

What's Going on in Niger? America's Unspoken War against sub-Saharan Africa

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

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stephenlendman.org

([Home - Stephen Lendman](#)).

Contact at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

Few Americans know anything about the country. They're minimally knowledgeable geographically about nations only when Washington goes to war – testimony to public ignorance, a national disgrace in a nation where it's simple to stay informed by following reliable independent online sources.

Niger is landlocked in central northwest Africa, nearly twice the size of France territorially. It's the world's fifth largest source of uranium, its fourth largest producer, reason enough for America's presence.

Its other valued resources include coal, iron ore, tin, phosphates, gold, molybdenum, gypsum, salt and oil – with at least 40 billion barrels of proved reserves, perhaps multiples this amount, it's believed, along with plentiful natural gas.

Niger became newsworthy with reports of militants killing four US special forces, the Pentagon saying little about what happened.

It failed to explain why around 800 US troops are based in the country, congressional members not told earlier. Trump likely didn't know.

What are they doing there? Valued Niger resources alone explain. In October 2015, America and Niger agreed to cooperate in combating terrorism the US supports. Green Berets were deployed to the nation.

On February 5, Washington sought permission to build a drone base in the country. Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou approved a status of forces agreement (SOFA), legitimizing America's presence – a deplorable arrangement, denying host countries jurisdiction over US military and civilian personnel.

They prevent them from enforcing their laws against crimes committed by US personnel, unacceptable noise, pollution, environmental contamination, and use of valued public land.

Construction of a second drone base is underway in Agadez, construction completion

expected next year. Niger is key for America's planned expanded presence on the continent, a northwest African regional hub.

The Pentagon operates an airbase near Niamey, Niger's capital and largest city, its population about 1.3 million.

US military operations in the country are kept under wraps. Four US special forces killed in Niger is a convenient pretext for expanding America's military presence in the nation and on continent – claiming it's to combat terrorism Washington supports.

US forces in Africa are all about controlling and carving up the continent for profit – preventing China and Russia from gaining a greater foothold than already – a modern-day great game.

America's military operates in nearly all African countries, some more important than others, most troops at Camp Lemonnier at AFRICOM's Djibouti headquarters in the continent's northeast horn.

According to [TomDispatch](#) (TD), "(h)ighly classified AFRICOM files...obtained...via the Freedom of Information Act offer clear evidence" of the Pentagon's continental reach – US military facilities in at least 46 of Africa's 54 countries, perhaps more not yet disclosed.

They're "integral to expanding US military operations on the African continent and in the Middle East," said TD – waging phony war on terror the pretext used to justify their presence, "expanding at a rapid pace."

Wherever US troops show up, violence and destabilization follow.

Entire countries and regions are harmed, some devastated like the Middle East, central Asia and north Africa – part of Washington's aim for unchallenged global dominance, no matter the human cost.

VISIT MY NEW WEB SITE: stephenlendman.org ([Home – Stephen Lendman](#)). Contact at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

My newest book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

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About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

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