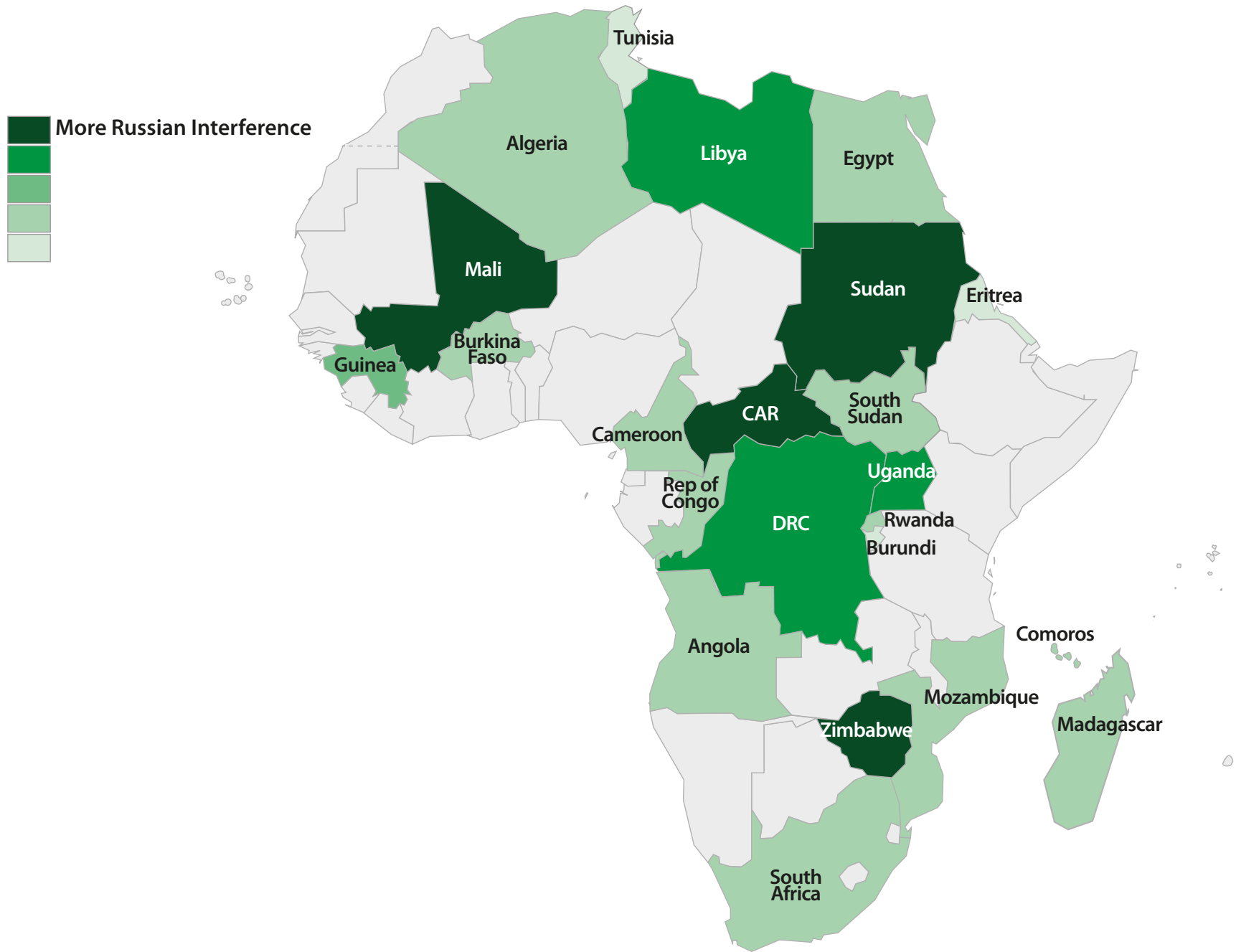




# RUSSIAN INTERVENTIONS TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA



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## North Africa



### Algeria

- Russian disinformation claims the Hirak democracy movement is controlled by radical Islamists.
- Since 2002, Russia has supplied over 75 percent of the arms to the four-term Bouteflika government, which continues under Tebboune.



