Abstract
In 2012 and 2013 Mali suffered one of the worst periods of crisis in its recent history. This article provides insights into the key players who have shaped the Tuareg rebellion in northern Mali and the subsequent ten-month occupation by jihadist and Islamist groups.

Keywords
Mali, Tuareg Rebellion, Jihadism, Islamism, Ansar Din, AQIM, MUJWA.