

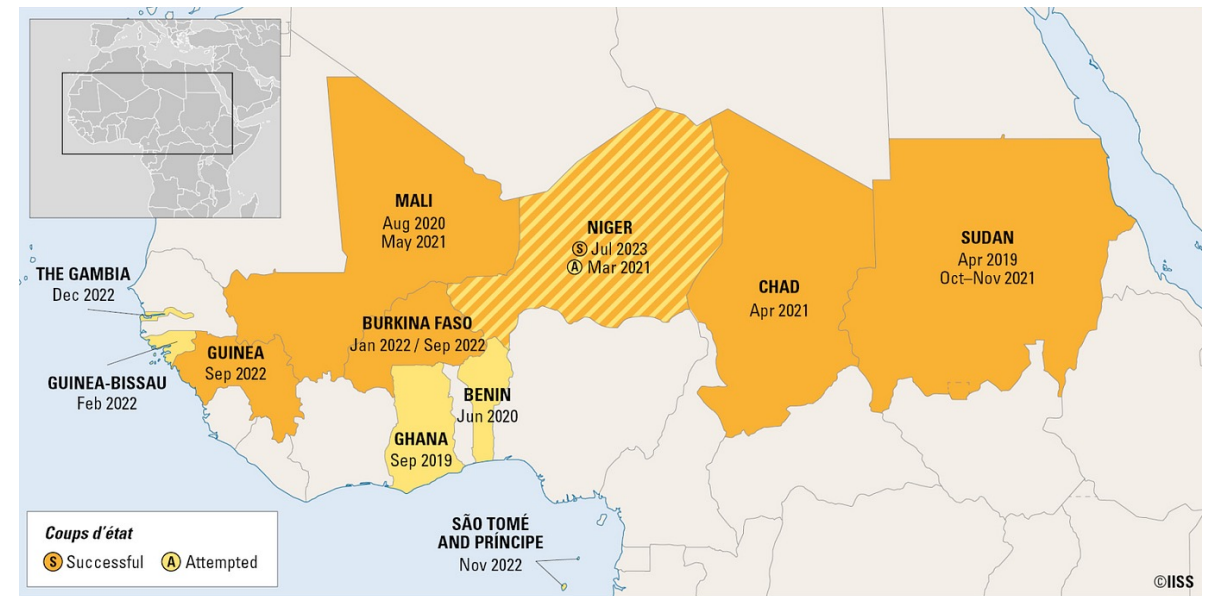
# Coups d'État and Foreign Policy Change: A Multiple Streams Approach



# Research Question

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Under what conditions do coups d'État — or sudden and dramatic changes in government — promote the convergence of policy streams affecting a country's foreign policy?



# Theory Background

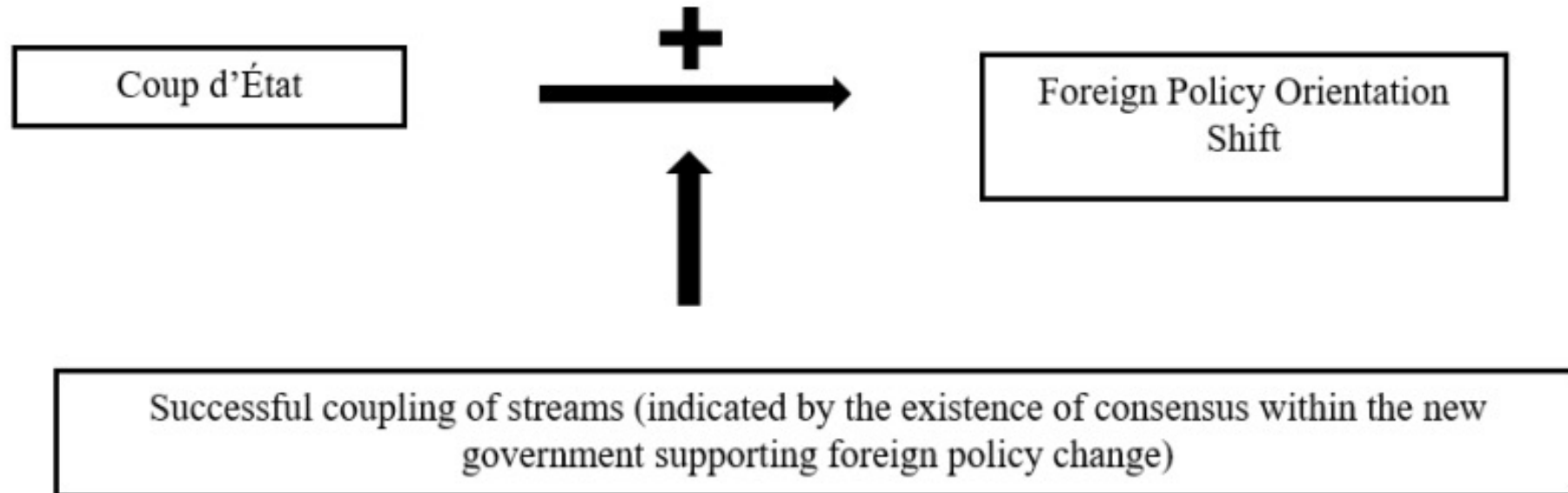
## Foreign Policy Analysis

- Major foreign policy change is rare
- Government transitions are often followed by major foreign policy change
- Foreign policies may shift radically following a coup

