

Forum: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

Issue: Methods to cease Françafrique Political and Economic Neo-Colonialism

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INTRODUCTION

Following the end of World War II in 1945, the Fifth French Republic was founded under the leadership of the then French President Charles de Gaulle. His rise to power led to the gradual demise of the French colonial empire. Françafrique, the term used to describe the dominance of France over most African countries, started to see cracks in a said united front. Countries sought for their independence, fighting for their right to self-determination and their cultural identity, which had been washed away by colonial tendencies.

The term Françafrique was coined in order to showcase the threshold France had over African countries, which appeared to be independent but were essentially dependent politically, economically, and militarily on France. Their dependence was achieved through the installation of ‘puppet leaders’ in Africa, which France approved of by ensuring their willingness to govern and their undivided loyalty to the state. This series of actions taken by the French government at the time, guaranteed that these newly independent countries would embrace and enforce policies which represented France’s views. All internal and external affairs of these nations were closely regulated by their former colonizer, even in important multilateral organizations, like the United Nations (UN). France, having retained its status as a major power in the international scene, presided over its former territories, but in a more exploitative manner. France’s practice of abolishing former parliamentary administrations and creating new presidential regimes with absolute power over the people of independency-seeking countries proved highly effective, seeing as the French government managed to obtain and preserve control over their proceedings to sovereignty. France had every motive to maintain the concept of Françafrique, because as an industrially developed nation, it required an inexpensive labour force. France’s lack of natural resources led to its need to uphold robust control over former colonies that had not been able to use them, due to the diligent hindrance of education and knowledge to indigenous peoples in colonial times. Of course, the sudden French presence in Africa was frowned upon by international organizations, mainly the Trusteeship Council. The Trusteeship Council, a now dormant organ of the UN, was in charge of regulating the “peaceful and considerate” intervention of member states like France in their former territories until 1994. However, and fittingly so, France announced that it would act for the benefit of all of Françafrique by helping them modernize and “civilize” them. Since France presided in multiple countries for decades, such intentions could have been prioritized in that time. The French government ultimately had

clear motives when intervening in other countries affairs and found a convenient way to justify its actions.

In 2019, a replacement of the CFA franc (a currency currently used by old French colonies since the 1950s tied to the French monetary system) was brought forth in France. However, it would make no difference, as the new currency in question would still be connected to the French monetary system.

Françafrique plays a crucial role in hindering African states from acquiring complete control over their governments as France's neo-colonialist approach obstructs them from controlling and enforcing decisions that may be viewed as a threat to French influence in the country. Even though this is evident, it is also prevented by both the French government and the higher social classes of African states, seeing as French intervention in Africa offers massive welfare benefits to France and a small percentage of Africans. Thus, Françafrique needs to be abolished as all gains are made, meaning all grants, social statuses and trade opportunities received by a handful of people are at the expense of the vast majority of African citizens. Consequently, delegates must propose solutions that indirectly tackle French intervention in Africa to ensure that African states can fully control their decisions and thus make judgments that strive to ameliorate the welfare of their citizens.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Colony

"A country or area controlled politically by a more powerful country that is often far away"¹

Communauté financière d'Afrique (CFA) Franc

"The CFA franc, backed by the French treasury and pegged to the euro, refers to both the Central African CFA franc (XAF) and the West African CFA franc (XOF), and is accepted in 14 member countries."²

Corruption

¹ Cambridge Dictionary. "Colony." @CambridgeWords, 13 July 2022, dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/colony. Accessed 18 July 2022.

² Hayes, Adam. "CFA Franc." Investopedia, 16 Sept. 2021, www.investopedia.com/terms/c/cfa-franc.asp. Accessed 4 July 2022.

“Corruption is dishonest behaviour by those in positions of power, such as managers or government officials.”³

Françafrique

“A term that describes the historical relationship between France and its former colonies in sub-Saharan Africa.”⁴

Grant

“A grant is an amount of money that a government or other institution gives to an individual or to an organization for a particular purpose such as education or home improvements.”⁵

Hereditary

“(of characteristics or diseases) passed from the genes of a parent to a child, or (of titles and positions in society) passed from parent to a child as a right”⁶

Independence

“Freedom from the control, influence, support, aid, or the like, of others.”⁷

Neo-Colonialism

“Neocolonialism, the control of less-developed countries by developed countries through indirect means.”⁸

³ Chen, James. “Corruption.” *Investopedia*, 14 July 2020, www.investopedia.com/terms/c/corruption.asp. Accessed 18 July 2022.

