

## **“UNRAVELING THE SURGE: ANALYZING THE RECENT WAVE OF COUPS IN AFRICA AND THEIR IMPLICATION FOR REGIONAL STABILITY”**

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### **Abstract**

The recent surge of coups in the African continent and their destabilizing effect on the region's stability has been a contentious issue and focus area in the international sphere. This paper thus focuses on the analysis of the root causes, the recurring patterns and the impact of coup d'état on the regional and political stability along with the historical evolution and socio economic factors contributing to the rise in coups. The paper examines how a coup in one region can have far reaching implications within the African countries as well on the neighbouring countries affecting regional alliances and development also hindering global partnerships. The responses and role of African Union (AU) and Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) in preventing and diminishing the occurrence and impact of coups in African countries is carefully examined, as these organisations are the key players in maintaining stability and mitigating regional conflicts and effectively intervening in case of an unconstitutional change of government or coup. The responses and support of the western powers like the U.K, United States and France, Russia is of great significance due to their historical presence in the African region, and with military troops of the western nations stationed in the African countries, where the recent coups have occurred, the paper examines the role these countries play in effectively supporting the African region to combat the epidemic of coups. Thus the paper presents a broader understanding of the political situation unfolding in Africa by understanding the underlining multi dimensional factors and rootcauses enhancing coups in Africa and highlighting the slow decay of democracy and responsible government in the African continent.

**Key Words:** Africa, Coup d'état, AU, ECOWAS, regional stability, Military government, Accra initiative.

### **1. Introduction:**

In the recent years, Africa has been marked by an increasing rise of coup d'état, showcasing a remarkable shift in the continent's politics and governance. This rise in coups is not just an isolated case but a challenging phenomena and status quo that requires in depth and continous analysis. Acoording to Powell and Thyne, a coup is “Illegal and overt attempt by the military or other elites within the state apparatus to unseat the sitting executive”. They determined that a successful coup lasts atleast one week. (Duzor & Williamson, 2023) Coups d'état have become a common trend in African history since the existence of democracy graced the land. But this sudden increase in coup d'état in the contemporary times in the African landscape, shows the need to raise questions about the root causes and driving forces that have led to the birth of this increase. African countries are

riddled with socio political complexities which are combined with various external influences and historical conflicts creating a complex environment that requires to delve into the past ethnic conflicts, economic inequalities, and political instability, which are believed to make states vulnerable and corrupt leading to exploitation of people. In such a setting it is believed that rebellion and coups are adopted as the only supposed solution or response to the injustices and exploitation of people of africa. This paper seeks to analyze the complex nature and challenges attributed to this rise in coups, while also presenting historical background and the driving forces behind these coups and the impact of these coups on regional stability and governance.

## **2. Objectives of the Paper:**

The main objectives and questions of this paper revolve around the reasons for the rise in the number of coups taking place in the African continent and its impact on the continent as a whole. It is of utmost importance to look at the past events or history of africa to understand: Is this recent uprising similar to a certain coup that took place in the past history of africa or are there new factors contributing to the rise of these coups in the continent? These questions lead us to identify the reasons for the rise in coups and to predict what it could mean for the future regional stability of African continent.

The objective of the paper is, first to look into the recent insurgencies and coup d'état – The when, where and how they occurred? Second the paper seeks to understand why. What are factors that are contributing to the emergence of coups? And third, what are the potential impacts and future repercussions on individual African countries and on the continent as a whole if these coups and rebellion escalate? In the further sections the paper will delve into the historical evolution of coups in africa followed by the understanding of various rootcauses and the impact on regional stability. The last section focuses on the efforts and responses of regional organisations and various western powers on Coups in Africa.

