

News Release

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Popular Perceptions of the Causes and Consequences of the Conflict in Mali

In December 2013, Afrobarometer conducted a survey that asked Malians about the causes and consequences of the conflict in Mali. Malians believe that foreign terrorists and corruption are the two main causes of the conflict and the occupation of Northern Mali.

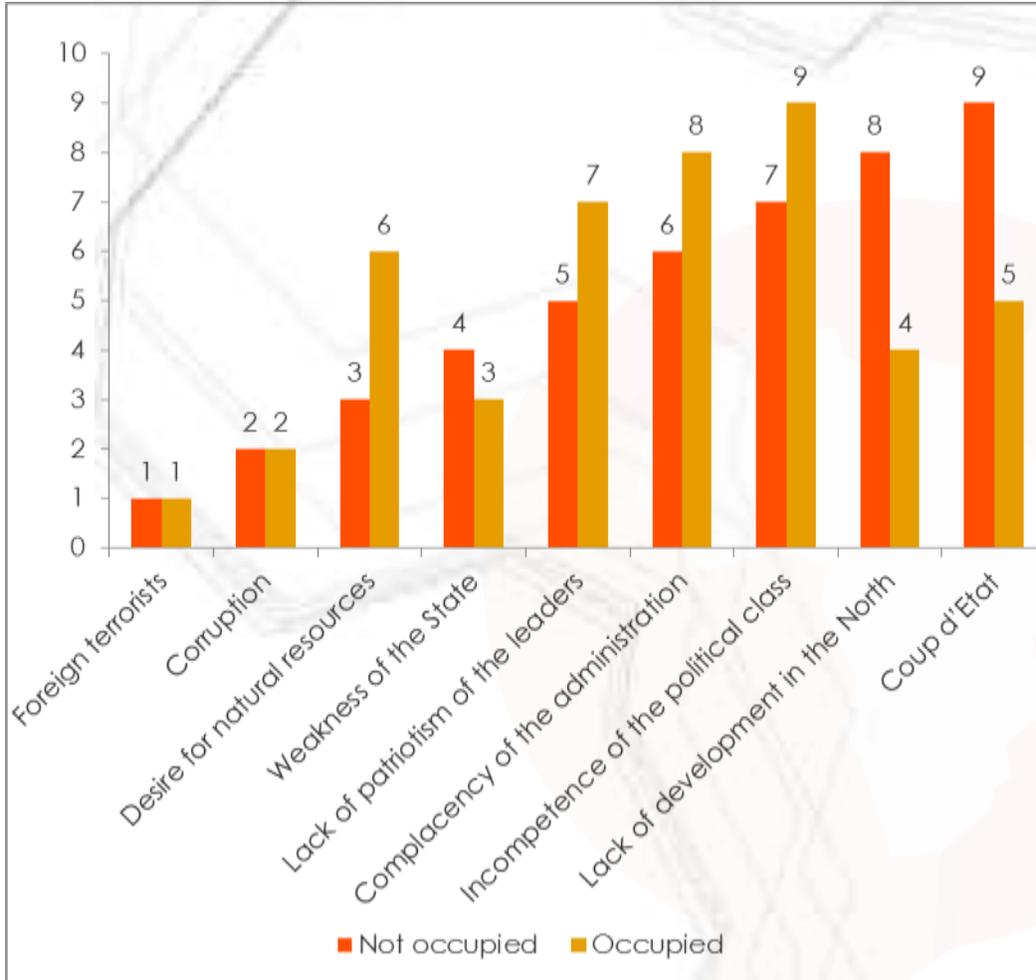
Key Results

The main popular perceptions from the December 2013 Afrobarometer survey can be summarized as follows :

- The three main reasons for the Northern conflict and occupation are foreign terrorists, corruption and the desire for natural resources. However, in formerly occupied areas, the weakness of the State is in conflict with the desire for natural resources.
- For the overwhelming majority of Malians, rebels and Islamists appear in first place of those presumed to be involved in drug trafficking, alongside transnational organized crime.
- The Northern conflict brought about internal displacement of populations of around 6% with 3% who already returned home, 2% with the intention of returning and 1% with no intention of returning. This phenomenon proportionally affects city dwellers, women and those under 25 or age 35-44 slightly more.
- In total, close to one out of three Malians were affected, personally or through family members, by the Northern conflict and occupation, in one of the many ways in which one could be affected, from the explosion of one's domicile to death via sharia punishment or physical aggression of any kind.
- For the very large majority of Malians (86% to 95%), three major options would help resolve the conflict: civic education, justice and a strong State.
- For close to two out of three Malians, signing a new agreement will probably be the basis for sustainable peace in Mali.