⁴ Noubel, Filip. ““Françafrique”: A Term for a Contested Reality in Franco-African Relations · Global Voices.” *Global Voices*, 5 Feb. 2020, globalvoices.org/2020/02/05/francafrique-a-term-for-a-contested-reality-in-franco-african-relations/. Accessed 16 June 2022.

⁵ Collins Dictionary. “Grant Definition and Meaning | Collins English Dictionary.” *Www.collinsdictionary.com*, www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/grant. Accessed 26 July 2022.

⁶ Cambridge Dictionary. “HEREDITARY | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Cambridge.org*, 2019, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hereditary.

⁷ Dictionary.com. “Definition of Independence | Dictionary.com.” *Www.dictionary.com*, 2019, www.dictionary.com/browse/independence. Accessed 18 July 2022.

⁸ Halperin, Sandra. “Neocolonialism.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 6 May 2020, www.britannica.com/topic/neocolonialism. Accessed 18 July 2022.

Proliferation

“The sudden increase in the number or amount of something; a large number of a particular thing”⁹

Puppet Leader

A head of state that has been chosen to rule by another nation (usually a more powerful one) or who is indirectly under the control of another country.

Regime

“A government, especially an oppressive or undemocratic one”¹⁰

Scramble for Africa

“The Scramble for Africa (or the Race for Africa) was the proliferation of conflicting European claims to African territory during the New Imperialism period, between the 1880s and the start of World War I.”¹¹

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historical Background

17th to early 20th century

The beginning of Africa’s period of colonization by France can be roughly placed in the late 17th century. After the death of King Louis XIV in 1715, he was succeeded by his son Louis XV. His reign included significant conflicts such as the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), in which the French empire lost many of its territories in the continental United States and all its claims in India. By his death in 1774, France faced a severe economic crisis which was only amplified under the reign of Louis XVI (due to a lack of effective governance and increased involvement in the American Revolutionary War 1776-1779). The aforementioned managed to hinder the French economy and caused an extreme internal crisis which in 1789 led to the start of the French Revolution. Louis XVI

⁹ Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. “Proliferation Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com.” *Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com*, 2022, www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/definition/english/proliferation. Accessed 18 July 2022.

¹⁰ The Free Dictionary. “Regime.” *The Free Dictionary*, www.thefreedictionary.com/regime. Accessed 18 July 2022.

¹¹ New World Encyclopedia contributors. “Scramble for Africa - New World Encyclopedia.” *Newworldencyclopedia.org*, New World Encyclopedia, 2019, www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Scramble_for_Africa. Accessed 4 July 2022.

was overthrown in the same year and was executed in 1793. In the coming years, the French system of governance changed from a monarchy to a republic.

During the 19th century, though, French rule in Africa expanded significantly with the capture of Algiers (the capital of Algeria) in 1830, in addition to several conquests in the African continent, especially in its sub-Saharan and Equatorial regions. The early to mid-19th century - when colonial powers rushed to acquire vast parts of southern Africa - became known as 'The Scramble for Africa.' By the beginning of the 20th century, French influence had solidified as the empire occupied vast parts of the continent (especially in its north-western regions). Following the end of the First World War (WWI) and the signing

of the treaty of Versailles, Germany (then known as the Weimar republic) seceded its former colonies in Africa to the French empire. During the interwar years, French influence in Africa increased and peaked. The French Republic was now its most significant extent as it had managed to occupy vast territories, especially in Africa. Its African borders span from the Mediterranean coast to southwest Africa and extensive parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. Consequently, the French sphere of influence reached even the most remote regions. Thus, French decisions at the time had a tremendous impact globally due to the extent of the empire. A single new directive could change or reshape cultures. It is of no consequence that many African nations today have strong cultural ties with France and use French as their primary language.