## **3. The bitter legacy of Coup D'états in the African Continent:**

Since 1950 globally 486 attempted or successful military coups took place out of which 214 coups d'état took place in the African Continent, the largest in number out of which 106 were successfully carried out. According to american researchers Jonathan M powell and Clayton L Thyne, 45 out of 54 african countries were faced with coup attempts every year since 1950. (Al Jazeera, 2023) Coup d'état in African countries have been historically carried out by the military. The major coups that have occurred, are all military interventions. Thus historical context of military interventions in African politics began with the pivotal overthrow of King Farouk by the Egyptian military in 1952. This marked the beginning of a recurring phenomenon, where the military coups became a means to gain political power across the african continent. Its recorded that, 100 successful coups have taken place in 35 countries in africa, this has solidified the roots of the occurrence of coups d'état and military interventions into the political narrative of the african countries. This has particularly raised concerns due to the recent increase of coups in african

region, even though coups and military interventions have become a common phenomenon in the african continent. These past coups in the african continent have exhibited three different factors for their development or emergence. First, there is no uniform pattern of their occurrence, they emerged periodically due to instable and exploitative governments in individual states. Secondly, each coup d'état exhibited unique causes, motivations and responses, which were managed and dealt with various strategies individually by countries. (Institute for Security Studies, Africa, 2023) Responses by various countries and the continent as a whole to the coups shows major variations. The African union's handling of the coup in Burkina Faso in 2014 that overthrew President Blaise Compaore differs majorly with the way it handled the coup d'état in Egypt in 2013. But three key features raise important questions about the coups from 1952 to present, that is in the case of Gabon, which overthrew the Bongo Dynasty, one of the oldest and long standing dynasties in Gabon, that whether the nature, tactics of coups in the present differ drastically from the past or are they of similar nature.

The coups in africa unfolded in waves each associated with the nature and course of societal and political responses. The first post independence wave emerged in the 1960s and 1970s which saw the decline of independent leadership due to conflicts with colonial powers and failure to meet the economic aspirations of the african people. This period saw the deaths of 12 african leaders and mass human rights violations, marked by bloody coups. Then the 1990s period saw a new wave or second wave where coups were majorly led by mid level military officers who were dissatisfied with the failure of the african leaders in 1980s to deliver on promises pledged by them, failure to institutionalise democracy and failure to meet the socio economic needs of the people. This wave was marked by reduced violence and human rights violations, even though the motivating factors were same as the first wave. This period also saw the rules and laws strengthened, resulting in Algeria's decision to change its unconstitutional government which resulted in Lome declaration of 2000, which stated that there would be no tolerance for coup d'état. (Falola & Toyin, 2023)

The third wave of the coups in africa is categorised as beginning from 2021 to present. This new wave is characterized with a change in motivations, with issues of weak democracy, constitutional reform and an increase in anti immigrant sentiments. It is worth noting that, these coups are quite different in character compared with the previous coups or waves. The motivations for few coups, is noted as an attempt to restore democracy, whereas other such coups in Guinea and Gabon have complicated and different causes and consequences. A second phase of coups have emerged where the coup d'état are led by elite presidential guards rather than the military officers, like it was witnessed in Guinea, Gabon, and Niger. (Institute for Security Studies, Africa, 2023) This pattern is majorly seen in the Francophone countries of Africa where the presidential guards who are usually better armed and trained compared to a regular army, use their close proximity to the president to capture power and later get the military involved. The present coups that took place are termed as smart coups due to the low levels of human rights violations and bloodlessness as compared to the past coups which were drowned in mass bloodshed and human rights violations.

It is also worthy of noting that authorities often subject ousted leaders to international investigations before releasing them, as seen in the case of Niger.

There has also been a particular distaste by people to the presence of foreign military troops in the African countries leading to anti imperialist sentiment, particularly against France. As recently seen in Mali and Niger, where the French troops were expelled from these countries.

