

## Military Coup in Niger

### Why in news?

Recently, Niger's President Mr. Mohamed Bazoum is detained by elite military troops who declared that they now hold the power.

### What is the history of Niger?

- **History-** Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world.
- It was a French colony until 1960.
- Since independence, the country have lived under 5 constitutions and 3 periods of military rule.
- After the military coup in 2010, Niger became a multi-party state.



- **Geography-** It is the *largest landlocked country in West Africa*, over 80% of the land lies in Sahara desert.
- **Border countries** - Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Algeria.
- It is the part of [Great Green Wall of Africa project](#), the world's most ambitious reforestation project.
- **Economy-** It is concentrated around subsistence agriculture, with some export agriculture in the less arid south, and export of raw materials, including uranium ore.

### Sahel region

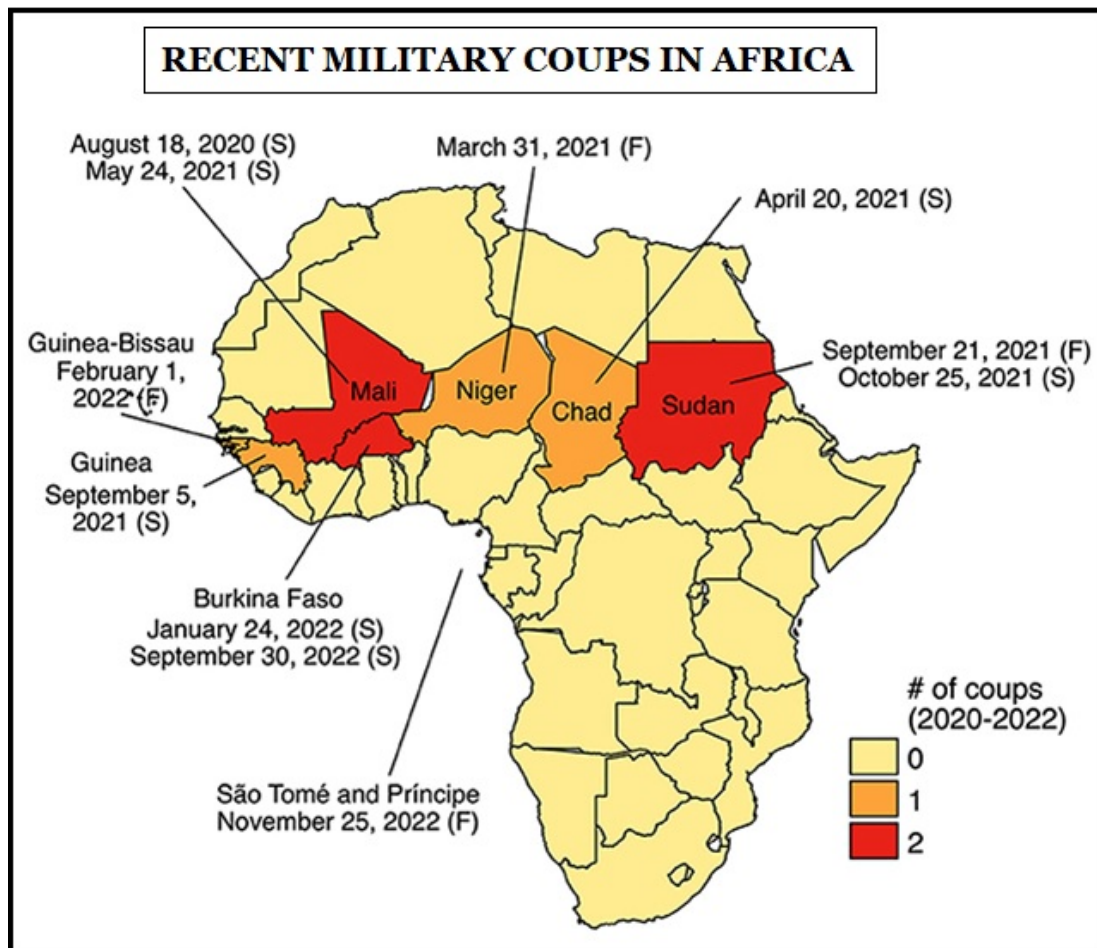
- The word Sahel, or Sahil in Arabic means coast or shore.
- Sahel is the vast region of western and north-central Africa that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea along Sahara desert's southern rim.
- It is a biogeographic realm of transition between the Sahara to the north and the Sudanian savanna to the south.
- There are several political definitions of the Sahel according to which the area comprises 12 countries and houses 400 million people.
- However, countries like Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania form the core of the Sahel region. This group is also called the G5 Sahel.
- Other political definitions include countries like Senegal, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan and Eritrea.

### What is the issue now?

- **Political stability**- Niger witnessed political stability during two term Presidential ruling of Mahamadou Issoufou.
- In 2021, his Cabinet Minister Mr. Bazoum was elected President, in the first democratic transfer of power since the country's independence.
- Recently, the President and his family members are detained by the elite military troops and they declared that they now hold power.
- **Military coup**- General Abdourahamane Tchiani, who is the the leader of the group declared himself the head of the state.

*This is the 7<sup>th</sup> coup in western and central Africa since 2020, including two each witnessed by Niger's neighbours Burkina Faso and Mali.*

- The rationale behind the military takeover is continued deterioration of the security situation and poor economic and social governance in the country.
- Tchiani told that the nation would be run by a newly formed military body, the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland.



### What was the global reaction?

- **West African nations-** They have imposed sanctions and threatened to use force if the coup leaders do not reinstate the President.
- **African Union-** It demanded the country's military return to their barracks and restore constitutional authority within 15 days.
- **European Union-** It announced the suspension of security and funding cooperation with Niger, declaring that it would not recognise the military coup.
- **Russia-** Russia's private military group *Wagner* expressed the support of military takeover in Nigeria.

**Operation Serval-** It is a French led Operation started in 2013, targeting Islamic extremists linked to al-Qaeda who took control of northern Mali.  
**Operation Barkhane-** Operation Serval was renamed as Barkhane in 2014 which aimed at countering terrorism in the wider region

### References

1. [The Hindu- Explained what is behind the coup in niger](#)
2. [Indian Express-West African nations threatens to use force](#)
3. [Niger - Image](#)



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