



# **Côte D'Ivoire's Cocoa Industry: Francophone West Africa Economic and Cultural Autonomy**

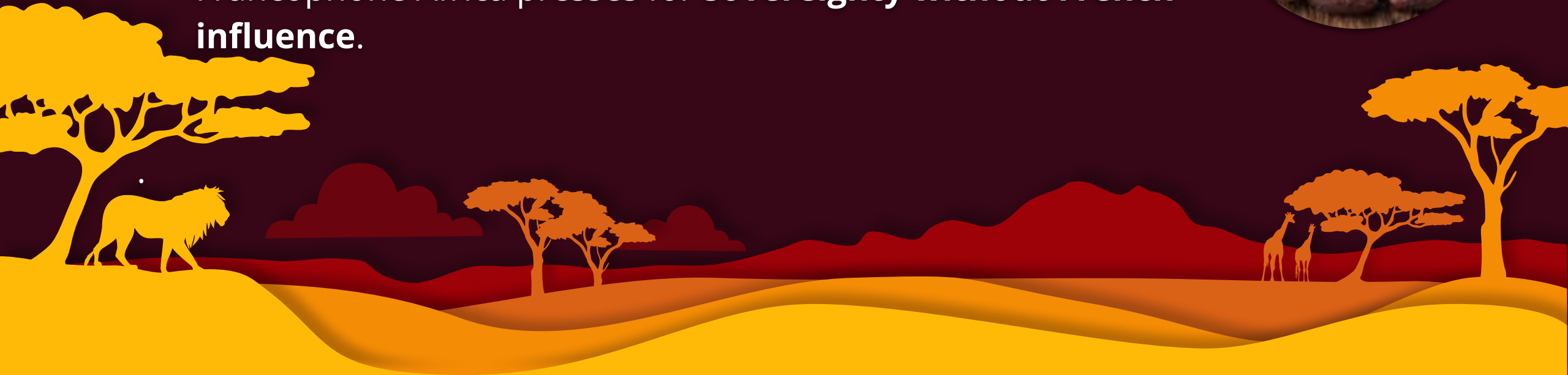
**Capstone Representative: Dr. Jacques Houssou**

**Capstone Site: Houssou & Associates**

**Capstone Project Members: Amia Miller-Salim,  
Tien Hoang, Zoe Crawley and Jasmine  
Johnson**

# Problem Statement

- ❖ The legacy of French **colonialism and capitalism** continues to restrict the economic and cultural **autonomy** of the African Financial Community (Franc-Communauté Financière Africaine).
- ❖ France maintains control over Côte d'Ivoire's **cocoa industry** as Francophone Africa presses for **sovereignty without French influence**.



# Policy Context: Côte d'Ivoire



## Capital

Yamoussoukro

## Population

212,670

## Major Languages

French, Baoulé, Dioula, Dan, Anyin, and Cebaara Senufo.

## Top Industries

Cocoa, mineral fuels, and rubber

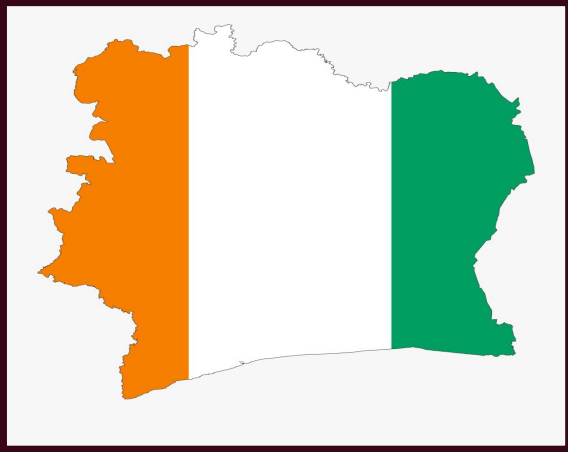


# Policy Context

Macron



Post-Colonial Legacies



CFA Franc





# Policy Formation

- Increased economic independence through an alternative national currency other than CFA Franc