There has also been increased usage and involvement of foreign military groups like the Wagner group to protect post coup countries, as seen in Mali and in Burkina Faso. The implementation of regional and continental norms against unconstitutional government changes was recently opposed by the coup leaders collectively. Niger's coup leaders are avoiding negotiations with the Economic community of West African States (ECOWAS). Gabon, Niger, Burkina Faso are maintaining alliances, pledging support to each other on the grounds of solidarity and loyalty and threatening retaliation against ECOWAS if the organisation intervenes with state affairs of these countries. While the contemporary discourses distinguish the third wave of coups from the past waves, the root cause remains the same, the political leaders failure to meet the desired expectations of people and the mass exploitation and decay of governmental institutions and democracy. The interplay of political factors, public responses and demands for a stable democratic governance system highlights the nature of coups in Africa. (Institute for Security Studies, Africa, 2023)

#### **African countries with the highest number of coups:**

Sudan leads Africa in successful and failed coup attempts since 1950, with a total of 18 coups which includes six successful coups, including the prolonged conflict between Sudanese forces in April of 2021, which is believed to be a coup attempt. Burkina Faso witnessed the most successful coups of nine and two more in 2022 and previous coups in 1966, 1974, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1987, and 2014. Nigeria which has a history of coups since 1960s, has maintained stability since 1999 without any coup attempts, through the exchange of power through democratic elections and enhancing the regional stability of the African continent, particularly of West Africa. (Duzor & Williamson, 2023)

#### **4. Coup d'état: The Trigger factors and Impact on regional stability of Africa:**

The rise of coups in African region is termed as an epidemic by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in October 2021, is a complex phenomenon, and Africa is the main theatre of this disturbing trend. Since 1990s Africa has emerged as a global hub for coups, requiring an in depth analysis of the multi dimensional factors leading to the increase in coups in the region.

The African Union Peace and Security Council in 2014 highlighted that unconstitutional changes in governments of African countries are often the result of governance failure, including corruption, selfishness, abuse of diversity, human rights violations etc. other factors

like refusal to accept electoral defeat, exploitation of constitutions make a nation weak and an easy prey for coup attempts. (Handy, Akum, & Djilo, 2020) Various researchers have highlighted the importance of country's civil society and a lawful government to challenge coup attempts. Mali's four coup attempts in a decade are denoted as the occurrence of a coup trap, where a breakdown of a government formed by a coup leader leads to counter coups due to internal rivalry and conflict. This leads to the persistence of unconstitutional governments which many African countries face. Looking at a specific example of Assimi Goita's leadership in Mali, showcases the complicated nature of the motivations of coups. Assimi Goita justified his coup in 2021 by stating that cabinet reshuffle that excluded major military leaders was the cause, but he initially stated that the motivation for the coup was widespread dissatisfaction. French president Emmanuel macron criticised the move as "a coup within a coup". In Gabon as well, military leaders staged a coup in response to the election of Bongo family's rule by accusing President Ali Bongo Ondimba of corrupt rule. The international community criticised the coup and raised concerns about the lack of transparency in the elections. The revolt in Guinea in 2021 highlights the cause of corruption, economic failure and extension of President Alpha Conde's term as the key factors for the coup. These patterns show that countries that are poor and possess unstable political environment are more prone to coups compared to countries which are politically strong like South Africa and Botswana.

An important aspect for the persistent coups in Africa is the potential impact of "insurgency contagion" it is a concept where the coup in one region may trigger similar behaviour in neighbouring regions. This is a huge factor of motivation for the occurrence of coups as seen in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, where a coup in one state inspired coup in the neighbouring state. Another important cause for the increase in coups is the decline in global anti coup standards. While the international responses to coup is surprising, there are subtle changes. Organisations like the African Union endorses anti coup campaigns and rules but recently there has been a decline, particularly in regional organisations like ECOWAS, which raises questions about the effectiveness of these rules and laws in the current African political landscape. (JJ & J, 2023)

Looking inwards a detailed examination of five key areas of the country reveal the complicated nature of coups in african region. First the theory of "coup trap" suggests that countries with a history or a recent history of coups are at much greater risk of facing another or continuous coup. Second, another major factor that contributes to the rise of coup is poverty, low income and low economic growth, these are key risk factors making African countries vulnerable and susceptible to coup. In west african countries like Mali, Burkina Faso, and Chad there is a huge presence of Islamist insurgents, this appears to be the third factor and poses as a direct link between a violent insurgency turning into a coup. Concerns related to the changing democratic landscape is the fourth major factor. The coups witnessed by the African countries are historically aimed at authoritarian and totalitarian government regimes but the recent coups that took place are all aimed at democratic governments due to corruption and exploitation of power by the governments. Thus

pro democracy played a major role in the motivations for the coup in the background. The final and fifth factor is the complex dynamics of ethnic politics and established ethnic militias, especially in countries like Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger and Sudan. The ethnic power relations here appear to be largely political in most African countries, especially those countries affected by the COVID period coups.