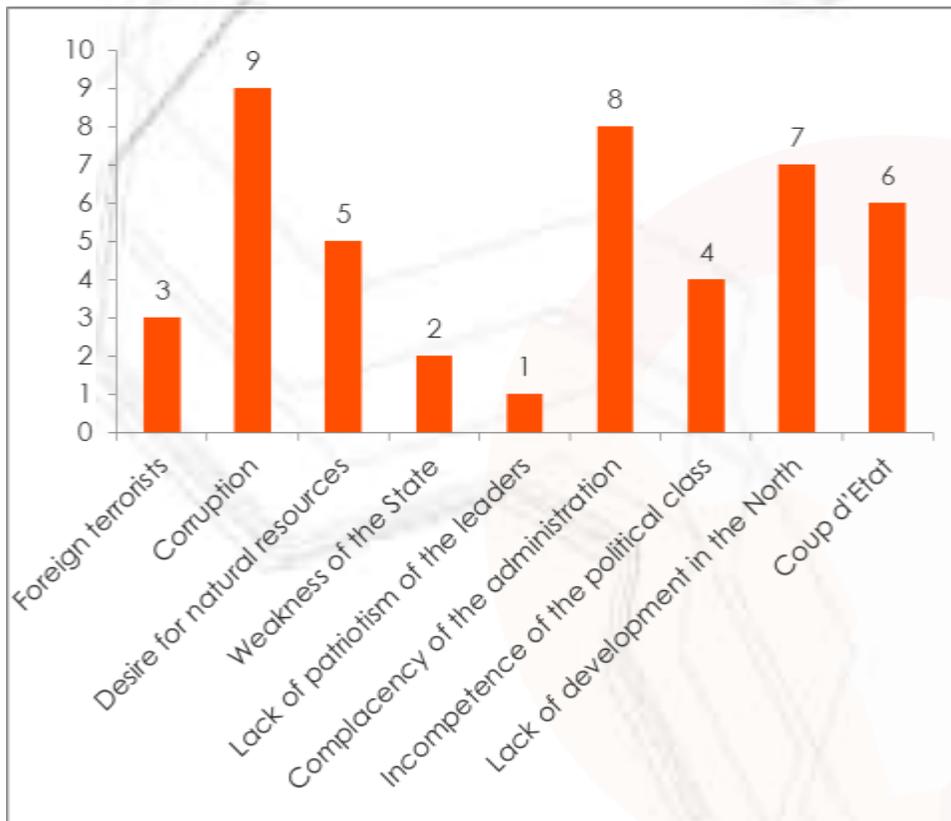
Charts

Figure 1: Reasons for the occupation and the Northern conflict by area and occupation
 [2013 | Rank]



In the December 2012 Afrobarometer survey, Malians indicated that the main causes of the crisis were a lack of patriotism of leaders and a weakness of the state.

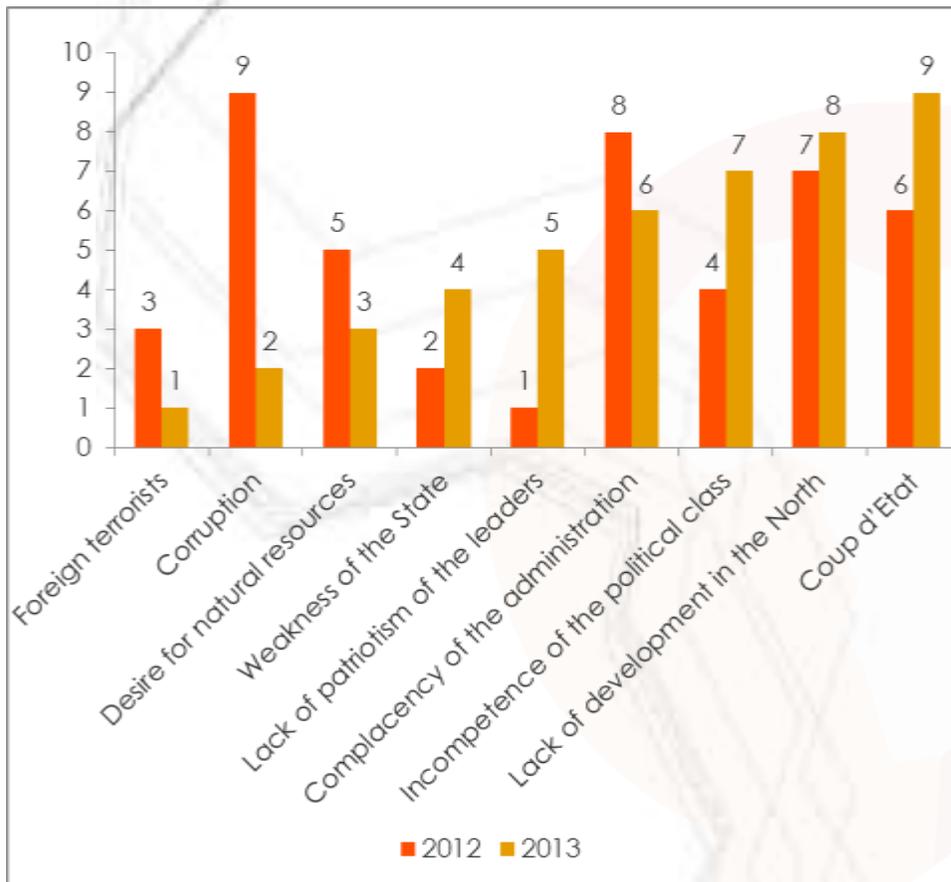
Figure 2: **Reasons for the occupation and the Northern conflict by area and occupation**
| 2012 | Rank |



Maliens' changing perceptions reflected in the 2013 survey reflect a change in the quality and magnitude of the crisis. After the occupation of two-thirds of Mali, citizens suggested that foreign terrorists were by far the primary cause of the occupation and the Northern conflict.

Figure 3: **Reasons for the occupation and the Northern conflict by area and occupation**

| 2012 and 2013 | Rank |



The changing perceptions is also explained by the peaceful presidential and legislative elections. The 2013 elections had a record voter turnout of around 50%, which had not been seen since advent of democracy in 1992. These elections were deemed to be free and fair, and this was seen as necessary to recover from the violence of the crisis.

Figure 4: **2013 Election Free and Fair**
| 2012 and 2013 | Percent |

