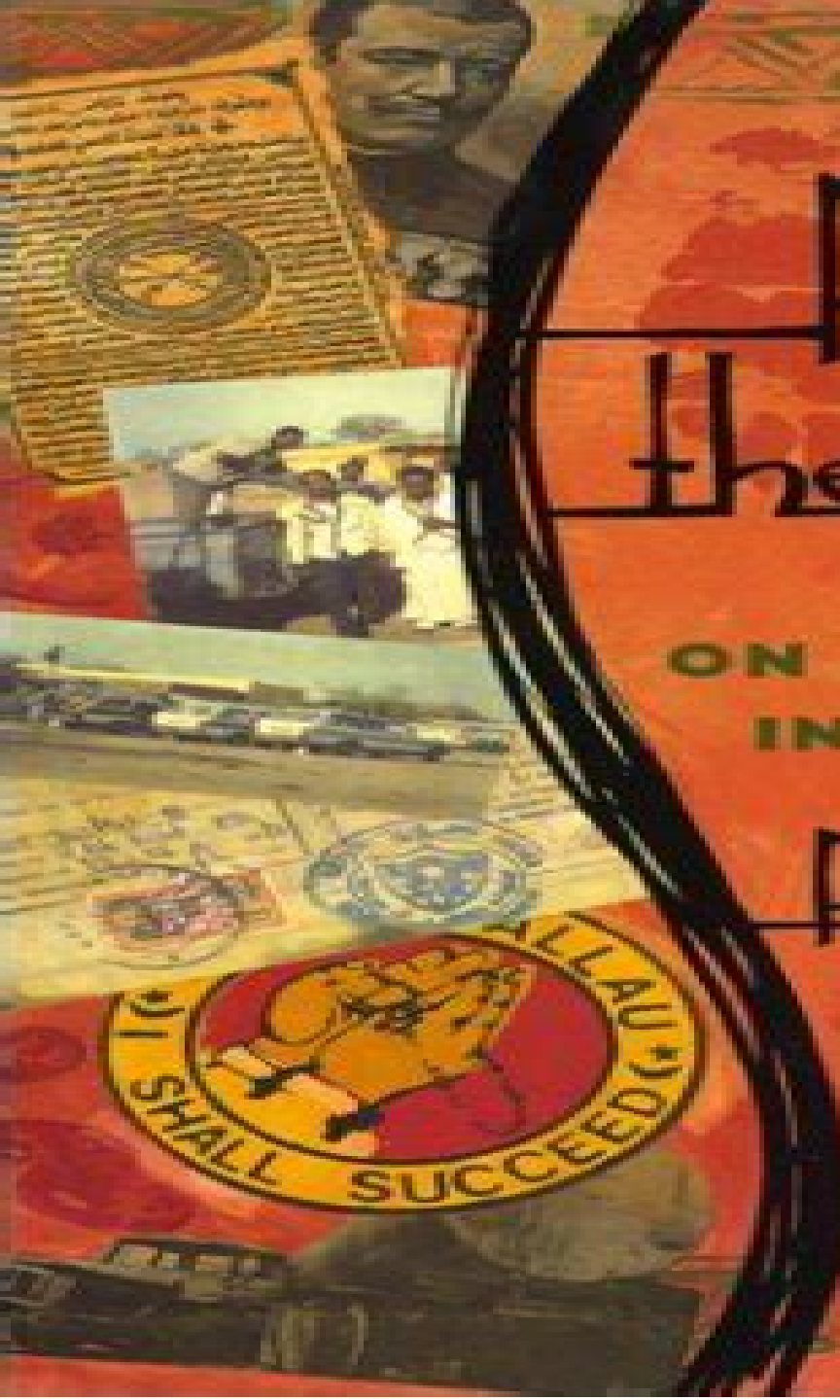




Riding the Demon

ON THE ROAD
IN WEST AFRICA

Peter Chilson

WINNER OF THE

ASSOCIATED WRITING PROGRAM'S

CREATIVE NONFICTION AWARD

Riding The Demon On The Road In West Africa

Peter Chilson



Riding The Demon On The Road In West Africa:

Riding the Demon Peter Chilson, 2015-03-15 In Niger where access to rail and air travel requires overcoming many obstacles roads are the nation's lifeline For a year in the early 1990s Peter Chilson traveled this desert country by automobile to experience West African road culture He crisscrossed the same roads again and again with bush taxi driver Issoufou Garba in order to learn one driver's story inside and out He hitchhiked riding in cotton trucks and traveled with other bush taxi drivers truckers road engineers an anthropologist Niger's only licensed woman commercial driver and a customs officer The road in Africa says Chilson is more than a direction or a path to take Once you've booked passage and taken your seat the road becomes the center of your life Hurling along at eighty miles an hour in a bush taxi equipped with bald tires no windows and sometimes no doors travelers realize that they've surrendered everything Chilson uses the road not to reinforce Africa's worn image of decay and corruption but to reveal how people endure political and economic chaos poverty and disease The road has reflected the struggle for survival in Niger since the first automobile arrived there and it remains a useful metaphor for the fight for stability and prosperity across Africa Riding the Demon Peter Chilson, 1999 On African roads car wrecks are as common as mile markers and the wreckage can stand in monument for months or years a minibus upended against a tree as if attempting escape a charred truck overturned in a ditch Chilson uses the road not to reinforce the worn image of Africa's decay but to reveal how people endure political and economic chaos poverty and disease

