

DEFINING NIGERIA'S GEOSTRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

LT GEN (Dr.) C I OBIAKOR (RTD)

OFR, NPOM, GPNPA, GFISMN, GSS, CMH, fwc (+), psc (++), qS, MSc.

Geopolitics

The Swedish geographer Rudolf Kjellén first coined the term geopolitics in his 1899 article about the formation of Sweden's natural borders. He describes geopolitics as a theory defining the state as a geographical organism or as a phenomenon within a certain expanse

Geopolitics is the connection between geography and the formation and management of the foreign policy of a certain state or as the geographical influence on the conduct of foreign policy



Geostrategy

In order to capture the connection between geography and strategy, Jakub J. Grygiel coined the holistic expression, geostrategy. By this he meant, “the geographic focus of a state’s foreign policy, or where a state directs its power

...The term strategy originates from the Greek form strategus, translated as the commander or leader of an army, a general...

**...strategy is the art and science of
developing and operating all
national power forces to achieve
war-zone-level, national, and/or
multinational goals...**

US Department of Defense

...Strategy = Ends + Ways + Means...

US Army War College

...Six factors support the confluence of geography with strategy. They are:

- Accessibility
- Mobility
- Visibility
- Communicability
- Availability.
- Vulnerability

These principles are in fact the classical paradigm linking war planning and strategy, meaning that the planning and management of war are completely dependent upon geography. The side that secures geostrategic advantages is the one that will win.

Relationship Between Geopolitics and Geostrategy

Geostrategy is a subfield of geopolitics, Geostrategy is concerned with matching means to ends — in this case, a country's resources (whether they are limited or extensive) with its geopolitical objectives (which can be local, regional, or global). Geopolitics provides the link between geography and strategy

Nigeria's Geostrategic Environment

The geostrategic environment of a country can be defined as the threats, opportunities which are prevalent to the country based on its geographical location.

Nigeria is located in a region of comparatively weaker states in terms of human and financial resources



In general, the topography of Nigeria consists of plains in the north and south interrupted by plateaus and hills in the centre of the country.