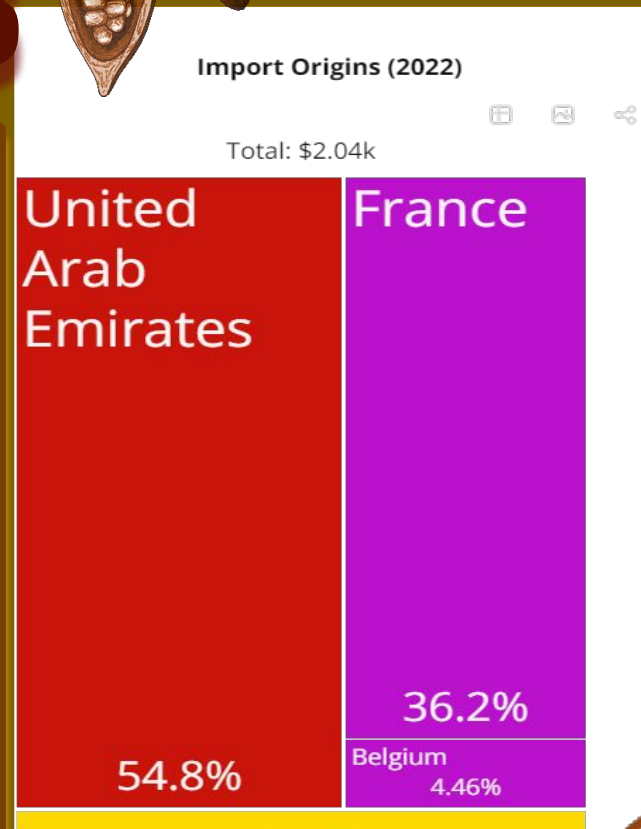
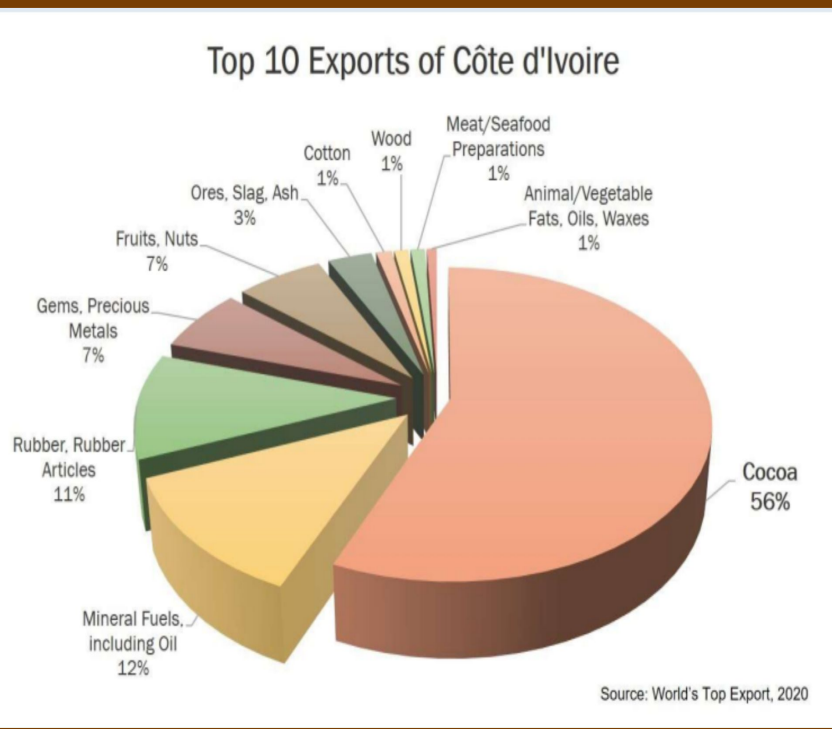


- Increased cultural revival through indigenous languages, cultures, and traditions