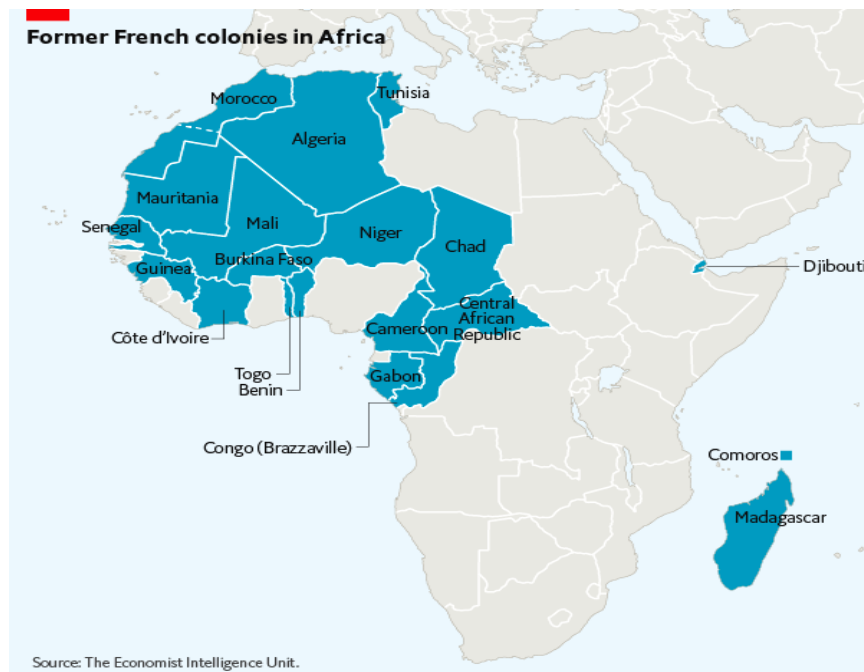


Figure 1: Image depicting French colonies in Africa

The beginning of Indirect Intervention in Africa and the Cold War

By 1945, French colonies contested French rule, striving to become independent nations. During the 1960s, most of the said colonies had managed to become independent states, and thus the French government had started to make its moves to instil Françafrique in these newly independent states. In the same period, France successfully increased its ties with African leaders by promising extensive military support against coups, and by giving political leaders large sums of money, the French government persuaded African heads of state to grant it access to essential resources, including Ores such as diamonds, uranium, gas, and oil among others. Paris acquired significant shares in over “1,100 companies, some 2,100 subsidiaries and the third largest investment portfolio after Great Britain and the United States.”¹² Its newly strengthened economic influence, paired with increased military presence, resulted in the exertion of a strict politico-economic policy that greatly favoured France over its African counterparts, seeing as these countries were made to increase trade with French companies while decreasing trade with other foreign ones, which included using the CFA Franc (franc de la Communauté Financière Africaine) as a currency directly provided by the French monetary system.

The actions of Prime Minister de Gaulle can be explained and are primarily attributable to a very simple reason. During the Inter-War years (1918-1939), France was the most powerful nation in the world and had a robust economy. France had an extremely powerful military and could be compared to the United States in the present day. Contrary to popular belief, France was not weak, and its army did not lag behind other global powers. Said belief was only reinforced during the Second World War, in May of 1940, when Nazi Germany invaded and conquered France in forty days. The French military was superior to that of Germany, but due to bad decisions, miscommunications and obsolete strategies, the Third Reich managed to storm past France’s defences. Thus, it is of no consequence that Charles de Gaulle wanted to restore French power and re-solidify France’s status as the leading global power. Consequently, France’s actions and policies and intervention in Africa can be attributed to French expansionism and the will of the French people to re-emerge as the dominant world power.

Additionally, Western nations supported French actions at the time, especially the United States of America (USA), and played a crucial role in such matters. It France to influence African countries as by doing so, they would align themselves with the western bloc, thus blocking the Soviet Union from acquiring control and influence in the African

¹²Fröhlich, Silja. “Africa and France: An Unfulfilled Dream of Independence?” *Deutsche Welle*, 5 Aug. 2020, www.dw.com/en/africa-and-france-an-unfulfilled-dream-of-independence/a-54418511. Accessed 5 July 2022.

continent, which could be used at the expense of the US and its allies. As a result, Françafrique was a policy that originated not only because of France's actions. It included the involvement of other global powers, and its aim was for France and its allies to benefit from Françafrique for years to come. In exchange, France received their support and thus acted as mentioned above to ensure a foothold in Africa. French influence remained strong until the end of the Cold War (early-mid 1990s). The Cold War ended after the Collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R) in 1991. The Western Bloc lost all interest in Africa, as they no longer had to keep countries closely aligned to their ideology. French influence in Africa decreased significantly as the government no longer had the backing and support it initially did from its allies. Additionally, the key figures that had managed to instill Françafrique were no longer in power, seeing as their career had ended long ago. Moreover, France had by now joined the European Union (EU) and thus was encouraged to restrict its influence in Africa severely. Although French control in Africa was limited, it did not entirely cease. Of course, it should be understood that France tried and still does to hold on to the remaining power over its African colonies (a significant example is the creation of the Eco currency, the successor of the CFA Franc, which essentially is the same as its predecessor seeing as it is tied to the French monetary system) an action that allows Paris to maintain control over its colonies albeit in a more indirect manner.

The Influence of Françafrique on the African Economy

Undoubtedly, France has managed to exert its economic influence in the African region, as the currency currently in use since 1945 is the CFA Franc. This currency indirectly allows France to control its old colonies because the CFA Franc is tied to the French monetary system. This enabled the French government to force African Central Banks to keep most of their foreign reserves in France's central bank. (Foreign reserves are banknotes, deposits, treasury bills etc.) These assets serve many purposes, but most importantly, they are held to ensure that a government has backup funds if its national currency devalues. Most countries keep their foreign reserves in US dollars since it is the most widely used and accepted currency.)