## Multiple Streams Framework

- Policy change occurs at specific moments
- Key actors manipulate conditions
- Consensus may be a predictor of policy change

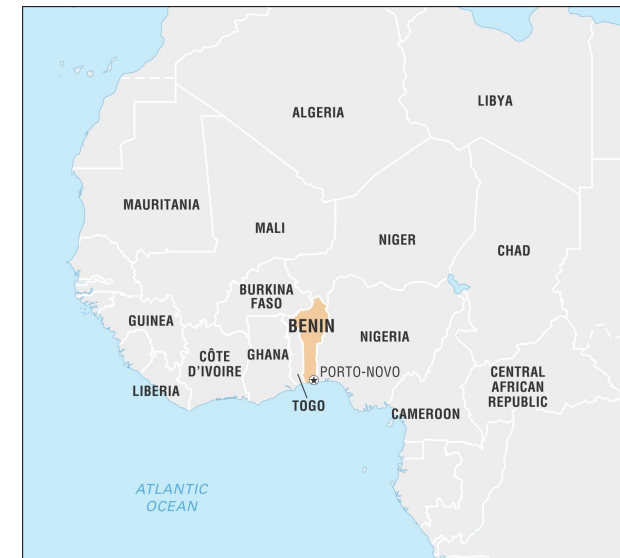
**H1: A coup d'État increases the likelihood of a foreign policy orientation shift if there is consensus within the new government supporting foreign policy change.**



# Hypothesis

# Comparative Case Studies: Dahomey and Algeria

- Long history of French colonization
  - Dahomey: 1894-1960
  - Algeria: 1848-1962
- Coups occurred during post-independence period
  - Dahomey: 1972
  - Algeria: 1965
- Similar international conditions
  - Cold War
  - Non-Aligned Movement
  - Pan-Africanism



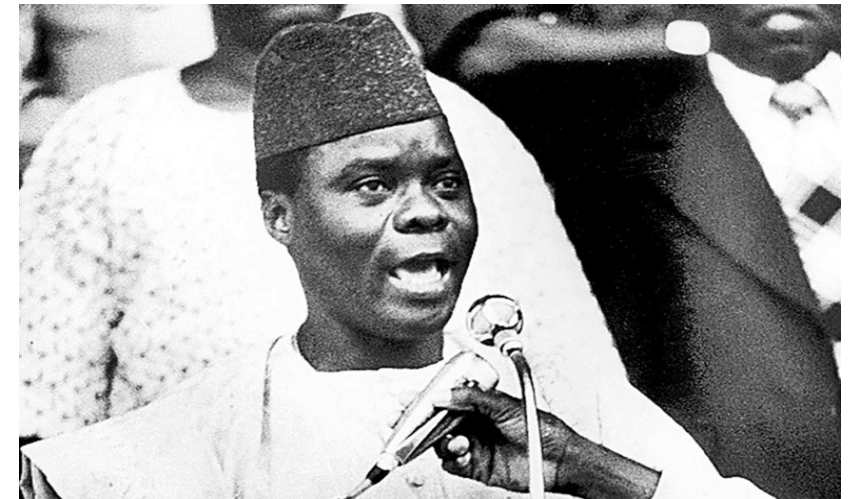
# Methods

## Secondary Source Analysis

- Authors from Africa, France, and the United States
- French and English language

## Discourse Analysis

- Examined 6 French-language speeches
  - 2 from each President
  - 1 from each Foreign Minister



# Foreign Policy of the Republic of Dahomey (1960-1972)

## Dependence on France

- Cooperation Accords of April 24, 1961
- Franco-Dahomeyan Convention of November 24, 1966

## Cooperation with the West

- Joining the pro-Western Conseil de l'Entente
- Weak relations with Communist bloc



# Dahomeyan Coup of 1972

- Led by a group of young military officers
  - Mathieu Kérékou becomes President
  - Michel Alladayè becomes Foreign Minister





# Foreign Policy of the Incoming Regime

**Kérékou and Alladayè built consensus on a new foreign policy based on five principles:**

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Reducing dependence on the West

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African solidarity

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Ideological agreement with the Communist bloc

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Non-Alignment

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Preservation of relations with France

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# Independent Algerian Foreign Policy (1962-1965)

- Reduce dependence on France
  - Algeria accepts Soviet military aid
- Non-Alignment
  - Alliance with Egypt
- Anti-Colonialism
  - Personal visit to Cuba in 1962



# Algerian Coup of 1965

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- Led by former members of Ben Bella's administration
  - Driven by fears of Ben Bella's consolidation of power
  - Houari Boumediène becomes President
  - Abdelaziz Bouteflika fills the role of Foreign Minister



# Foreign Policy Continuity under Boumediène

**Boumediène and Bouteflika agreed on advancing the previous regime's foreign policy principles:**

Protecting Algerian sovereignty

Non-Alignment

African-Asian Unity

Resistance to Colonization

# Findings

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The hypothesis is supported

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Dahomey changed its foreign policy following the coup, while Algeria did not

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Both post-coup governments built consensus on their foreign policies

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The leader and foreign minister played key roles in foreign policy making

# Implications

Consensus could represent the “key” moment of policy change after a coup

Is foreign policy made by consensus following other types of sudden, violent change in government?

Further examine predictors of foreign policy change in other forms of government