup-prone countries in West Africa and Africa as a whole. From the retrospective lens, since her independence from France in 1960, Niger has experienced seven coups or attempted coups, resulting in four changes of government. However, the most recent coup occurred on July 26,

2023, when a group of soldiers from the presidential guard stormed the presidential palace and detained President Mohamed Bazoum, The coup leaders announced the suspension of the constitution and the formation of a military junta called the National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State (CNRDS), led by General AbdourahmaneTchiani. The coup however, was widely condemned by the international community and regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which demanded the immediate release of President Bazoum and the restoration of constitutional order *(Ratidzo and Adeleye, 2024)*.

The aforementioned phenomenon, particularly the irregular proliferation of military intervention in West Africa, has drawn the interest of regional international community, State leaders, and neighboring States in seeking measures to prevent the spread of military coups (Akinfenwa, 2021).Regardless of the motivation, reasons or otherwise justifiable excuses or causes of military coup, that process of seizing/taking state power and using them unlawfully will not be accepted as justifiable as the negative effects of such outweighs its benefits, this notion spurred the intolerable reactions of neighboring States of Niger Republic and the Economic community of West Africa to blatantly frown at the Niger coup and came up with diverse measures (including sanctions and consideration to use force) to restore democracy back to Niger not only for the good sake of Niger Republic but the entire region of West Africa.

In light of this, it is critical to note that Nigeria and the Niger Republic in West Africa are neighbors. Nigeria is Niger's southern neighbor and largest trading partner. Usually, the northern regions of both countries are where Nigeria and Niger converge. There are multiple border crossings and a reasonably wide border between Nigeria and the Niger Republic. The border crossings at Jibiya, Nigeria, and Magaria, Niger, are particularly notable. This crossing is one of several locations where the two nations shared a border and is located in northwest Nigeria. The two countries share a long border of about 1,500 km, which is porous and poorly secured. The border region is characterized by high levels of cross-border mobility, trade, migration, and cultural exchange. However, it is also a hotspot for various forms of transnational organized crime, such as smuggling of goods and people, trafficking of drugs and weapons, illegal exploitation of natural resources, and terrorism (INTERPOL Public Website, 2015). Consequently, it is crucial to conduct this research, which focuses on the resurgence of military coups in the West African region: the case of the Niger Republic and its effects on peace, security, and transnational activities in Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to examine the causes of military coup in West Africa sub-region with particular emphasis on Niger Republic. The specific objectives of the study are to;

A. identifying and examining the factors responsible for military coup in Niger Republic in 2023;
B. examine the interventions and reactions of Nigeria Government towards the Military coup in Niger Republic;
C. examine the interventions and reactions of sub-regional organization (Economic Community of West Africa States) and other international organizations towards the Military coup in Niger Republic; and
D. identifying and assessing the implications of the Niger coup on Nigeria as a neighbor State and ECOWAS in general and also suggest ways through which future occurrence could be prevented.

Conceptual Clarification
Military Coup

A military coup is usually an illegal and overt attempt to remove an incumbent State leadership by a military organization or other government elites. (Powell, Jonathan., Thyne and Clayton, 2011). Accordingly, Chin, Carter, Davidand Wright (2021) averred that military coup is hasty and illegal overthrow of a democratic government, usually by the armed forces or a subset of them. The use of force, or the threat of using it, to take over the State

apparatus, including important government institutions, is what defines this action. Some of the characteristics of military coup are; use of force, illegality, seizure of power, suspension of civil liberties, uncertainty and instability, political motivations, announcement of takeover and so on.

Security

Adabembe and Adedayo (2022) defines security as the safeguarding of an individual's life and belongings. The traditional conceptualization of security has given way to a non-traditional meaning in recent times. Historically, the State's role in security has been one-sided, particularly when we take into account the political theorists' intellectual perceptions, such as Thomas Hobbes, who maintained that the provision of law and order which can only be achieved through (effective) security is the fundamental role of a State.