The major impact of these coups in african countries has many facets to be delved into. Initially the military leaders who overthrow the previous leaders enjoy considerable popularity and support from the public due to dissatisfaction among people for the previous ledadership. Governance per say does not largely improve due to military intervention on the contrary a rule by the military leaders means prolonged instability leading to multiple problems. The countries may face new coup if the military leaders do not deliver the promises pledged by them to the public, as seen in Burkina Faso and Mali. Often times the military leaders after gaining power usually neglect the needs of the people and focus on gaining wealth through exploitation of state resources and mass human rights violations. But in few cases the opposite event takes place like in Mali in 1991 and Niger in 2010, where the military overthrew authoritarian leaders becoming a democratic force. Jerry Rawlings from Ghana, after running a series of failed economic experiments brought the country to a measure of economic prosperity and democracy. Geopolitical changes have also been linked to recent rise in coups in African countries especially due to Russia's return to the region, and the diminished presence of Western countries military particularly the French military troops due to regional dislike. The influence of Russia on the African countries entrenched by coups is immense as Russia is providing security to the post coup African governments often through the popular mercenary group, the wagner group and in return it is able to generate revenues from these African countries. In the international sphere, these African countries provide complete support to Russia in every aspect. Due to this African countries can gain support from non western countries and also tempt western countries to let authoritarian and corrupt governments exist without any interference and keep them in their zone. The coups also have adverse impact on the economic development of African countries. Countries in Africa facing coups often experience political instability which is a major obstacle to trade and investment negotiations which directly hampers economic development of the nations. ECOWAS imposed sanctions on Niger due to the coup that occurred in 2023, this sparked regional protests, creating unrest in the country. African countries like Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger are member states of African Union and ECOWAS who are under military rule, these countries formed alliance based on anti western sentiments, which has critically affected trade and investments developments and partnerships in African Union and ECOWAS. (Green, 2023)

The coups have massive impact on regional economic stability of neighbouring countries as well for example, Sahel region is rich in resources but due to coups, it has been isolated and restrictions have been imposed on the region. This has resulted in decreased trade between african countries internally, infrastructural damage, and increased cost of conducting business. The challenges faced

by Sahel resonates across the African region in the form of trade routes disruption, hamper in development projects and regional stability. The closure of borders and imposing of sanctions have turned into a major obstacle for African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AFCFTA) objectives of free movement and industrial development in the African region. The coups has negatively impacted the AFCFTA's goal of increasing regional trade within Africa to 80%. It is noted that due to coups and its adverse impact African countries may seek doing business and markets beyond the borders of the continent, particularly with the western countries, which in turn makes them vulnerable to external especially western influences. (Ogunranti, 2023)

## **5. A Look into the recent Coups d'état in African continent:**

### **Coup d'état in Gabon 2023**

Shortly after President Ali Bongo Ondimba won the general elections on August 26th, 2023, a coup broke out on August 30th, 2023 which ended the Bongo family rule of 56 years and marked the 8th such coup from the year 2020 in the west african and central african regions. Gabon has been potful with allegations of corruption, lack of transparency in elections and constant governmental changes to favor the Bongo family. Gabon struggled with high unemployment and massive poverty, while being a major oil producer and a member of OPEC. The country was marked by massive protests due to the surfacing of fraud allegations after the 2023 elections. Many important government institutions and buildings were seized in the military coup that followed these allegations on August 30, 2023 and the military announced the dissolution of government and its institutions and a clamp on state borders. President Ali Bongo and other government officials were put behind bars and they faced charges of corruption and treason. As the interim persident Brigadier General Brice Oligui took charge and it was followed by drafting of a new constitution and formation of a temporary government and a democratic presidential and parliamentary elections slated to be conducted in August of 2025. The international community condemned the coup and many countries voiced concerns for the declining democratic principles and values in the region, with few countries imposing strict sanctions on Gabon. (Al Jazeera, 2023)