France claimed that doing so would facilitate the convertibility of the CFA Franc to fixed exchange rates, i.e. the US dollar. France's claim was partially valid as the country had more accessible access to widely used currencies, namely the US dollar, as it traded a larger more significant amount of resources, goods and services with other nations and thus needed to have a more substantial amount of foreign reserves at its disposal. Additionally, when France joined the eurozone, the euro itself became storing their only 'lifeline' in a foreign country that ultimately intended to indirectly control them, making them even more susceptible to French

control. Additionally, since the CFA Franc was tied to the French monetary system, Paris had essentially acquired complete control over its former colonies' economy.

For the use of the CFA Franc, the French government issued a set of rules that, if followed, gave the respective countries the right to use it. Most notably, all countries needed to keep at least half of their foreign reserves and assets in the French central bank, and all revenues were limited to 20% of the previous year. The economic dependency of the Sub-Saharan region on France due to the CFA Franc is one of the critical pillars ensuring the continuation of *françafrique* and French intervention in Africa. The influence of Paris on its former colonies via their currency has often caused economic setbacks and prohibited the socio-economic development of African nations domestically and internationally. For example, Senegal had faced severe financial crises in the previous twenty years. The devaluation of the CFA Franc was a tipping point as many citizens lost their jobs and could not provide for themselves, thus increasing poverty and bringing the country into chaos and disarray.

In contrast, countries that were not using such a currency were not affected by this devaluation, as import and export prices for them remained relatively unchanged, i.e. Canada. All imports and exports of Canada remained stable, and so did its currency. Thus, no other countries faced severe financial issues due to the decision made by the French government.

This was especially prominent in the early 1990s when the French government decided that it would devalue the CFA Franc from 50 CFA Francs per French Franc to 100 CFA Francs per French Franc, a move which proved to be a significant issue ~~setback~~ for the African countries that were using it in terms of their ability to participate in international trade. In addition, wages were not increased in the countries in question, in contrast to prices which doubled, leading to massive waves of unemployment and instability. This chain of events caused civil unrest, as citizens in the said African nations struggled to make ends meet, and traders could not cope with the sudden rise in prices. The consequences of the sudden devaluation of the CFA Franc, despite Paris' multiple pledges and promises that such an event would not occur, demonstrated the ever-present French influence and control in the African continent, a phenomenon that characterized the *Françafrique* region for decades to come.

How *Françafrique* Amplifies Governmental Corruption in Africa

Socio-Political Consequences

Following the policies implemented by the de Gaulle government in 1962, which dissolved parliamentary democracies and created new hereditary presidential régimes, the leaders were in immediate contact with the French government. The established African heads of the state received grants from Paris and, in exchange, followed the government's policies and served its interests. The aforementioned could have been a

temporary issue. Still, the presidential position was often hereditary meant that as long as the people in power continued receiving subsidies, they would continue serving France's interest. Progressively, to remain in power, the then Presidents started placing relatives or people they trusted in high-ranking positions who swayed on France's side as they kept receiving annuities. French interests varied from country to country but mainly included the exploitation of natural resources and lucrative trade deals (for France at least), which ultimately contributed to the French republic's acquisition of a cheap labour force. As a result, the aforementioned created rampant corruption in African countries, which is prominent today and is a crucial factor when considering France's impact and influence.

Economic Consequences

Undoubtedly, France has greatly influenced African matters of the state, seeing as the corruption created is responsible to an extent, of course, for the high unrest and instability as well as the vast social inequalities which make the African continent as a whole lag behind in most developmental aspects, in comparison to other continents. This is why in the present day, most African nations are Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) and lack vital infrastructures such as schools, roads and public transport networks. The impact and influence of colonial powers, as well as the corruption evident within the African governments, have all affected the development. In addition, mass poverty, starvation, access to essential resources such as clean water, lack of work and decent working conditions resulting in a turn towards illicit activities, i.e. piracy, can be attributed to increased governmental corruption, which acts overtime at the state's expense and especially the population. The governmental corruption in Africa needs to be ceased as it is responsible for hindering economic and social development in the African continent and causing increased instability and tension.

