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**Rionxee** - August 9, 2023, 3:07 pm

## Olympians Economic and Politics News Update

### Unrest in Niger - Implications for West Africa and the World

Following a successful coup in Niger by Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani and his junta have thrust Niger and West Africa into a state of unrest. The junta has ordered French troops to flee the country and has cut all ties to the West. Recently, the Junta has requested Russian mercenary group Wagner to deploy into the capital city to prevent further unrest as well as to potentially fight any external intervention. Acting Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and other diplomatic officials have been unsuccessful in securing the safety of deposed president Mohamed Bazoum. The region is seeing increased security concerns as potential conflict between Islamic extremist factions, Wagner fighters, and foreign militaries are now at an all time high possibility. Unconfirmed reports of Al-Qaeda and Wagner clashes as well as French airstrikes have been circulating as of late.

Niger is a strategic asset for the West as it has long been a producer and exporter of uranium as well as gold. US supporting ECOWAS nations have yet to decide if a military intervention is to occur. If widespread instability occurs in the region we could see a massive spike in rare earth metals prices. Furthermore, any conflict would increase the US military spending effort in the AFRICOM theater as well as potential direct intervention along with France.

### Inflation Continues to Impact the United States

Inflation continues to harm US consumers even as the economy has surpassed Fed expectations. Analysts expect that the consumer price index will rise from June's 3% annual rate to 3.2% or 3.3% in July because of "base effect" comparisons to last year. More surprises could follow when August's inflation numbers are reported. Even as prices continue to fall on some goods, we still are seeing rising gas and grocery costs for most Americans. This comes as China has reported a period of deflation which is not as positive as it sounds. As the economy in China slows, deflation may prove to harm the nation due to its large debt. Chinese officials are scrambling to develop plans to stimulate the economy however, the slide in exports (lowest in 3 years) and lack of consumer buying is putting a strain on the Chinese economic policymakers.

**The Pact** - August 10, 2023, 4:28 am

The US economy is good. But people imagine it is bad because of inflation and grocery and gas prices.

**Undead** - August 10, 2023, 1:20 pm

Looks like Africa might be the staging ground for the next big war. Thanks for the update.