Hello everyone!

Thank you all for joining me today. My name is Joel Himes, and I'm excited to present my project on Niger's Political Shift.

[Slide: Introduction]

In this presentation, we will delve into the complexities of Niger's political landscape, exploring key indicators and historical events that contributed to the country's instability over the last 25 years leading up to the recent coup.

[Slide: Background]

As many know, On July 26, 2023, Niger faced its fifth military coup since 1960. This incident sparked regional and international concern about instability. Various factors have historically driven coups in Niger (and around the world), including weak governance, corruption, economic troubles, factionalism, and extreme poverty.

[Slide: Relevant Coup Timeline]

Using this timeline here is a quick look of Niger’s shakey leadership journey through nearly three decades

1996: Mainassara started a coup to be in charge.

1999: Mainassara was assassinated, paving the way for Tandja.

2010: Coup captured Tandja. Issoufou wins election.

2021: Attempted Coup in 2021

[Slide: Analytical Goals]

To understand the drivers of instability, I have six analytical goals that examine Niger's Governance, Economic Health, Leadership, and Foreign Aid Reliance.

[Slide: Stakeholder Value]

Understanding Niger's political instability is crucial for various stakeholders, including U.S. counterterrorism efforts, Informed Decision-Making for Foreign Policy, and Conflict Resolution for the UN and Development Assistance Committee Participants.

[Slide: Describing the Data]

The curated dataset from the World Bank contains 1478 rows and 30 columns. The Minimalized Missing data in some columns was handled on an Analytical Goal/case-by-case basis.

[GOAL 1: Niger Governance]

On the Governance front - The aggregate three World Bank Governance Indicators analysis reveals negative Political Stability, Control of Corruption, and Government Effectiveness trends. These indicators suggest ongoing internal and external challenges for Niger's governance. Please note the visuals highlighting whether a coup or attempted coup was in the given year (underscoring a trend occurring every decade or so).

[GOAL 2: Niger Economic Health]

When reviewing economic health – GDP growth, inflation, and unemployment rates, at first glance, Niger looks decent. However, further study reveals vulnerabilities from internal and external factors impacting the country's economic health. Please note the negative trends in GDP and inflation (deflation), in which the combined occurrence of negative GDP growth and deflation can create a self-reinforcing cycle where reduced spending from deflation further depresses economic activity.

[GOAL 3: Niger Leadership]

In terms of Niger Predental tenures - Different leadership regimes have exhibited varying levels of government effectiveness. Each leader on the graph faced unique challenges during their tenure, contributing to Niger's uneasy political landscape. This violin plot highlights the Government Effectiveness displayed on the first line chart. All leaders had a negative aggregate GE rating during their tenancy. But how different are those averages?

[GOAL 4: Niger Leadership - ANOVA]

Analyzing the average Government effectiveness rating from the previous slide - we found significant statistical differences in government effectiveness between Mainassara's regime and Issoufou's/Tandja's regimes, but not when comparing Issoufou and Tandja. Surmising that, we can say that only two out of three regimes, compared to their counterpart, are genuinely different regarding the World Bank’s Government Effectiveness rating. All be it still in the negative range, as noted in the previous slide.

[GOAL 5: Niger Foreign Aid]

Addressing the topic of Foreign Aid, it's noteworthy that in 2021, Niger depended on external funds for approximately 44% of its gross capital formation. Really what this means is that with such a significant percentage towards GCF - underscores Niger's reliance on aid to underpin major investments in physical infrastructure and human capital. This heavy dependence on external sources highlights the challenge Niger faces in mobilizing enough domestic resources for its development endeavors.

[GOAL 6: Niger Foreign Aid - Regression Model]

Building upon our previous slide's emphasis on Niger's reliance on Foreign Aid, our regression model demonstrates a robust link between Net Bilateral Foreign Aid Flows and Gross Capital Formation, illuminating the profound influence of aid on Niger's economic landscape. The model's credibility is reinforced by its p-value, r-squared variance explanation, residual analysis, and a Cross-Validation Analysis that presents an acceptable RMSE in millions - where gross capital formation is shown in billions.

[Slide: Summary]

The presentation delves into the historical events and trends that have shaped Niger's political instability, spotlighting decades marred by governance issues and economic setbacks. It highlights pivotal determinants such as political upheavals, financial frailties, and an entrenched reliance on foreign aid. These elements offer possible insights into the cyclical shifts plaguing Niger's political evolution.

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[Slide: Contact Information]

Thank you for your time, and I hope this presentation has shed some light on the complex factors driving Niger's political instability. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

[Slide: Appendix]

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