

Doctoral Project from Mrs. Sonja Nietz:

Working Title:

The Military in the Young Democracies of West Africa – A Comparison of the Politico-Military Relations in Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Côte d’Ivoire (2009–2019)

Supervisor:

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Abstract:

The dissertation argues that decades after the end of the military dictatorships of the 1960s to 1980s, democratisation processes in West Africa are still threatened by the danger of militarisation. To test this assumption, the current interaction of political and military actors in three West African states – Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Côte d’Ivoire – is examined. Drawing on theories of civil-military relations, firstly, a concept of civilian control that may capture different forms of political influence exerted by the armed forces is presented. Building on this, a theoretical framework is introduced which combines insights from historical institutionalism with arguments from strategic action, and allows explaining changes in the degree of civilian control and thus the relationship between the military and civilian authorities. Aim of the work is to systematically analyse the position of the military and civil-military relations in West Africa in order to enable a clearer awareness of the effectiveness and quality of the young democracies and to contribute to a sound understanding of military-related developments in the selected case studies.