Conclusion

Corruption in the old French colonies severely restricts a nation's ability to develop both socially and economically. More specifically, in regards to the former, corruption often amplifies social stratification (meaning the difference between social classes) and creates extreme social inequalities leading to mass poverty. Additionally, an immediate result of social stratification is the decrease of social mobility (meaning a person's capability to advance within society and often reach a higher social standing), as education and thus job opportunities are reduced significantly. Furthermore, countries facing corruption lack essential public infrastructures, including public healthcare, an excellent public transportation network, and financial aid from their states. The aforementioned creates internal crises as the country acts as an obstacle which makes

them more complex instead of facilitating its citizens' life. Concerning the impact of corruption on the latter, a nation's economy stays underdeveloped, and funds do not reach their intended recipient, thus adding strain to the already suffering people. Concerning the reason behind the widespread phenomenon of corruption in such countries, the total control of France in the regions and their consistency in financially incentivizing African heads of state and the people around them to hold on to their authority given by Paris and follow their instructions has caused varying issues in the nations, having forgotten their duties and created policies that aided France at the expense of their citizens. Governmental corruption is a critical pillar that still holds Françafrique; thus, it should be dealt with as extensively and meticulously as possible.

Case Studies

This section of the guide will focus on the analysis of Franco-African relations. More specifically, the relations between France and three other countries will be analyzed: Mali, the Côte d' Ivoire (Ivory Coast), and Senegal. Its purpose will be to find differences regarding the French approach in each case and finally draw conclusions on how the aforementioned affected their current standing/relations with France.

Mali

Mali first declared independence in about 1960. It was ruled by a dictator until 1992, when the first presidential elections were held. From the 1960s and for the next roughly 30 years, it was governed by one-party administrations (presidential regimes), which were closely tied to the French government. This was the 'peak' of Françafrique and French influence in the country. Trade was almost exclusively conducted with France, and French influence remained strong as the leaders rose to power with the help of Paris. In 1991 the regime of Lieutenant Moussa Traoré was overthrown as his refusal to allow a multiple party system in the country and brutally suppressed riots caused massive civil unrest. In January of 1992, the first elections with a multi-party system were held, and Alpha Oumar Konaré was elected Prime Minister. Despite all of the aforementioned, political instability started to become more prominent as harsh relations were formed between political parties and the coalition that included the ruling parties themselves. Experts say that the creation of the Third Republic of Mali brought political instability and generalized confusion among its people.

Additionally, the emergence of the republic amplified corruption within the country and quashed the development of essential public infrastructure. The aforementioned would not be a far-fetched conclusion, as inter-governmental corruption can cause big issues. Most often, citizens who do not have close ties to a government suffer the consequences of corruption. Government officials divert resources that would

otherwise be used to develop the country to fund their lifestyle by illegally spending public funds. As a result, the public lacks access to essential infrastructures such as schools, healthcare, and clean water.

Franco-Malian relations became stronger as countries increased trade, and many Malian people immigrated back to France when the borders re-opened. Then in 2012, Malian forces were expelled from one of the country's northern regions, and Muslim paramilitary groups took control. French troops entered the country to assist the Malian government. They remained in the country until January 2022, when they left due to political instability and a military coup. Recently Franco-Malian relations have been on the brink of collapse as the new Malian dictator has accused France of committing numerous crimes while present in Mali and during the 20th century for exerting influence in the country and creating new policies that greatly affected the face of the country. Although these claims may be partially true, they should be taken with caution, as ultimately, it can be classified as state propaganda, as it aims to provoke anti-French sentiment. It should be understood, though, that the claims originate from the influence exerted by France and its policies in the African continent. When examining the Malian crisis, one should tread lightly and view it from an objective standpoint (namely other third-party sources) as both France and Mali often offer contradicting perspectives and exaggerate events. Especially the newly formed Malian dictatorship does so and uses such events as propaganda to provoke anti-French sentiment. A specific example would be the recent accusations of espionage and spying on a Malian air base when a French news drone flew over the area to film its transition to Malian hands. The French government did not violate Malian airspace seeing as they were not in the drone itself and did not enter the prohibited fly zones located near the area.

Ivory Coast

The presence of foreign powers significantly impacts the Ivory Coast on other African countries. The instance of the Ivory Coast, though, is unique because of the country's ongoing relations with France, despite the multiple negative implications of this relationship. Examining the presence of European colonial power throughout the country's history uncovers a unique link between the French and the modern problems of the Ivory Coast, especially when faced with unfair and assertive rulers, weighted socioeconomic stratifications and the Ivoirian War of 2002. Even after Côte d'Ivoire gained independence on August 7, 1960, the French impacted Ivoirian life, both negatively and positively. They established close relations with authoritarian regimes and encouraged the deployment of French troops to support the policies of the ruling presidents. France's emphasis on Christianity heightened tensions between northern Muslims and

southern Christians. These reasons created nationality conflicts and laws that restricted Muslim inclusion politics.