Transnational Trade

The term "transnational trade" describes economic exchanges that take place between nations and involves the transfer of capital, goods, and services. Services like foreign transportation, travel and tourism, banking, warehousing, communication, advertising, and distribution and advertising, have all seen remarkable increases in international trade. The ease of transportation and information technology has led to an increase in international trade. The advantages of trade, such as acquiring products that are not able to be produced domestically (Rini and Didit, 2022). Different dimensions exist for transactional trades, including cross-border transactions, global supply chains, technology transfer, cultural and economic aspects, and so forth.

Military Coup in Sub-Saharan African in Historical Perspectives

Sub-Saharan Africa has a history of military coups that began in 1963, when one took place in Togo. President Sylvanus Olympio of Togo was shot on January 13, 1963, outside the US Embassy in Lomé, the first president of the nation after independence. He ran away from the disgruntled soldiers who were leading a coup d'état under the command of Sergeant Major Emmanuel Bodjolie at the time (Willoughby, 2013). Following this, on January 15, 1966, there was a military takeover in Nigeria under the command of Major Nzeogwu, whose soldiers had received training in the United Kingdom (Siollun, 2016). The goal of the coup was to eradicate ethnic rivalry and corruption. This, however, was not accomplished since it revealed the weaknesses in Nigerian State institutions. Nigeria consequently saw multiple oppressive military regimes for 29 years before democracy was reinstated in 1999. But the full realization of the consolidation of democracy is still pending.

On February 24, 1966, Ghana also saw a successful military takeover under the leadership of General Joseph Ankrah. Ghanaians greeted this military takeover with joy, as it marked the end of President Kwame Nkrumah, whom they had once adored for guiding them from British domination to independence. But among other reasons, the economic crises brought on by his socialist ideal's power policy implementation caused him to be removed (Harvey, 1966). The three instances of early and successful military takeovers are associated with deficient public services, financial limitations, and restricted civil liberties all of which are essential for the establishment of democracy. These military takeovers have been happening for almost 55 years, and the motivations behind them have hardly changed.

The first indication of what UN Secretary-General António Guterres later described as a "epidemic of coups d'état" in Africa took place in August, 2020 in Mali, where President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta was overthrown and replaced with Bah Ndaw. This was followed by a number of military coups in West Africa and the Sahel, which was seen as a snowball effect because there were five military coups in Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania between 2018 and 2021 (Debos, 2021).

***Table 1** (West African Leaders that have ruled their countries for over 20 years)*

Country	Name of Leader	Year
Cameroon	Paul Biya	40
Chad	Idriss Deby	30
Togo	Gnassingbe Dynasty	54

Source: Compiled by author.

Table 2 (The Number of Successful and Unsuccessful Military Coups within West Africa Region from 1960 to 2022)

S/N	Country	Number of Military Coups
1.	Nigeria	7
2.	Chad	4
3.	Burkina Faso	6
4.	Mali	5
5.	Mauritania	6
6.	Niger Republic	4
	Total	**25**

Source: Compiled by author.

Recent Cases of Military Coup d'etat in West Africa Region

Mali: On August 18, 2020, the military detained and forced resignations from both the Prime-minister and president of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keira and Boubou Cisse. The reasons behind this action were related to Keira's mishandling of the economy and her inability to uphold law and order. Disgruntled junior military officers were also cited as causes of the military coup and these, were later backed by senior officers (Dion and Sany, 2021).

Sudan: On April 2019, Omar Al-Bashir, the president of Sudan for thirty years, was deposed in a military coup after widespread protest against his rule (Akinfenwa, 2021).

Burkina Faso: Burkina Faso, a nation in West Africa, has had ten coup attempts, the highest in the continent and has not seen a peaceful transfer of political power in decades since gaining its independence (Isilow and Felix-Tih, 2020).