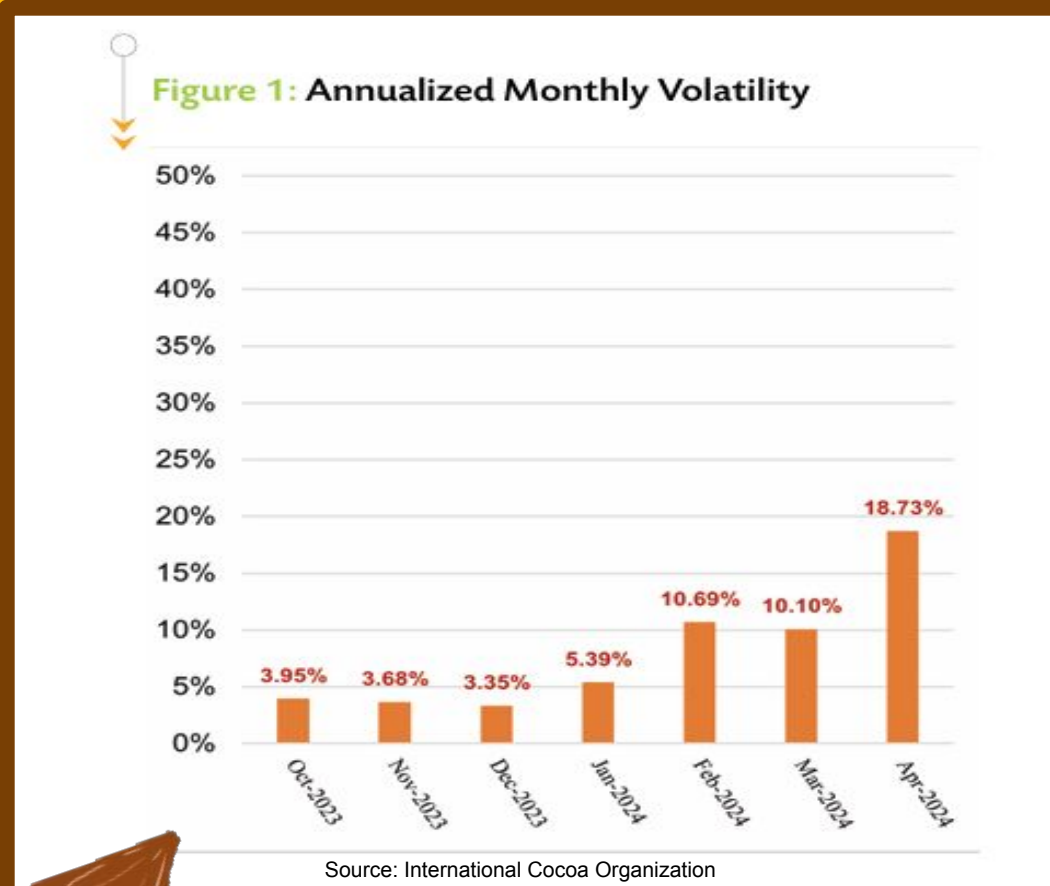


Many coups have happened in African countries fighting the French control over the country.

# Policy Analysis



Source: Observatory of Economic Complexity





# Policy Implications



- ❖ ***Greater autonomy*** leads to increased sovereignty of la Françafrique
- ❖ ***Separating from*** France may lead to increased economic & regional stability among the CFA
- ❖ ***Decolonization changes*** international relations between the CFA & other global powers





# Recommendations



- **Economic Diversification:** encourage economic partnerships beyond France to reduce dependency or fund industries besides the cocoa industry.
- **Monetary Independence:** transition away from CFA franc towards a nationality controlled currency system.
- **Cultural Preservation:** promote local languages and cultural heritage through education and media.



# Special thanks to Policy Pathways and Dr. Jacques Houssou!

## References

"5th Edition of the World Cocoa Conference - Brussels Declaration 24/04/2024." *International Cocoa Organization*, [www.icco.org/world-cocoa-conference-2024-brussels-declaration/](http://www.icco.org/world-cocoa-conference-2024-brussels-declaration/). Accessed 3 July 2024.

Arrington, Christina. "Introduction to Research Methods." 28 June 2024.

"The Art and Science of Cocoa Grinding: Royal Duyvis Wiener." *Royal Duyvis Wiener B.V.*, [duyviswiener.com/cocoa-processing/the-art-and-science-behind-cocoa-grinding-explained/#:~:text=Cocoa%20grinding%20is%20a%20critical%20step%20in%20the,which%20forms%20the%20base%20for%20all%20chocolate%20products.?v3=true](http://duyviswiener.com/cocoa-processing/the-art-and-science-behind-cocoa-grinding-explained/#:~:text=Cocoa%20grinding%20is%20a%20critical%20step%20in%20the,which%20forms%20the%20base%20for%20all%20chocolate%20products.?v3=true). Accessed 3 July 2024.

Benneyworth, IJ. "The Ongoing Relationship Between France and Its Former African Colonies." *E-International Relations*, 11 June 2011, [www.e-ir.info/2011/06/11/the-ongoing-relationship-between-france-and-its-former-african-colonies/#google\\_vignette](http://www.e-ir.info/2011/06/11/the-ongoing-relationship-between-france-and-its-former-african-colonies/#google_vignette).

"Cocoa Market Report for April 2024." *International Cocoa Organization*, [www.icco.org/cocoa-market-report-for-april-2024/](http://www.icco.org/cocoa-market-report-for-april-2024/). Accessed 3 July 2024.

"Côte d'Ivoire Gains Independence from France." *Côte d'Ivoire Gains Independence from France | South African History Online*, [sahistory.org.za/dated-event/cote-divoire-gains-independence-france?v3=true](http://sahistory.org.za/dated-event/cote-divoire-gains-independence-france?v3=true). Accessed 3 July 2024.

"Current Account Balance ." *World Bank Open Data*, [data.worldbank.org/indicator/BN.CAB.XOKA.CD?locations=SN-CM-TD-ML-BF-NE-BJ-TG-GW-CG-CF-GA](http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BN.CAB.XOKA.CD?locations=SN-CM-TD-ML-BF-NE-BJ-TG-GW-CG-CF-GA). Accessed 3 July 2024.