### Egypt

- Russian disinformation claims democracy movement controlled by “radical Islamists”; takes counter-revolutionary stance against protesters calling for reform and democracy.
- Russian disinformation attempted to delegitimize Egypt’s democratic transition, warning of civil war in response to protests on constitutional referendum.
- Al-Ahram and Sputnik Arabic maintain media cooperation agreement.
- Russian officials characterize military coup as a “new kind of revolution” and the “right democratic path.”



### Libya

- Russia/Wagner support for Haftar’s repeated attempts to seize Tripoli by force and displace UN-recognized government.
- Russia refuses to withdraw troops from Libya despite repeated demands by the UN to do so.
- Russian supplied dinar banknotes in 2016 undermined common Libyan monetary policy run by Tripoli-based Central Bank
- Russia blocks UNSC resolution imposing travel ban and asset freeze on Haftar-aligned militia leader responsible for massacres in Tarhuna.
- GNA alleges Wagner carried out a series of chemical attacks against GNA forces from December 2019 to February 2020.
- Russian disinformation attempts to disrupt Libyan Political Dialogue Forum while polarizing and sowing distrust in Libyan information spaces.
- Russia backs parallel government in the East, while thwarting constitutional referendum, and national elections.



### Tunisia

- Russian disinformation characterizes 2011 pro-democracy demonstrations as “riots” and a “coup d’état.”
- Russia’s counter-revolutionary narratives, aimed at delegitimizing the Arab Spring protests, claim these were sponsored by foreign-backed saboteurs.



# RUSSIAN INTERVENTIONS TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

## Central Africa



### Burundi

- Russia blocked a UN resolution condemning Pierre Nkurunziza's evasion of term limits and remaining in power for an unconstitutional third term.



### Cameroon

- Russian political consultants help Biya dissipate pro-democracy protests and calls for reform.
- Russia disinformation networks linked to electoral interference.
- Russia blocks UN resolution criticizing Cameroon's excessive use of force in responding to Anglophone crisis.



### Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Russia blocked calls for an independent UN investigation into inconsistent vote tallying from the 2018 presidential elections.
- Russian disinformation networks have been linked to electoral interference and have targeted opposition and civil society leaders.
- Russia illicitly supplied arms to Rwanda in its invasion of the DRC during the First Congo War to install Laurent Kabila as leader.
- Russia supported Joseph Kabila's extra-constitutional extension of his term.



### Republic of the Congo

- Russia has supported term limit evasions by Sassou-Nguesso.
- Russian disinformation networks linked to electoral interference.



### Central African Republic

- Russia actively involved in Touadéra's reelection in 2020.
- Russia supports Touadéra's bid to stay in power for an unconstitutional third term.
- Russians serve as National Security Advisor and as overseers in Ministry of Finance and Customs.
- Wagner has been directly involved in customs revenue collection.
- CAR foreign minister, prime minister, and senior judicial officials have been forced to resign after protesting CAR's loss of sovereignty to Russia.
- Wagner allegedly responsible for human rights abuses against CAR citizens.
- Wagner has threatened MINUSCA personnel, blocked MINUSCA patrols, and seized MINUSCA supplies coming into the country.
- Russian disinformation has touted Touadéra's successes and attacked political opponents.
- Russian political organizations have disseminated falsified polling results to show broad popular support for Touadéra.
- Wagner intervened to prevent an ally and former warlord from being brought before special criminal court for war crimes.
- Russia undermined fragile diplomatic efforts by the UN to bring together competing factions in CAR's ongoing armed conflict.



### Rwanda

- Russia has supported Kagame's evasion of term limits and promoted Rwanda as an effective illiberal governance model in Africa.
- Russia has supplied surveillance technology to Rwanda to monitor political rivals and civil society groups.
- Russia is a major arms supplier of Rwanda and supporter of Rwandan force deployments into the DRC during Congo Wars and CAR.

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## East Africa



### Eritrea

- Russia has been one of the few international partners to the isolated, totalitarian government of Isaias Afwerki.
- Russia opposed UN sanctions on Eritrea for its border dispute with Djibouti, lack of cooperation with UN monitoring group, and alleged support for al Shabaab.



### South Sudan

- Russia has repeatedly opposed UN arms embargos on South Sudan and vetoed sanctions in 2017.
- Violating arms embargoes, Russian has supplied military equipment, including Mi-24 attack helicopters, to government of South Sudan.
- The majority of weapons in South Sudan throughout its civil war are of Russian origin.