Gabon: On 30 August, 2023, shortly after it was declared that incumbent President Ali-Bongo Ondimba had won the general election on August 26, there was a coup d'état in Gabon. The country's experience with political decay was one of the cause(s) of this military coup and subsequent rule, which the civilians gladly welcomed because, paradoxically, they saw the military as the Messiah. The Bongo family's 56-year rule over Gabon came to an end with the coup. Additionally, since 2020, there have been eight successful coups in West and Central Africa.(Taken from Wikipedia - Gabonese coup d'état in 2023).

Niger Military Coup: West African nation of Niger Republic shares borders with Nigeria and other nations in the region. Being wealthy in uranium and a member of the Economic Community of West Africa, she is a formidable opponent in the field of nuclear power.

Following President Mohammadou Issoufou's two terms in office, the nation saw its first civilian-to-citizen transition, which was triggered by a military coup on July 26, 2023.The military's top brass staged a coup that resulted in President Bazoum, the civilian head of state of Niger, being taken into custody right away. Following the announcement of General Omar Tchiani, the head of the Presidential Guard, as the new head of State, there was a curfew, closed borders with neighboring countries, and suspension of all state institutions.

Theoretical Framework

This aspect of the study discusses the theory that forms the framework with which the research works is built. For the purpose of this study, the theory used is Resource Curse Theory. The Resource Curse Theory looks at how a State's ability to produce natural resources affects its political stability and growth. The "paradox of plenty" or resource curse theory was developed and put forth by a number of academics. Richard Auty was a prominent economist who supported this theory. The idea was first proposed by the researcher in the 1990s to explain how resource abundance hinders the advancement of both economic and political systems. According to the resource curse theory, States that are rich in natural resources such as minerals or oil face difficulties in maintaining good governance and power, as well as a higher risk of military takeovers as a result of the struggle for control over these lucrative resources.

By application, the military coup in Niger Republic was planned in response to the country's dependence on natural resources such as uranium, coal, gold, iron ore, tin, phosphates, petroleum, and others. The people of Niger are not directly benefitting from these resources. Furthermore, Niger's overall economic stability and development were impacted by the country's residents' and government's financial dependence on these resources. For example, the Niger Republic exhibits persistent economic volatility, revenue fluctuations, or an excessive emphasis on resource sectors at the expense of diversification.

Methodology

The paper adopts a qualitative research method through unstructured interviews conducted on participants between August, 2023 and February 2024. The qualitative method was used in place of the quantitative method due to the complex nature of the work. Data were collected from face-to-face interactions with Nigerians, academicians, diplomats, public analysts, among others. The following major actors in the democratic, peace and security architectures of West Africa States were purposively selected and interviewed based on their experience, expertise and active participation: Sixty university lecturers in department of History and International Studies, Peace and Security Studies, Political Science and International Relations; forty members of diplomatic mission (twenty each from Nigeria and Niger Republic); twenty experts on peace and security; twenty-five foreign affairs ministry staff in Nigeria and five other stakeholders. The participants were granted anonymity as a condition of the interviews and as part of the ethical consideration that guides the research.

The Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

One Hundred and Fifty (150), questionnaires were administered on university lecturers in department of History and International Studies, Peace and Security Studies, Political Science and International Relations; members of diplomatic mission from Nigeria and Niger Republic; peace and security experts and foreign affairs ministry staff in Nigeria and other stakeholders. The participants were granted anonymity as a condition of the interviews and as part of the ethical consideration that guides the research. The data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) via Frequency and Percentage table.