Furthermore, French education is one way that Ivoirians distinguish themselves from other Africans. Those educated in French enjoy more employment, representation, and personal advancement opportunities. Furthermore, the plantations created by the French in Côte d'Ivoire have culminated in child slavery, poor working conditions and tensions between people born in the Ivory Coast and those given citizenship to work within the country. When the French economy no longer needed Ivorian resources, the market crashed, and the country's strong GDP fell to historic lows. Ivoirians had been unable to adapt to these changes forced on them and were engulfed in civil war. Clearly, without European colonization, the nation known as Côte d'Ivoire would not be in the state of disarray that it found itself. In conclusion, French involvement in the Ivory Coast initially helped the country progress by openly trading with it and purchasing resources. Still, ultimately the loss of interest by France had devastating consequences for the state leading to the Ivorian civil war that started in 2002.

Senegal

Senegal and France have had relations for about three centuries. Senegal was France's oldest African colony, and the two countries retained the strong ties developed during the colonial era until political independence in 1960. Decolonization reinforced rather than decreased links between Dakar and Paris, and this "special relationship" is now changing. Senegal has only recently begun diversifying its foreign relations in and out of Africa. President Abdoulaye Wade, who won the presidential election in 2000, sought deeper ties with Washington and London. After years of economic crises, a nationwide discussion erupted in 2001 concerning Senegal and France's relationship (mainly referring to *Françafrique*). While the partnership provided undeniable political, financial, military, and diplomatic benefits to France for many years, the internal gains in Senegal have come under growing criticism. During decades of governmental insecurity and army coups in most of Africa, the particular connection undoubtedly helped Senegal's political stability since independence.

Furthermore, the highly inflated currency made it nearly impossible for Senegal to sell on global markets. As a result in continuous and expanding trade deficits until France chose to weaken the currency by half in 1994.

Senegal's favoured ties with France have served as a deterrent to forging larger alliances, both within the region and beyond. For most Senegalese, French help has done little: economic progress has stalled, and the advantages of aid have yet to reach the general population. For the reasons mentioned above, the Senegalese government has

started reviewing its relationship with France. It is highly likely that French influence will be ceased quite soon as it has been realized that it does more harm than good to the country.

Conclusion

Although French influence may vary from country to country in hindsight after examining three different cases, their policies and interests are roughly the same. In all instances, France wanted to maintain the influence and control it had over each country, as by doing so, it would have access to resources, lucrative trade deals and political power. As such, the placement of critical figures in positions of power was essential for these strategies to succeed. Even though, in some cases, French influence proved beneficial in some aspects of daily life, such as in the case of the Ivory Coast and Senegal, where in the former, the education level is relatively high and in the latter, there is significant political stability, ultimately French intervention proved detrimental regarding the development of the nation. As such, France's interference with African matters of state can be classified as a part of Françafrique, a part that you as delegates should aim to stop.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

France

France's involvement in this topic is undisputable. As French policies in the African region were and are responsible for creating and continuing Françafrique, the cessation of intervention in the area remains solely on its policies. It is widely known and accepted that France benefits by intervening in Africa. It receives vast resources and is the primary provider of goods and services in said countries. Despite all of the above, most of the African countries in question may not be able to fully tackle France's policies due to the direct ties of the CFA Franc to the French monetary system, which instead of operating solely as the currency underuse in the said states, may be established and understood as an essential tool that the country uses to enforce its policies in the Sub-Saharan region of the continent.

As seen in the past, France's power over Africa is often concerning. Countries' direct ties with the French monetary system mean that despite direct control over the African economy, indirect consequences are also evident. In the 1994 CFA Franc devaluation, African leaders did not decide to carry out and enforce this decision. Despite their requests, their currency was still devalued, and their countries faced severe economic crises.

To conclude, the consequences of the French decisions had a drastic impact on the African economy. They simultaneously demonstrated that such unprecedented and severe choices could be taken without consulting the responsible officials to benefit French strategy. This explains the substantial French presence and influence in the African continent today.

Mali

Mali's case is of significant interest, as it is one of the few colonies with no French military presence due to a recent military coup. Tensions between the French and Malian governments have been high. In 2022, French and UN forces left the country due to the previous crisis that the Malian government was facing, causing further instability. However, France's willingness and desire to terminate the region's rebellions could not be predicted, which the Malian government successfully did. But after a Coup d' État occurred in the country and the then President was overthrown, French troops immediately withdrew and left the government and the insurgencies to their own devices. It is plausible that France only rushed to Mali's aid in 2014 because it also had to protect its own interests. Thus, Paris might have deemed that the loss of their influence and relation with Mali would negatively impact the most economic (trade) relations with the country would be lost. Consequently, the actions of France in Mali had to correlate to French interests in Africa and specifically the said country, as it is the only possible manner that explains the events that took place during the past years.

