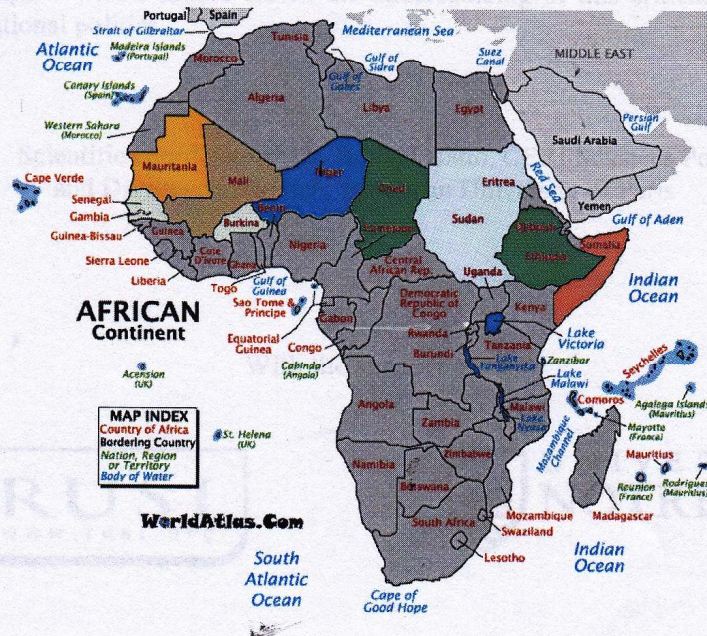


AFRICAN CROSSROADS: THE SAHEL REGION AND TRANSATLANTIC PERSPECTIVES

Paris, June 20th, 2014, 9:00 am – 7.30 pm
CERI-Sciences Po
56 rue Jacob, 75006 Paris

Conference hosted by CERI Sciences Po in coordination with the Association of United States Army and with the support of the Royal United Services Institute, the United States Embassy in Paris and the University of Notre Dame.





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The purpose of this conference is to examine how the diplomatic, military, and economic repositioning of Western countries in the Sahel region has affected the area. To do so, we are bringing together a highly select audience of senior scholars, key policymakers, and experts from both sides of the Atlantic.

Dialogue, questions, and conversation among the attendees will be encouraged throughout the one-day workshop in order to engender a fruitful exchange among American and European scholars, policymakers, and experts which should enrich the understanding of this critically important aspect of contemporary international politics.

Scientific coordinators: Dr. Ronald Hatto, CERI Sciences Po
and Dr. Steven Ekovich, American University of Paris

With the support of:



AMBASSADE DES ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

**AFRICAN CROSSROADS:
THE SAHEL REGION AND TRANSATLANTIC PERSPECTIVES**

Conference Program

Morning

9:00 am **Registration**

9:15 am **Welcoming remarks:**

Ronald Hatto, CERI/ Sciences Po, Conference Scientific Coordinator and **Lieutenant General (retired) Roger Thompson**, Vice-President of Membership & Meetings, Association of the United States Army

9:30-9:45 am **Opening address:**

Général Bertrand Ract-Madoux, Chief of Staff, French Army

10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Panel 1: **“TARGETS FOR TODAY”: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND CONTEXTS**

Chair: **Dr. Letitia Lawson**, professor at Naval Postgraduate School

1. “La Poudre et le Sabre”: what is the extent and impact of the intersection between organized transnational crime and transnational terrorists? Is there a developing relationship to major natural resources and related concerns?

Charlie Edwards, Director of National Security and Resilience, Royal United Services Institute

2. “Issues in Development and Governance”: what are the pressing issues of religion and governance, social identity, youth engagement, and democracy in the Sahel, and which are of greatest concern to Western powers?

Jamie Bleck, Professor at the University of Notre Dame

3. “South to North (and West)”: what might be the impacts of disruption and conflict in this region on Europe, and across the Atlantic, given for instance the zone’s interplay with the Maghreb, and hence the Mediterranean? What might be the impact of the establishment of a fundamental Islamic Sharia state in the area?

André Bourgeot, Director of Research, CNRS

12:30 pm – 14:00 pm **Working lunch**

Followed by a keynote speech on an historical case study of conflict resolution, Sierra Leone, 2001 by **Lieutenant General (British Army retired) Jonathan Riley**

Afternoon

14:00 pm – 15:45 pm

Panel 2: **“ENGAGING THE TARGETS” : ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT EFFORTS**

Chair: **Dr. Steven Ekovich**, American University of Paris

1. African perspectives: how to assess the African Union (strengths, challenges, prospects)

Cristina Barrios, Senior Analyst, EUISS

2. French perspectives: is there an evolving “new French model” of action in Africa?

Nicolas Normand, IHEDN, former French ambassador to Mali

3. American perspectives: what is US Africa Command’s current theater strategy and operational campaign design?

Col. Bruce Nickle, Assistant Chief of Staff, USAFRICOM

16:00 pm – 17:45 pm

Panel 3: **“RETHINKING THE TARGETS” : WHAT SHOULD THE WEST BE DOING DIFFERENTLY (IF AT ALL)?**

Chair: **Prof. Dan Lindley**, Co-Director of the International Security Program, University of Notre Dame

1. How can Western coalition partners better understand the underlying threats and challenges in this region? What cultural differences and constraints must be addressed?

Dr. Roland Marchal, Head of Research, CERI Sciences Po / CNRS

2. What instruments of policy are available to influence outcomes in the Sahel, and in a period of declining budgets, how best to prioritize these tools?

Dr. Melanie Zimmerman, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commander, SOCAFRICA

3. What strategic vision should govern Western interactions in this part of the world? What fundamental assumptions need to be reexamined and perhaps rethought?

Dr. Randolph Kent, Director of the Humanitarian Futures Program, King’s College London

18:00 pm – 19:00 pm **Concluding address**

Frédéric Charillon, Director, IRSEM, Paris