Table 3 *(Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents.)*

S/N	Respondents Bio Data	Frequency	Percentage
1	**Gender:**		
	Male	97	64.67%
	Female	53	35.33%
	Total	**150**	**100%**
2	**Age Distribution:**		
	18-25	19	12.67%
	26-40	41	27.33
	41- 55	51	34.00%
	55years and above	39	26.00%
	Total	**150**	**100%**
3	**Educational Qualification:**		
	Bachelor Degree	55	82.5%
	Master Degree	45	67.5%
	Doctor of Philosophy Degree	38	57%
	Professor	12	18%
	Total	**150**	**100%**
4	**Religious**		
	Christianity	84	56.00%
	Islam	62	41.33%
	African Traditional Religious (ATR)	4	2.67%
		150	**100%**

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

Findings and Discussion

Findings on Research Objective 1(The Factors Responsible for Military Coup in Niger Republic in 2023)

Table 4 *(Factors Responsible for Military Coup in Niger Republic in 2023)*

Variables	Frequency	Percentage

Poor Leadership and Resources Control	48	32.00%
Country-Wrecking corruption and bad governance	34	22.67%
Mass abuse of power	25	16.67%
Disregard for the rule of law and constitution	22	14.67%
Citizens Contribution to the Military's self-Justification of military coups	21	14.00%
Total	**150**	**100%**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024.

Table 4 above indicated the factors responsible for military coup in Niger Republic in 2023. This is evident from respondents' and participants' responses. The majority of respondents 48 (32.00%) agreed with the notion that poor leadership and resources control facilitated the military coup in Niger Republic, while 34 (22.67%) of the respondents indicated that country-wrecking corruption and bad governance is responsible for the coup. Furthermore, the table revealed that 25 (16.67%) of the respondents indicated mass abuse of power as another factor. In addition, 22 (14.67%) agreed with disregard for the rule of law and constitution, while 21 (14.00%) of the respondents agreed with citizens contribution to the military's self-justification of military coups as responsible for military coup.

Findings on Research Objective 2 (Nigeria Government Intervention and Reaction to 2023 Military Coup in Niger Republic)

The military coup was received with mixed reactions within the country. While a good numbers of the citizens welcomed the coup and were willing and enthusiastically ready to fight and defend the military regime against external threats from Nigeria government and ECOWAS. While supports were garnered for the military regime from within the country, critics of the coup keep on criticizing the barbarous actions of the coup plotters and the military rulers. Nigeria (a neighbor country of Niger that shares, political, socio- economic, cultural and military ties with the country in question) reacts to the military coup in Niger Republic. The following are highlights of the interventions and reactions of Nigeria government to the coup in Niger.

A. **Condemnation of the military coup:** Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement condemning the coup and calling for the restoration of constitutional order in Niger. Nigeria government gripped with the fear of military coup resurfacing in Nigeria political system unflinchingly criticized and condemned the coup and its plotters.

B. **Call for the release of Niger's leaders:** The Nigerian government called and put pressure on the coup leaders to release Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum. His arrest was seen as last deadly blow to the immature and staggering democratic government in the country.

C. **Calls for dialogue:** The need to return the democracy in Niger (as military rule is seen as aberration and thus, lacking merit regardless of how moral and pious it may be in its organizational structure and operation) made Nigeria a leading country in the West African region and in ECOWAS to unequivocally demand and pushed for an immediate return of government to the civilian and to facilitate, this Nigeria called on all parties in Niger to engage in dialogue to resolve the crisis peacefully, and for the military to work towards a return to democracy.

D. **Consultation with regional bodies:** Nigeria being a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU). Do relent in consulting with these regional bodies

and states on ways to resolve the crisis and return political stability and sanity back to the country, the region and Africa generally.

E. **Sanctions from Nigeria:** As a way of proving her intolerable stands against the coup in Niger, Nigeria placed and enforced some sanctions on the country such as cutting off electricity supplied to the country from Nigeria and subsequently closing borders with Niger plus other economic and political sanctions.

F. **Border security:** Nigeria sharing border with Niger and being informed by her internal struggle with security issues especially in the Northern part of the country never hesitated to declare a reinforcement of its border with Niger to ensure that the political crisis in Niger does not affect Nigeria's security and stability.

G. **Deployment of troops:** Nigeria took drastic Military defense steps by sending a warning to the coup leaders and mobilizing troops to be stationed near the Niger border, in case the situation deteriorates and there is a need for military intervention.