Ivory Coast

Although independent for a long time, according to experts, the Ivory Coast still has strong political ties with France. Sources mention, for instance, that a new leader cannot be elected if France's approval is not given. The aforementioned demonstrates that France's power, which although may be slowly diminishing, is still quite mighty. The ability to change the result of a democratic election should not be taken lightly, as such an action can dramatically change and influence a nation. These actions, economic, social, or political, would benefit France but would be at the expense of the Ivory Coast, meaning that it would discourage development on a national level, and increase the already prominent socio-economic strain currently experienced by the country.

The People's Republic of China (PRC)

Sino-African relations can be traced back to the reign of Mao Zedong, beginning in the early 1950s. These relations were amplified during the 1990s when the Chinese government started expanding its policies and, consequently, its influence on the African continent. Experts dispute Beijing's sudden interest in the region. Still, their beliefs and subsequent findings can be placed into one of the following three groups: Firstly, China's intervention is a form of neo-

Colonialism (similar to Françafrique) but to remove the influence of previous colonial powers such as France and the UK and weaken diplomatic ties between Africa and other western nations such as the United States, thus creating a new world order with itself at the helm and drastically enlarging a socialist economic system and market. The second opinion is that by investing in Africa, China is attempting to make African countries dependent on itself by increasing their debts and thus be able to control the policy of each country in international matters and organizations such as the United Nations (UN), thus gaining an increased number of votes. Finally, others attribute China's intervention as friendly and beneficial to the African countries. China's motives are unclear, but it is safe to say that no world power would ever conduct 'friendly' investments without having something to gain. The PRC is likely running said investments to sway international opinion in its favour, especially in the UN, and thus may be an intervention that aims to cause the dependency of African countries on China.

It is also not unlikely that Beijing is looking to remove western influence in Africa by obtaining the support of the people in each country. Such policies were applied extensively during the Cold War when the Soviet Union and the United States fought to gain influence in Africa and benefit strategically. To conclude, China's policy in Africa is unclear at the moment, but it certainly has a goal the government is striving to achieve. However, whether it is to gain international favour or remove western influence is unknown, but it certainly is not just a friendly investment.

The African Union (AU)

The African Union is the successor of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and was founded in 1955 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The African Union is currently formed by 55 member states and endorses the policy of a united African continent. It was created to ensure equality, justice, and dignity among African citizens. One of its most important goals was to remove the influence of all colonial powers and strive for an independent and free Africa. The African Union is managed by several councils and simultaneously consists of various organs that assist it in performing its duties (some of them are similar to the UN's).

The AU's work in promoting peace and security has also been significant. It has acted as a mediator between countries that found themselves in conflict, thus facilitating negotiations between parties. Regarding Françafrique, the AU can play a crucial role in the subject. It can unite African countries in fighting for a common goal and encourage collaboration between states, thus reducing their dependency on France.

Organization International de la Francophonie (OIF)

The International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF) was founded in 1970 to develop and promote the French language and universal ideals. The organization now has 54 full members,

seven associate members, and 27 observer nations. The French language is an official language or the second official language in 32 of these nations. The aggregate population of the OIF countries is 900 million, with 274 million speaking French. The countries participating in the OIF are scattered across five continents. It should be mentioned that this organization has more than one-third of the UN Member States as members. The International Organization of the Francophonie considers its primary mission to promote peace, democracy, human rights, the French language, and cultural and linguistic multiplicity. Additionally, it encourages cooperation with the Office for Sustainable Development and amplifies dialogue between cultures and civilizations. It also enhances solidarity among member states and governments through multilateral cooperation to strengthen their economies.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
September 1 st 1715	King Louis XIV passes away
1756-1763	The Seven Year's War takes place
May 10 th 1774	King Louis XV passes away
1776-1779	Duration of the American Revolution
May 5 th 1789	Start of the French Revolution
January 21 st 1793	King Louis XVI dies
1830	French forces conquer Algeria
April, 1945	End of World War II, Foundation of the Fifth French Republic
Early 1950s	Commencement of Sino-African relations
1950s	Replacement of the West Africa Franc by the CFA Franc
June 20 th 1960	Mali seceeds from France
August 7 th 1960	The Ivory Coast seceeds from France