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influence in favor of the car's status character *Near Death in the Desert* Cecil Kuhne, 2011-06-08 A travel anthology that gathers the best adventure stories from the world's most barren landscapes Ranging from 19th century explorers to modern day journalists these desert trekkers deal with everything from deserting men corrupt armed soldiers and Nigerian bush taxis to suspicious natives stubborn camels and debilitating sunburn These thirteen tales are more than suspenseful they also show how life can survive in the most punishing climates The night was heavy with foreboding The rain which had been spitting down on us during the late afternoon grew heavier It hurled into our faces borne by a wind that was now gusting between the dunes at full force It was the worst storm we had encountered and Ned was out in it alone Justin Marozzi South from Barbary Also featuring Robyn Davidson's *Desert Places* Robyn Davidson follows the Rubari people across the Thar as she tries to adapt to a difficult but fascinating way of life Michael Asher's *Two Against the Sahara* Newlyweds embark upon a nine month 4500 mile journey across the world's largest desert traveling from Morocco to Sudan Bayle St John's *Adventure in the Libyan Desert* In 1847 a team of four trek deep into Libya in search of an oasis But what they find is even more astounding **African Border Disorders** Olivier J. Walther, William F.S. Miles, 2017-09-01 Since the end of the Cold War the monopoly of legitimate organized force of many African states has been eroded by a mix of rebel groups violent extremist organizations and self defence militias created in response to the rise in organized violence on the continent *African Border Disorders* explores the complex relationships that bind states transnational rebels and extremist organizations and borders on the African continent Combining cutting edge network science with geographical analysis the first part of the book highlights how the fluid alliances and conflicts between rebels violent extremist organizations and states shape in large measure regional patterns of violence in Africa The second part of the book examines the spread of Islamist violence around Lake Chad through the lens of the violent Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram which has evolved from a nationally oriented militia group to an internationally networked organization The third part of the book explores how violent extremist organizations conceptualize state boundaries and territory and reciprocally how do the civil society and the state respond to the rise of transnational organizations The book will be essential reading for all students and specialists of African politics and security studies particularly those specializing on fragile states sovereignty new wars and borders as well as governments and international organizations involved in conflict prevention and early intervention in the region The Open Access version of this book available at <http://www.taylorfrancis.com> has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives 4.0 license **Going Places** Robert Burgin, 2013-01-08 Successfully navigate the rich world of travel narratives and identify fiction and nonfiction read-alikes with this detailed and expertly constructed guide Just as savvy travelers make use of guidebooks to help navigate the hundreds of countries around the globe smart librarians need a guidebook that makes sense of the world of travel narratives *Going Places: A Reader's Guide to Travel Narratives* meets that demand helping librarians assist patrons in finding the nonfiction books that most interest them It will

also serve to help users better understand the genre and their own reading interests The book examines the subgenres of the travel narrative genre in its seven chapters categorizing and describing approximately 600 titles according to genres and broad reading interests and identifying hundreds of other fiction and nonfiction titles as read alike and related reads by shared key topics The author has also identified award winning titles and spotlighted further resources on travel lit making this work an ideal guide for readers advisors as well a book general readers will enjoy browsing

Africans and Americans: Embracing Cultural Differences Joseph Mbele, 2005 This book discusses differences between African and American culture to help prevent cultural miscommunications which might poison or ruin relationships between Africans and Americans I am lucky to have lived in both Africa and America and I feel privileged and obliged to share my views and experiences with others

Literature of Travel and Exploration Jennifer Speake, 2014-05-12 Containing more than 600 entries this valuable resource presents all aspects of travel writing There are entries on places and routes Afghanistan Black Sea Egypt Gobi Desert Hawaii Himalayas Italy Northwest Passage Samarkand Silk Route Timbuktu writers Isabella Bird Ibn Battuta Bruce Chatwin Gustave Flaubert Mary Kingsley Walter Raleigh Wilfrid Thesiger methods of transport and types of journey balloon camel grand tour hunting and big game expeditions pilgrimage space travel and exploration genres buccaneer narratives guidebooks New World chronicles postcards companies and societies East India Company Royal Geographical Society Society of Dilettanti and issues and themes censorship exile orientalism and tourism For a full list of entries and contributors a generous selection of sample entries and more visit the Literature of Travel and Exploration An Encyclopedia website

The Speed of Change Jan Bart Gewald, Sabine Luning, Klaas Van Walraven, 2009 In the early 1900s the motor vehicle car bus lorry or motor cycle was introduced in sub Saharan Africa Initially the plaything and symbol of colonial domination the motor vehicle transformed the economic and social life of the continent Indeed the motor vehicle is arguably the single most important factor for change in Africa in the twentieth century A factor for change that thus far has been neglected in research and literature Yet its impact extends across the totality of human existence from ecological devastation to economic advancement from cultural transformation to political change through to a myriad of other themes This edited volume of eleven contributions by historians anthropologists and social and political scientists explores aspects of the social history and anthropology of the motor vehicle in Africa

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