Findings on Research Objective 3 (Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and other international organizations Interventions and Reactions to 2023 Military Coup in Niger Republic)

The recent coup in Niger was welcome with condemnations from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a sub-regional organization to which Niger belongs. The interventions and reactions of the organization includes:

A. **Condemnation of the military coup:** ECOWAS issued official statement condemning the military takeover of government in Niger and making calls for a return to constitutional order(which entails democratic government)

B. **Suspension of Niger Republic from ECOWAS:** Following the military coup, the authority of ECOWAS suspended Niger from its governance body until the transitional government is restored, and a democratic process is resumed.

C. **Economic sanctions:** ECOWAS imposed economic sanctions on Niger, including the closure of its borders with neighbor states, restricting bank transactions, freezing assets of the coup makers.

D. **Call for a return to democratic processes:** ECOWAS called for the release of political office holders detained in the country by the military coup makers and in the same called for return of power to a democratically elected government.

E. **Diplomatic efforts:** ECOWAS also sent a three-member delegation led by former Nigerian President Jonathan Goodluck on a diplomatic mission to Niger to engage diplomatically with the junta and other stakeholders in returning the country to constitutional governance in order to avoid conflict that may be triggered by external military intervention (from ECOWAS) In the same vein;

African Union (AU): The African Union immediately condemned the coup and suspended Niger from the African Union until the restoration of the civilian-led transitional process. The AU also imposed travel restrictions and targeted sanctions on the coup leaders and their families.

European Union (EU): The European Union and its member States have also condemned the coup and called for the immediate release of political detainees. The EU also suspended the financial support intended for Niger's electoral process scheduled in 2021.

Countries such as Canada, France and USA were not excluded from numbers of countries that condemned the actions of the military in the country which resulted into sudden, forceful and unlawful takeover of government and subsequently detaining constitutionally elected leaders.

Findings on Research Objective 4 (Implications of Niger Republic Military Coup on Nigeria National Peace, Security, Transnational Activities and Socio-Economic Development)

The re-emergence of military coup in Niger republic in 2023 has significant implications for the security and stability of Nigeria and the West African region. Niger coup would not only impacts the domestic affairs of Niger Republic, but West Africa, a sub-region confronted with socio-cultural tensions, security issues, political instability, economic doldrums and lots more. Neighboring countries could have their domestic affairs impacted and get worsened by the coup in Niger. Nigeria, a neighboring State of Niger were already facing the impact of the military coup as her domestic affairs are being impacted negatively as a result of the Niger coup. Some of the impacts are:

A. **Border insecurity and increased armed-violence in Nigeria:** Niger Republic shares a long border with Nigeria, and Nigeria as a country since 2010 till now has been facing security challenge especially from the Northern part of the country, such as insurgency, kidnapping, and banditry. With factor like porous borders causing illegal movement of people from neighboring State into Nigeria, thus, any instability in Niger could lead to a spillover of insecurity within Nigeria's borders and any increase in the influx of weapons or fighters from Niger could intensify the situation. Based on information gathered from respondents, the coup in Niger has created a power vacuum and security gaps that are been exploited by criminal networks and armed groups operating along the border. These include Islamist militants such as Boko Haram and Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP), which have carried out attacks in both countries; bandits and kidnappers, which have targeted civilians and travelers; and separatist movements such as the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), which have clashed with security forces over land and resource issues. The coup has also triggered humanitarian crisis, as thousands of people has flee from Niger to Nigeria to escape violence and instability.

B. **Disruption in trade and socio-economic activities:** Niger is an important economic partner of Nigeria. Any political tension and economic instability in Niger Republic could affect trade relations between the two countries, thereby leading to a big loss for both states, and investors in these two countries and thereby worsening economic conditions of the two countries. According to respondents, the coup in Niger has affected the trade and economic relations between Niger and Nigeria, which are vital for both countries' development. According to the World Bank, Nigeria is Niger's main export destination, accounting for 80% of her exports in 2019. The main commodities traded between the two countries include petroleum products, livestock, agricultural products, manufactured goods, and services. The coup has disrupted the flow of goods and people across the border, due to increased insecurity, border closures, and sanctions. This has negative consequences for both countries' economies, especially for Niger, which relies heavily on Nigeria for its energy supply and foreign exchange earnings.