### **Coup d'état in Niger 2023**

A coup took place on 26th July 2023, in Niger, where the President Mohamed Bazoum was detained by his bodyguards and General Abdurahamane Tchiani announced himself as the leader of the new military government. This was the 5th such coup that Niger has experienced since its independence in 1960. Niger was faced with high cost of living due to inflation and inefficient government, this was the direct affect of the previous coups, which led the region to remain unstable and vulnerable, prone to coups. The factors that contributed to the rise of this coup is attributed to Bazoum's replacing the chief of presidential guard alongwith the conflicts on ECOWAS's strict opposition to military governments in the African nations. Niger had key allies like the U.S, France and Turkey, there were many French military bases in Niger and it received continued support from U.S but Niger's inclination towards Russia and increased anti western sentiments among the people have also greatly contributed to the coup. The overthrow and

imprisonment of Bazoum was announced on 26th July 2023 with the mobilization of military troops, this sparked widespread protests by the supporters of Bazoum and also soldiers who were loyal to the ex president. Tchiani assumed power and declared himself as the president, changed the constitution, closed the borders and imposed a curfew in the country. The military took over the Government in an environment fueled by aggression against the military rule and support for the coup. The military leaders announced establishment of a new government on August 10th of 2023, with immense pressure from ECOWAS of a military intervention and the various countries in the background. The coup was condemned on an international scale with France, once a strong ally of Niger, suspending aid and calling back its troops home and ECOWAS implementing a no fly zone and strict sanctions on Niger and African Union suspending the membership of Niger. But there was a surprising element of interest where the infamous Wagner group openly declared its support to the coup leaders of Niger. (Holland, 2023)

### **Coup d'état in Burkina Faso, September 2022**

In September 2022, the then interim President Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba of Burkina Faso was removed from his position of power, as a coup took form. The coup occurred primarily due to Damiba's failure to take action against the brewing Islamist, jihadist insurgency. Captain Ibrahim Traore assumed the role of interim President after Damiba was removed. There was widespread criticism and dissatisfaction among the people as well as among military officers due to the poor handling and neglect of the Islamist insurgents, who were able to occupy few regions in Burkina Faso leading to regional conflicts within the country. Due to the irresponsible handling of the insurgency situation in Burkina Faso by Damiba's government, few military officers banded together and organised a coup which unfolded with massive explosions and gunfire and it was headed by Captain Ibrahim Traore, who imposed a curfew and closed the borders of the country, with active dissolution of government and political activities and ordered the withdrawal of French troops in the aftermath of the coup. Though the coup took place to tackle the growing jihadist insurgents, the new military leaders failed to prevent the jihadist attacks which returned in 2023. While coming to the response of the public, few supported the coup and few raised questions regarding the new government's effectiveness. The coup was condemned on an international scale with African Union, ECOWAS and the United States calling it unconstitutional and a danger for democracy, but Russia's mercenary group, Wagner Group's leader Prigozhin supporting it and conveying his congratulations to Ibrahim Traore. The current landscape of Burkina Faso is marked by withdrawal of French troops, but increase in activities and attacks of the jihadist insurgents. (Holland, 2022)

### **6. Actions and Reactions – Regional Organisations and the world:**

Many actions have been taken and laws have been implemented by various regional organisations in Africa like the African Union (AU), ECOWAS – Economic community of West African States, who have consistently maintained a prominent position in reducing the phenomenon of Coup d'état in African states. Likewise United Nations (UN) and countries like United Kingdom, United States,



France, Russia have strongly reacted to the Coups, with few condemning and few supporting the coups. In the below sections the paper will delve into the actions taken by regional organisations in Africa and various international responses to the coups.