Dite, Chris, et al. "Africa : How France Continues to Dominate Its Former Colonies in Africa." CADTM, 26 Apr. 2021, [www.cadtm.org/Africa-How-France-Continues-to-Dominate-Its-Former-Colonies-in-Africa](http://www.cadtm.org/Africa-How-France-Continues-to-Dominate-Its-Former-Colonies-in-Africa).

Dworkin, Gerald. "Paternalism." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Stanford University, 2020, [plato.stanford.edu/entries/paternalism/](http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/paternalism/).

"Evolution of the Rural Economy." *FAMILiarization*, [fieldsupport.dlifc.edu/products/french/fr\\_co/website/default.html?type=chapter%25index&moduleID=0&taskID=4#:~:text=The%20French%20coionization%20of%20C%C3%B4te%20d'Ivoire%20coincided,Amazon%20Basin%2C%20but%20flourishes%20within%2010%C2%B0%20of](http://fieldsupport.dlifc.edu/products/french/fr_co/website/default.html?type=chapter%25index&moduleID=0&taskID=4#:~:text=The%20French%20coionization%20of%20C%C3%B4te%20d'Ivoire%20coincided,Amazon%20Basin%2C%20but%20flourishes%20within%2010%C2%B0%20of). Accessed 3 July 2024.

"Franc Zone." *France Diplomacy*, [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/franc-zone/](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/franc-zone/). Accessed 30 June 2024.

Houssou, Jacques. "Policy Issues in Francophone Africa: Challenges and Solutions:" 1 July 2024.

"Ivory Coast's Bittersweet Cocoa Industry." *YouTube*, 14 Dec. 2011, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qA-dm0TSmpk&t=1s>. Accessed 2 July 2024.

"Ivory Coast President Defends CFA Franc as Peers Call for Reform." *Bloomberg.Com*, Bloomberg, [www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-12-04/ivory-coast-president-defends-cfa-franc-as-peers-see-change](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-12-04/ivory-coast-president-defends-cfa-franc-as-peers-see-change). Accessed 3 July 2024.

"Ivory Coast - Rural Population." *Trading Economics*, [tradingeconomics.com/cote-d-ivoire/rural-population-percent-of-total-population-wb-data.html#:~:text=Rural%20populati on%20%28%25%20of%20total%20population%29%20in%20Ivory,of%20development%20indicators%2C%20compiled%20from%20officially%20recognized%20sources.?v3=true](http://tradingeconomics.com/cote-d-ivoire/rural-population-percent-of-total-population-wb-data.html#:~:text=Rural%20populati on%20%28%25%20of%20total%20population%29%20in%20Ivory,of%20development%20indicators%2C%20compiled%20from%20officially%20recognized%20sources.?v3=true). Accessed 3 July 2024.

Kim, Oliver. "The Beginning of the End for Africa's Last Colonial Currency?" *Global Developments*, Global Developments, 27 Mar. 2024, [www.global-developments.org/p/the-beginning-of-the-end-for-africas](http://www.global-developments.org/p/the-beginning-of-the-end-for-africas).

King, Isabelle. "True Sovereignty? The CFA Franc and French Influence in West and Central Africa." *Harvard International Review*, Harvard International Review, 18 Mar. 2022, [hir.harvard.edu/true-sovereignty-the-cfa-franc-and-french-influence-in-west-and-central-africa/](http://hir.harvard.edu/true-sovereignty-the-cfa-franc-and-french-influence-in-west-and-central-africa/).

"May 2024 Quarterly Bulletin of Cocoa Statistics." *International Cocoa Organization*, [www.icco.org/may-2024-quarterly-bulletin-of-cocoa-statistics/](http://www.icco.org/may-2024-quarterly-bulletin-of-cocoa-statistics/). Accessed 3 July 2024.

"Processing Cocoa." *International Cocoa Organization*, [www.icco.org/processing-cocoa/](http://www.icco.org/processing-cocoa/). Accessed 3 July 2024.

Schofield, Hugh. "Macron Looks on as France's Africa Policy Crumbles." *BBC News*, BBC, 1 Sept. 2023, [www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-66668094](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-66668094).

Sylla, Ndongo. "The CFA Franc: French Monetary Imperialism in Africa." *Africa at LSE*, 12 July 2017, [blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2017/07/12/the-cfa-franc-french-monetary-imperialism-in-africa/](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2017/07/12/the-cfa-franc-french-monetary-imperialism-in-africa/).

"Trading & Shipping." *International Cocoa Organization*, [www.icco.org/trading-shipping/](http://www.icco.org/trading-shipping/). Accessed 3 July 2024.