C. The coup in Niger not only threatened Nigeria directly or indirectly but also challenge her active role in ECOWAS, thereby diverting the attention of Nigeria government from handling domestic political and economic matters that were deteriorating at the time the Niger coup struck, to looking out for a way to restore political stability and democracy back to Niger so as to forestall further political woes and threats to democratic-civilian government in the region (West Africa). In the same vein, the coup in Niger has **Weakened regional security, cooperation and integration:**undermined the efforts of sub-regional organization such as ECOWAS to promote peace, democracy, and development in West Africa States. ECOWAS has a zero-tolerance policy for unconstitutional changes of government and has imposed sanctions on countries that have experienced coups in the past. The coup in Niger has jeopardized Niger's membership and participation in ECOWAS institutions and initiatives, such as the ECOWAS Parliament, the ECOWAS Court of Justice, the ECOWAS Single Currency Project, and the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture. The coup has also affected Nigeria's role as a sub-regional leader and mediator in West

Africa, as Nigeria has been involved in resolving conflicts and crises in countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Burkina Faso.

D. **Diplomatic relations:** The Niger coup has again prove how diplomatic relations between two countries could be when things go haywire. Diplomatically, Niger and Nigeria have been maintaining and enjoying good relations but the coup could cause more misunderstanding diplomatically and thereby bring more political tensions and instability in the region as both countries are members of ECOWAS (Niger suspended owing to the coup) readily come to mind was the response of Nigeria government under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to the coup and the political implications it brought especially to the Niger military government

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, this historical context has demonstrated the complexity and diversity of the subject matter, which calls for more investigation and analysis. The case study of the military coup in Niger Republic and its effects on peace, security, and transnational activities in Nigeria highlight the resurgence of military coups in the West-African sub-region. Not only has the coup in Niger Republic impacted the country's political landscape, but it has also impacted West-African peace, security, the economy, and regional dynamics. Thus, it's critical to comprehend the reasons behind the coup, its effects, and the reactions to it, in addition to the opportunities and difficulties involved in bringing democracy and stability back to Niger republic and the surrounding areas. The study reveals that, as is typical of West-African States, the decline in economic conditions and the State's limited ability to manage its resources to provide for citizens are the main causes of the rise in military coups d'état in the Sub-Saharan today. The return of military coup in West-Africa is a sign of deteriorating democracy brought on by a State of emergency combined with a pitiful and insufficient degree of democratic governance.

Based on the findings of this work, the following recommendations are made:

Democratic reforms and Security Sector Reforms (SSR) are desperately needed if people in different West-African nations are to reclaim their faith in and enthusiasm for democracy and protect it from reversals. Governmental frameworks need to be more inclusive and allow for the participation of civil society as well as contributions from other sectors like the military. The de-politicization of the armed forces and successful security reform ought to be the civilian administrations in West Africa's top priorities. Preserving the military's power requires this.

Economic Community of West Africa States must seen military coups as an aberration and adversative to the Sub Saharan region's quest for growth, stability and development. All violent takeovers of power or overthrows of democratically elected governments ought to result in equal sanctions from ECOWAS. West African States must add term limits to their constitutions and criminalize any attempts at tenure extension. The supranational institutions in the Sub-Saharan region ought to assist their member States by enacting an institutional code that renders third terms and tenure extensions for current presidents invalid.

Governments in West Africa States must promote a swift economic transformation that is driven, owned, and utilized by the people. While West African States have not received the necessary support structures from Western governments, they should be cautious of new allies like France, China, Russia, Turkey, and so forth.

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