August 20th 1960	Senegal secedes from France
1962	French policies and intervention in Africa increase leading to the creation of françafrique
1970s	OIF is Founded
Early 1990s	Sino-African relations increase dramatically
1994	Devaluation of the CFA Franc by 50%, causing a significant economic crisis in the African region
2012	Malian troops are expelled from the northern part of the country by rebel groups
2013	French troops enter the country to counter rebel and terrorist threats
July 16 th , 2014	The cooperation treaty or defense accords is signed between France and Mali
2019	Initiation of talks for the replacement of the CFA Franc with a new currency called eco
August 18 th 2020	A coup d'état happens in Mali which succeeds leading to the removal of the then PM
January 2022	French troops withdraw from Malian territory

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

ACCORDS DE DÉFENSE

'Les accords de défense,' or the defence accords, is a treaty between France and Mali which aimed to secure the country of Mali from rebels and separatist movements with the aid of French troops. In 2020 following a coup d'état which overthrew the Malian president, the new leader violated the defence accords, resulting in the withdrawal of all French troops in the country in early 2022. The specific treaty refers to the management of French soldiers, their

duties, and their cooperation with Malian military forces. These agreements were established to bring political stability to the country by decreasing tensions, thus handling riots, and reducing tensions, thus managing riots and facilitating the President's ability to control the state's central government better. Ultimately though, the treaties failed, as after the coup d'état, the Malian dictator had no interest in maintaining them and additionally demanded the withdrawal of all French troops from the country.

Action was taken on the recommendations of the Trusteeship Council in respect of petitions concerning the Cameroons under the French Administration: special information supplied by the French Government as Administering Authority.

This document of the Trusteeship Council concerns a petition regarding the administration of French Togo. The specific petition to the French government involves profiling three citizens living in French Togo by their respective chiefs. This document, created by the council's recomm, can provide you with how the French administration functioned during the end of its colonial rule in the African continent, as well as offer some insight on the economic aspects that affected France in solidifying Françafrique.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

From the CFA Franc to the Eco

In 2019, an attempt was made by both the French and African governments who were using the CFA Franc to find a new currency which would signal the end of French economic influence in Africa and grant the countries in question complete financial independence. Although the idea initially seemed robust, it ultimately did not succeed as it did not manage to solve the main issue that the CFA Franc had created, namely its ties to the central bank and the French Monetary system. By not working to sever the countries' ties with the French monetary system, the Eco currency will not make any difference. Consequently, it will not change France's economic influence in Africa. In contrast, by creating an all-new money, the French government has strengthened the belief that Françafrique has ceased to exist, which is not true. Thus, it is safe to argue that by taking the initiative and persuading African countries using the CFA Franc to switch to a new currency almost identical to its predecessor, Paris has managed to bolster its assertions that French influence in Africa has dwindled. Additionally, by creating new policies and initiatives such as the aforementioned, the French government appears to be aiding its old colonies in Africa while trying to hold on to its existing power. To summarize, the French

government exploited the eco currency as a propaganda instrument to further its interests in Africa rather than as a step toward economic independence for the countries involved.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Establishment of a new currency

Françafrique needs to cease permanently as it currently hinders the development of African countries economically and socially. A way in which Françafrique can be tackled successfully is by adopting a new currency that, unlike the CFA Franc or its soon-to-be successor, the Eco, is not tied to the French monetary system. This initiative is quite significant as, by doing so, African countries will no longer have to hold large amounts of their currencies in French central banks. As a result, French intervention would become increasingly difficult. Additionally, by having control over its currency, France would not have the power to repeatedly influence its value, thus avoiding similar events to the 1994 devaluation of the CFA Franc.

Decreasing French Military Presence in Africa

Paired with the solution found above, the French military presence in Africa needs to significantly decrease as the French military is also a vital part of the issue of Françafrique. Even though large numbers of troops were initially stationed in African countries to protect the governments in power and generally for security reasons, it has been observed that the French military has often taken part in enforcing policies that would benefit France but not the country which the law concerned, an example would be the French military presence in many African countries, which have as a goal to maintain national interests and acting as an influential factor regarding the decisions of each African government. In conclusion, French troops need to either be reduced drastically to only account for safekeeping and combatting separatist movements and instability, or they should completely withdraw from the African continent. Furthermore, French troops could train local ones to adequately face threats that may arise, thus replacing the French foreign troops with military service members from the same country.

Establishing Transparent Governments

Finally, corruption within African governments should aim to be reduced. This is because if robust and transparent governments were established all across the continent, then France would not have control over high-ranking government officials and would not be able to force its hand in crucial decisions as far as matters of state are concerned. When tackling the issue brought forth by Françafrique, you as delegates should aim to take a more indirect approach as tackling the issue would result in much tension between France and the African governments and internal

conflict. Thus, the solutions you should propose have to be multifaceted to address the many issues introduced by Fraçafrique which African states are currently facing, as well as account for underlying factors, such as government corruption within African countries and possible French intervention, that may interfere with the implementation of the policies above.

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