The economic organisation of the African states, ECOWAS, responded firmly to the coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea, Niger, by suspending the membership of these countries from the organisation. Various sanctions were strictly imposed with the closure of the borders to these countries by the members of ECOWAS. President of Nigeria, Tinubu, who heads the ECOWAS, firmly affirmed his support for democracy and demanded the establishment of democratically elected governments by the people and opposed military governments. ECOWAS opposed the coup in Niger and raised the use of military intervention against the coup leaders if required while continuously emphasising to the military leaders for a peaceful solution for restoring parliamentary democracy, in spite of receiving warnings from Mali and Burkina Faso to not interfere in Niger. The strong position and response of ECOWAS was attributed to the growing coups in the African region. Recently a defence pact between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger was formed known as alliance of sahel states to further strengthen the opposition to military intervention by ECOWAS, declaring that an attack on any one of the country will be viewed as an attack on all the countries of the pact as aggression. The Accra initiative is another such action, established by five west african countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo in 2017 and Mali and Niger joined the initiative in 2019, to combat and in reponse to the increased regional political instability in West African countries, the initiative is backed by United Kingdom armed forces to increase political and regional security and effectively eliminate the threat of coup d'etat and military governments in these countries. (Mills, 2022)

The coups in Africa were consistently opposed and condemned by the Africa Union. Several countries membership was suspended from the organisation like that of Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Guinea Bissau etc. African Union's constitution emphasises on the importance of holding free and fair elections periodically for a democratic parliament but differentiating between a coup and unconstitutional changes in government poses a serious challenge to African Union. (Souare, 2009) Even though African Union supported the unconstitutional changes in 2011 of Egypt and Libya, it vehemently opposes the coups and military governments as seen in the recent wave of coups in Gabon, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, where it took a strong stand against these coups with suspension of the coup ridden member states and strict imposition of sanctions. But there has been no popular consensus among the African Union regarding the definition of a coup. In 2014 attempts were made by the African Union to define and establish conditions to identify a legitimate coup, like the establishment of a authoritarian government, inefficient governance or political system, mass support and military involvement. (Lonel, 2017)

The international response to the coups in Africa are varied from opposition to the coup led military governments by the international organisation United Nations (UN), United Kingdom, France and

United States, to support for the coups from Russia and its mercenary group, the Wagner group. United Nations chief Antonio Guterres, while speaking at a press conference at the UN Headquarters in New York regarding the recent wave of coups in Africa stated, "Many countries face deep seated governance challenges. But military governments are not the solution". The UN chief emphasises on the need to build strong democratic institutions that foster rule of law, peace, stability and democracy in the African region, while highlighting the need to strengthen regional organisation like African Union (AU) and ECOWAS who possess greater understanding of the local dynamics. The United Nations has stressed on the significance of addressing the root causes of the political instability and called for international support for AU and ECOWAS to empower the people of Africa to build safe and better conditions of life focusing on regional development. (UN News, 2023) United Kingdom strongly opposes the overthrow of leaders in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Niger, emphasising the importance of democratic principles, freedom, efficient constitutional and political system and a strong government with promotion of human rights. (Holland, 2023) During a visit to Nigeria the foreign secretary of UK James Cleverly, encouraged an African led regional solution to reduce the conditions enabling a positive environment for coups to occur. The United Kingdom also provided strong support to ECOWAS in its mission to restore democratically elected government and constitutional structure in Niger. The coups that occurred recently in African region are predominantly French speaking countries, which has led to the emergence of anti French sentiment in the African region, leading to reassessment of French colonial rule in Africa as France maintains major political and economic influence in the region especially in West Africa. France has a complicated relationship with African countries, as witnessed recently, when French President Emmanuel Macron had to withdraw troops from Mali, and considered deploying them in Niger, but Niger's military government cut ties with France in 1990s itself, this shows the strained and decreasing presence of France in Africa. France has been an open supporter of ECOWAS policies pertaining to Coups and military governments, and its President has a record of maintaining close diplomatic ties with ousted leaders this has been observed as a main enhancing factor for anti French sentiment with military leaders exploiting this sentiment for their benefit. France response to coups in the African region is minimal and it has failed to effectively counter coups even with maintaining substantial diplomatic ties and military presence in the region. (Adams, 2023) Looking at the United States position, it has raised concerns about the backwardness of African region leading to weak democratic institutions creating sustainable environment for a coup. It has strongly supported ECOWAS in holding military governments accountable for disruption of constitutional and political order in the region. With the visit of Secretary of state Anthony Blinken to Niger affirmed the support of United States to the African countries to establish strong democratic states and values. It is observed that the epidemic of coups in African continent could lead to the United States considering military intervention in the region to fight against authoritarian governments and to help African countries restore democracy. (Holland, 2023) Russia's position varies drastically from the western countries. Russia provides complete support and recognition to the military leaders of the coup ridden African countries. President Vladimir Putin hosted and exchanged phone calls with the military