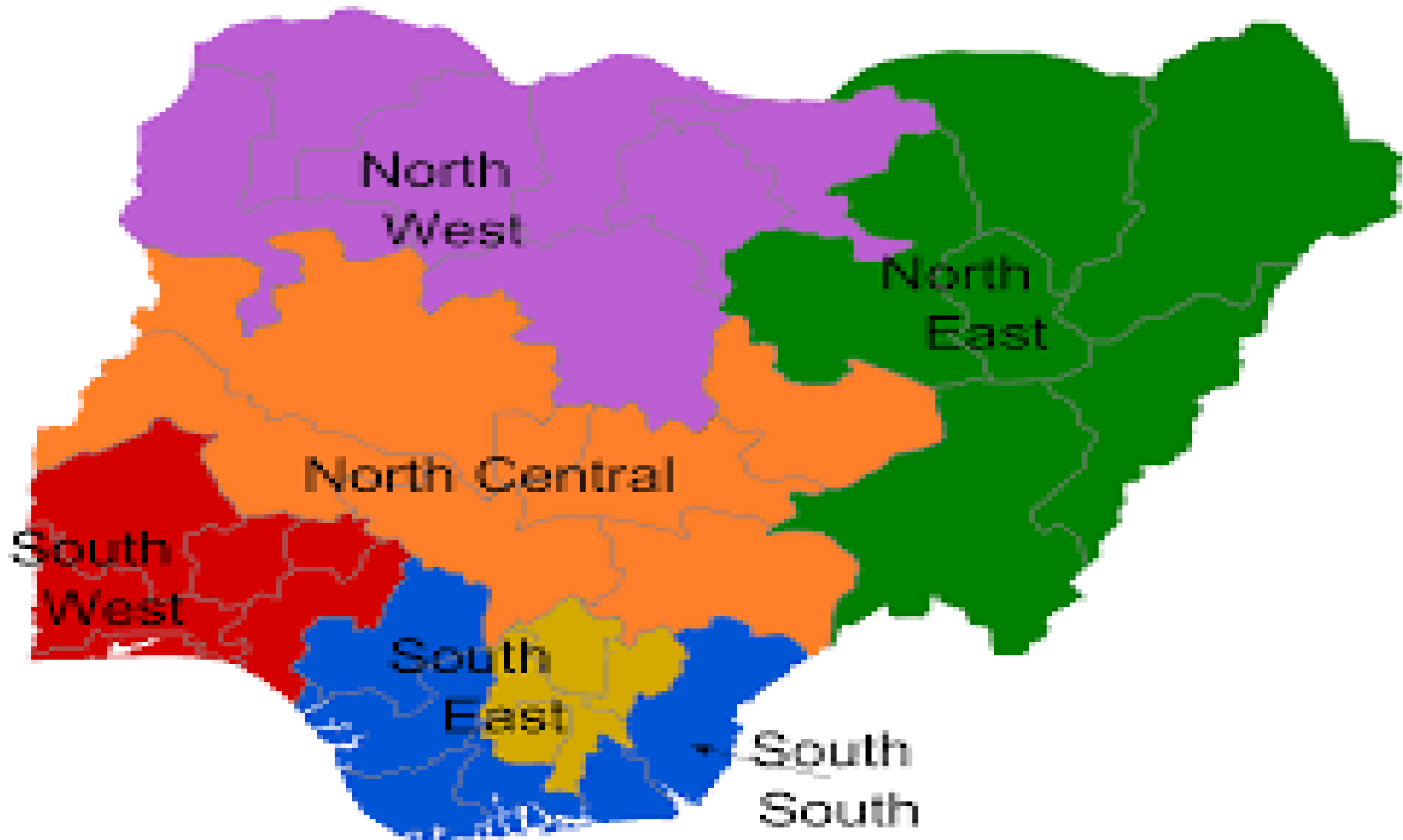
Global Threats



Regional Threats



Internal Threats



Relationship Between Nigeria's Geostrategy and Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy as defined by Encyclopedia

Britannica is a State's objectives and activities in relation to its interactions with other states, whether bilaterally or through multilateral platforms

Nigeria's Relationship with her Neighbours



POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN WEST AFRICA



The Incessant Encroachment on Nigeria's Territory



Nigeria – Republic Of Benin

Relations between the two countries can be said to be generally cordial but sometimes marred by occasional outbursts of border clashes.

Nigeria – Cameroun

The relations between Nigeria and Cameroun has been largely chequered, swinging from one end to the other like a pendulum.

Nigeria – Chad

The Republic of Chad shares common borders with Libya in the North, Sudan in the East, and the Central African Republic and Cameroun in the South. In the West, Chad is located between Nigeria, Niger Republic, and some parts of Cameroun.

Nigeria – Equatorial Guinea

Equatorial Guinea, formerly known as Fernandapo is a 100 kilometers South-East of Nigerian Coasts. She is nearer to the Coast of Cameroun, and also very close to the Bights of Benin and Biafra

Nigeria – Republic of Niger

The Republic of Niger borders Nigeria from the North-West to the North-East boundary of Nigeria with Chad. It is interesting to note that unlike other Nigerian immediate neighbours, there has not been any record of any violent border clash between the two countries.

However...

POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN WEST AFRICA

It would seem that Democracy is dying in West Africa but that would be presumptuous as for something to die it must first be alive

Internal Factor

Internal factors can be said to be those that emanate from challenges of national governance. Despite modest democratic achievements, a more accurate picture of democracy in West Africa is that it is superficial.

External Factor

The Majority of these coups have happened in Francophone countries, in fact 5 of the 6 coups which have taken place since 2019 were in Francophone countries.