### Sudan

- Wagner forces encouraged Sudanese military's violent assaults on civilian protesters in 2018 and 2019.
- Russia advisors instruct regime of Omar al-Bashir to label pro-democracy protesters as "enemies of Islam," "pro-Israel," "pro-LGBT," and sponsored by "foreigners."
- Russian advisors proposed increasing the price of newsprint to make it harder for democracy organizers to get their message out.
- Russia blocks UN statement condemning coup in Sudan.
- Russia called for lifting arms embargo on Sudan's military government.
- Russia encouraged post-Bashir military leaders to retain power and resist planned transition to civilian rule.
- Russia continues to advise and allegedly arm military factions in Sudan conflict.



### Uganda

- Russia has extolled the integrity of Uganda's controversial election processes where opposition leaders are detained and opposition supporters are arrested or killed.
- Russia provides Uganda military aid for enabling Russian messaging on Ugandan state television.
- Russian disinformation support, known as the Africa Back Office, has aimed to dispel criticism of the ruling party while discrediting opposition leaders.



# RUSSIAN INTERVENTIONS TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

## West Africa



### Burkina Faso

- Russia has endorsed successive military coups in Burkina Faso, which followed coordinated Russian disinformation campaigns.
- Dozens of Russian-sponsored social media accounts promoting pro-Russian and pro-Wagner narratives have been identified in Burkina Faso.
- Russian-sponsored AI-generated videos attempt to drive popular support for the military government.



### Guinea

- Russia supported Alpha Condé's evasion of term limits.
- Russian political technologists advised Condé prior to his unconstitutional third term.




### Mali

- Russian disinformation fomented protests against the democratic government in 2019 and 2020.
- Russia is the first country to recognize the military junta that seized power in a coup in 2020.
- Wagner forces have propped up military junta since 2021.
- Wagner implicated in pattern of human rights abuses against Malian civilians. Four out of five Malians killed by Wagner have been civilians.
- Wagner has blocked the UN's ability to conduct independent investigations and has impeded MINUSMA's ability to move outside its bases and implement its mandate.
- Russian disinformation and political organizations have attempted to boost the popularity of the military junta.
- Russia has supported military junta's bypassing deadlines for transition to civilian government, encouraging junta to retain power indefinitely.


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## Southern Africa




### Angola

- Russian consultants advised Lourenço campaign during 2022 elections.




### Comoros

- Russian disinformation inflames territorial dispute between Comoros and Mayotte.



### Madagascar

- Russian political operatives sponsored rival presidential candidates in the 2018 presidential elections. Russian operatives pay demonstrators to advance pro-Russian themes.
- Russian proxy election monitoring groups, AFRIC and CIS-EMO, attempt to illegally conduct exit polls in 2018 elections.
- Russian disinformation networks promote falsehoods to steer attention to favored candidates.
- Wagner maintains presence in Madagascar, reportedly with links to gold smuggling and high-level government officials.




### Mozambique

- Russian political advisors actively support Nyusi's 2019 reelection campaign.
- Russian polling firm, International Anticrisis Center, promotes fraudulent polls suggesting ruling FRELIMO party enjoys widespread popular support while discrediting the opposition.
- Russian proxy election monitoring group, AFRIC, declares 2019 elections, characterized by electoral violence and fraud, to be free and fair.
- Russian Internet Research Agency runs large network of webpages promoting FRELIMO and criticizing opposition.



### South Africa

- Russian political operatives advise ANC on ways to discredit the opposition in the 2019 presidential elections.
- Russian-sponsored disinformation inflames inter-racial and intra-ANC tensions.
- Joint mining interest between sanctioned Russian oligarch, Viktor Vekselberg, and ANC, allegedly creates leverage over ANC policies.



### Zimbabwe

- Russia vetoed UN resolution to impose arms embargo on Zimbabwe for ZANU-PF violence during 2008 elections.
- Russian proxy election monitoring group, AFRIC, declares highly problematic 2018 elections to be free and fair.
- Russia evades arms embargo on Zimbabwe, in place for ZANU-PF's undermining democracy and violating human rights.
- Russian disinformation supports ruling ZANU-PF party.