leaders of Mali – Assimi Goita and Burkina Faso – Captain Traore, who expressed their gratitude for Russia's support. President Putin blames the political instability of African region on western countries, emphasising that western countries use the divide and rule policy, he also discussed trade and investment agreements with the military leaders of Mali and Burkina Faso with considerations to open a Russian embassy in these countries. The Wagner Group, a Russian mercenary group has gained immense popularity among the coup ridden African countries, especially its activities in Mali and Burkina Faso raised concerns on international scale. It is noted that Wagner group mainly operates in the regions where a coup has occurred like Mali and Burkina Faso, providing them military equipment, weapons and various other resources. The United Kingdom and France attribute the withdrawal of their military troops from these regions in 2022 to the influence of Wagner group on the military leaders of Mali and Burkina Faso. (Siegle, 2021)

## **7. Conclusion: Hope for a Stable Africa**

In conclusion the recent rise in Coups in African region showcases the urgent need of a comprehensive and distinctive evaluation and identification of root causes to effectively address the epidemic of coups and to understand the complicated nature of its impact on region stability to develop counter coup mechanisms. Due to the complex nature of the coups in these regions, it is of utmost importance to consider the various historical, political, geographical and socio economic factors. The persistent issues of the African people with the leadership and established governments, economic inequalities, poverty and overall dissatisfaction with the conditions of life are key aspects that are necessary to be considered to understand the emergence of coups. It is argued that the key to prevent coups in the African countries is the establishment of strong, sovereign government, delegating its duties to the people with integrity and honesty, leaving no space for insurgency to thrive. The implementation of strong set of laws and rules, promoting transparency, accountability in governance structures will enable the African countries to maintain political stability and stand firm against any storm like a coup d'état. It is also highlighted that people's participation and community engagement in political matters is of major importance to cater to the diverse needs and interests of African society and to also foster a sense of belongingness and equality among people of African countries. Regional African organisations as well as countries individually should establish platforms where people can convey their grievances and are encouraged to participate in policy formulation and decision making which will lead to development of the state according to the will of the people effectively preventing any anarchy and attempts of a Coup d'état

The African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) play a major role in promoting regional collaboration, as it is the key to strengthen regional stability in Africa. These organisations must enhance their capacity to tackle and prevent regional conflicts and coups with a strong legal framework, and actively collaborate to identify potential areas of conflict and begin a diplomatic dialogue while implementing necessary solutions in the background. African Union and ECOWAS play a significant role in intervention and prevention

of coups in the region, as these organisations have an international appeal with the backing of many western powers, who provide technical support and build the resilience of AU and ECOWAS to effectively counter regional threats. In conclusion the recent wave of coups in Africa signify a need for a multi dimensional strategy and reforms not just at regional level but also at national level with focus on implementation of an inclusive political structure and good governance model alongwith economic reforms for the upliftment of people, forming a strong fundamental base for African political stability. Thus the path to sustained peace and development in Africa can only be achieved through a comprehensive and collaborative strategy which will set the stage for reduction in the occurrence and challenges posed by Coups d'etat on regional stability.

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