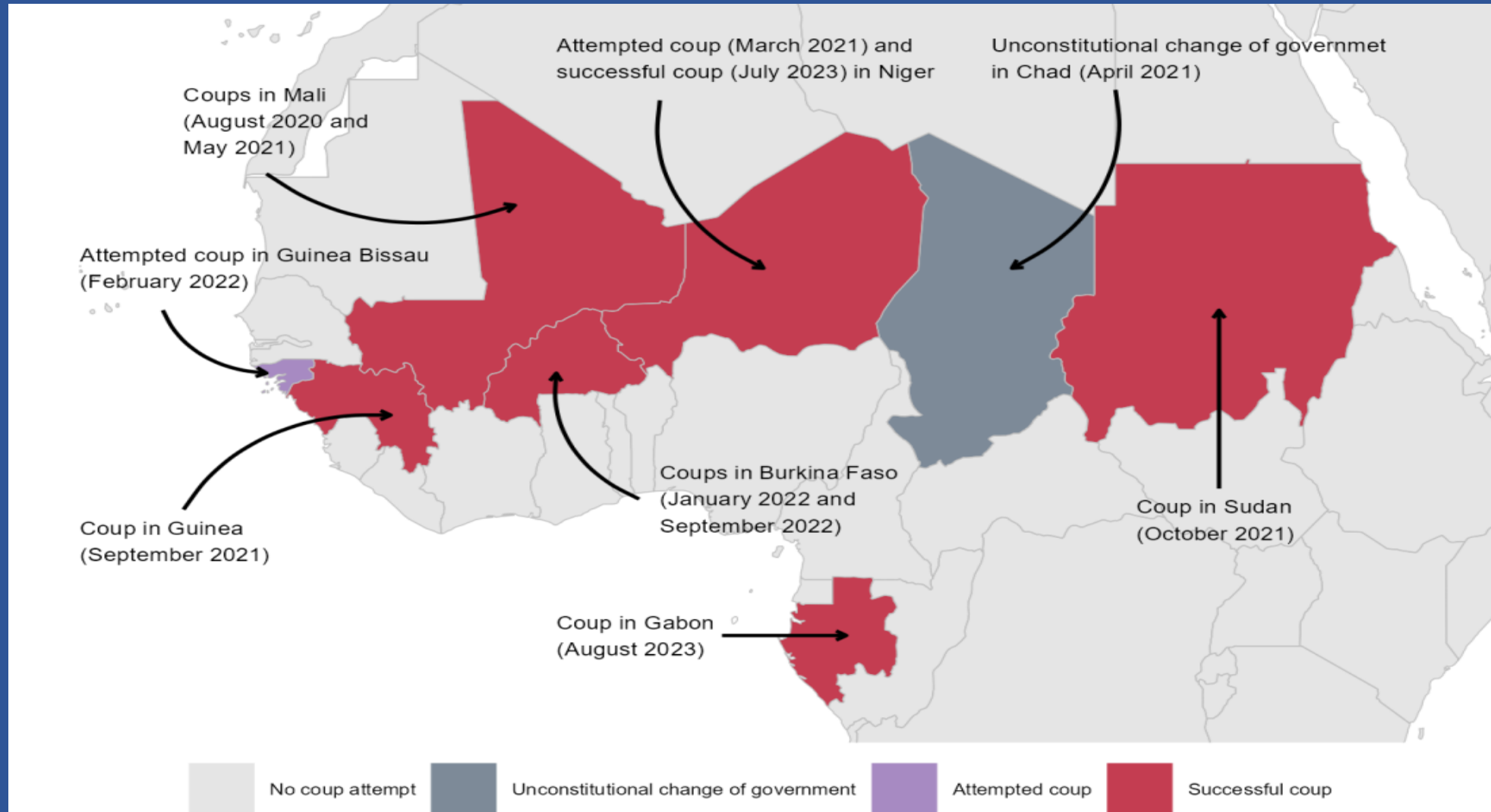
Threat to Democracy in ECOWAS



On 26 July 2023, a coup d'état occurred in Niger.



Before this coup, there was an attempted coup in Niger (2021)...



As done to Mali. Guinea and Burkina Faso, ECOWAS decided to suspend and imposed economic sanctions on Niger.



**...a decision was made to take military action
against the coup plotters in Niger...**



On 28th Jan. 2024, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso decided to withdraw from ECOWAS.



SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

Why are we where we are? Why is it that the security challenges seem so daunting?

What has happened to our institutional knowledge? The NA has always been involved in internal security from the days of colonialism.



CHANNELS TELEVISION

CONCLUSION

THANK YOU