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# We Never Knew Exactly Where: Dispatches From The Lost Country Of Mali (Borderlands Book 1)



## **Synopsis**

A masterful blend of reportage and history from one of the world's newest front lines in the war on terror -- the endangered African country of Mali. What happens when a country suddenly splits in two? In 2012, Mali, once a poster child for African democracy, all but collapsed in a succession of coups and courevers as Islamist rebels claimed control of the country's north, making it a new safe haven for al Qaeda. Prizewinning author Peter Chilson became one of the few Westerners to travel to the conflict zone in the following months to document conditions on the ground. What he found was a hazy dividing line between the uncertain, demoralized remnants of Mali's south and the new statelet formed in the north by jihadist fighters, who successfully commandeered a long-running rebellion by the country's ethnic Tuareg minority to turn Mali into a new frontier in the fast-morphing global war on terror. Chilson's definitive account -- the first in the new Borderlands series of ebooks from Foreign Policy magazine and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting -- is a gripping read, taking us back to the founding of French West Africa and right to the very front lines of this contentious new flashpoint.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Not tooo sure where the author was going with this book. Great insights into the sub Sahara world. But more of a diary than novel.

Interesting stories of Mr Chilson's travels in northern Ivory Coast and southeastern Mali in 2006 and 2011, but not very long or deep. Launch of the book was well-timed given the Jan. 2013 combat between Islamists and French-African troops in Mali, but details on the rebels in the Ivory Coast conflict are more insightful - as he met some of them - than the details are on the rebels in Mali (none of whom he met). It's a good an interesting read

Worth the price; recommended if you want a short easy read explaining how events got to early 2013. That said, things have changed dramatically since then; I'd enjoy a follow up. Mali is a location worth watching.

The author gives a good blend of history with current issues as he traveled through Mali. It isn't too heavy on either and gives a good overall understanding.

very good reading - if you have an interest on the subject, of course. The information & analysis are very comprehensive and concise at the same time.

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