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The dilemmas of the hybrid security assemblage in Mali

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Security assemblages: the total effects of governance attempts

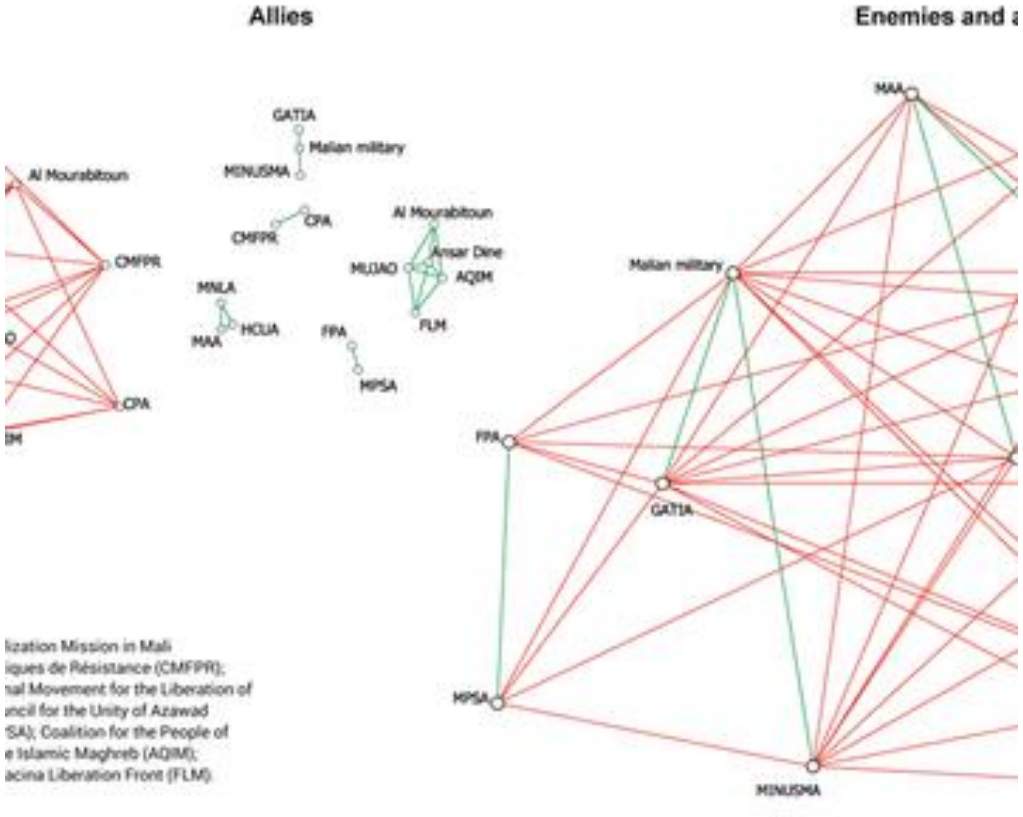
- What is an assemblage:
  - *(In)security 'assemblages' are composed of a host of different types and sets of actors (police, military, developmental, diplomatic, informal, illicit, etc.), representing diverse scales of political action, cooperating and competing over their diverse threat framings and appropriate security responses* (Frowd & Sandor (2018).

- Why consider non-governed spaces as security assemblages?
  - Analyzing everyday security providers **together** has the potential to uncover how alternative forms of governance reinforce, conflict, or undermine each other.

The assemblage of human security

- No ungoverned spaces in Northern or middle Mali, only state governance is limited
- The Malian state still the reference point for the alternative providers

- To each alternative provider of governance, we must ask: *Security for whom? Which rules are enforced? With whom do they create a security assemblage?*



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G5 Sahel

Coordination Group

Islamic State in Greater Sahara

MINUSMA

JNIM

EUTM/CIVCAP Sahel

Local communities

Operation Barkhane

Ethnic self-defence groups

State of Mali

Platform Group

Conclusion and discussion points

- We need to understand the impact of overlapping and conflicting security assemblages on local communities

- Points for external interveners to consider:
  - How does the mission interact with other missions seen from the perspective of the local population?
  - Which political dilemmas are associated with becoming a part of one security assemblage (voluntarily or not)?
  - Which synergies or conflicts may arise due to different interests and rationalities within the assemblage?

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Questions & answers

Thank you for your attention

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