

# The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam

*Eliza Griswold*

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DISPATCHES FROM THE FAULT LINE  
BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

THE TENTH  
PARALLEL



ELIZA GRISWOLD

"A richly textured fugue that dramatizes the dizzying interplay between notions—faith, morality, identity—and nations." —JULIE CLINE, *Los Angeles Times*

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#922532 in Books Eliza Griswold 2011-08-02 2011-08-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x 23.11 x 5.951, .90 #File Name: 031256936X336 pages The Tenth Parallel Dispatches from the Fault Line between Christianity and Islam | File size: 41.Mb

**Eliza Griswold : The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, insightful view into a complex world without an

agendaBy JimThis is a good read to help see the complexities of the relationship between Islam and Christianity as played out in the places of intersection. She demonstrates through story the nonbinary nature of the situation, juxtaposing people of genuine faith with economic, pollution, and historical forces that marginalize people and use religion. The author finds a good balance of objectivity, but also acknowledging how she herself is affected by and even part of the story.12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A beautifully written eye-openerBy JayliaBoth insightful and intrepid, Eliza Griswold journeyed through Africa and Asia along the tenth parallel, the line of latitude 700 miles north of the equator where nearly 25% of the world's Muslims and Christians compete for resources, converts and political power. A poet with an ear for simple but evocative language, Griswold takes the reader through the dust of encroaching desertification as she attends an indigenous Indonesian wedding, meets with African rape victims, sits with a Muslim religious leader as he tries to resolve local disputes, and observes an election where voters line up in a barren field behind the candidate of their choice. After reading about her meetings with the homosexual and Muslim denouncing Anglican Bishop Akinola of Nigeria I still have no sympathy with his views, but I now have some understanding of why he thinks the way he does. Griswold's own empathy serves her well; believers on both sides of the religious divide open up to her. As an agnostic daughter of the former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, Griswold even shares a flash of private connection with crusading evangelist Franklin Graham when she meets him in Africa--though they have very different ideas they are both PKs, preacher's kids, with childhoods that were a struggle between belief and rebellion. My copy of THE TENTH PARALLEL is tabbed with more than 30 post-it notes marking sections I thought were so perceptive and illuminating I knew I'd want to read them again.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read on Muslim-Christian conflictBy Randy WilliamsAn excellent book that helped me understand how complex the Muslim vs. Christian issue is in Africa and Asia. The problems are over religion, but are also driven by political and economic issues. She talked to a lot of religious leaders, "terrorists", and everyday people on the front lines of the battle so the reader really gets a good perspective on the motives and thoughts on both sides. Unfortunately there does not appear to be any end in sight, with global climate change just making resources more scarce and the battles for land resources more critical. Overall a great read (just finished my second time through).

A riveting investigation of the jagged fault line between the Christian and Muslim worldsThe tenth parallelthe line of latitude seven hundred miles north of the equatoris a geographical and ideological front line where Christianity and Islam collide. More than half of the world's 1.3 billion Muslims live along the tenth parallel; so do sixty percent of the world's 2 billion Christians. Here, in the buzzing megacities and swarming jungles of Africa and Asia, is where the two religions meet; their encounter is shaping the future of each faith, and of whole societies as well. An award-winning investigative journalist and poet, Eliza Griswold has spent the past seven years traveling between the equator and the tenth parallel: in Nigeria, the Sudan, and Somalia, and in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The stories she tells in *The Tenth Parallel* show us that religious conflicts are also conflicts about land, water, oil, and other natural resources, and that local and tribal issues are often shaped by religious ideas. Above all, she makes clear that, for the people she writes about, one's sense of God is shaped by one's place on earth; along the tenth parallel, faith is geographic and demographic. An urgent examination of the relationship between faith and worldly power, *The Tenth Parallel* is an essential work about the conflicts over religion, nationhood and natural resources that will remake the world in the years to come.

From Booklist\*Starred \* Griswold may be the first to explain how global warming intensifies religious conflict. For as she travels the climactically vulnerable region near 10 degrees latitude, she sees climate change exacerbating tensions dividing 700 million Muslims and 1.2 billion Christians. These tensions emerge in probing interviews with religious leadersChristian and Muslimaflame with spiritual passions now rare in the secular West. Yet Griswold also discovers how the West has helped incubate the regions interfaith hostility. It was, after all, Western colonizers whose arbitrary boundaries helped harden religious differences: in Sudan, for instance, the British established the tenth parallel as a partition between the Islamic north and the Christian south. More recently, it was the U.S.-led invasion of distant Afghanistan that triggered bloody clashes between Muslim and Christian mobs in the Middle Belt of Nigeria. And in Indonesia, Griswold listens to angry jihadists certain that the spread of fast-food restaurants signals a threatening Christian onslaught. Here and elsewhere Griswold teases out the threads of a complex fabric of religious doctrine, capitalist economics, ethnic pride, and power politics. Despite the complexities, Griswold retains her hope that authentic faith can yet transcend theological differences and foster peace. A compelling portrait of embattled human communities yearning for more-than-human succor. --Bryce Christensen Eliza Griswold's *The Tenth Parallel* deals with a geographical slice of the Muslim world spanning Africa and Asia. With a sharp eye and equally sharp wit, Griswold dissects the events and issues that have gripped the region, uncovering their nature through memorable encounters and personalities. The story brims with insightful details and instructive lessons. Seldom does a book of this nature ranging over such vast terrain succeed in maintaining a steady focus and an engaging lightness of touch. In her hands, Islam resounds through the voice of Muslims, and religion lives through its followers and devotees. The

book is a triumph of the human imagination and capacity for intercultural exploration. Lamin Sanneh, author of *Whose Religion is Christianity?* Eliza Griswold's talent runs through this book like a blinding light. Through her daring travel, quiet observation, empathy and gift for language, she humanizes and clarifies conflicts in Africa and Asia that are often neglected or misunderstood. The Tenth Parallel is both vitally important and beautifully written. Steve Coll, author of *The Bin Ladens* Ingeniously conceived and beautifully wrought, *The Tenth Parallel* traces the uneasy fault line of two great faiths, which have so much bloody history between them. In exploring the potent tensions that underlie so many of the conflicts of the present age, Eliza Griswold gives us a rare look at how complex and interwoven these two cultures actually are. Lawrence Wright, author of *The Looming Tower* In this revolutionary work, Griswold has dedicated the last seven years of her life to traveling in the world's least known places to explore the encounter between Christianity and Islam in Africa and Asia. She has brought back the unforgettable stories of Christians and Muslims along the tenth parallel whose faith is shaping the world's future. Griswold's courageous pilgrimage changes the way we think about Christianity and Islam by exploding any simplistic "clash" narrative. She returns us to the most basic truth of human existence: that the world and its people are interconnected. Archbishop Desmond Tutu Based on years of first hand experience and observation, *The Tenth Parallel* is a deeply impressive achievement, which so often challenges our common assumptions. The book will be immensely rewarding for anyone who wants to make sense of the relationship between those long-estranged sister faiths, Christianity and Islam. It should be required reading for policy makers, and for anyone interested in the spiritual dimensions of the "clash of civilizations. Philip Jenkins, author of *Jesus Wars* *The Tenth Parallel* is one of the most important books you will ever read. Eliza Griswold combines the fearlessness of an investigative journalist and the bold vision of a poet to take readers on a perilous journey along the fault line between Islam and Christianity. No one else could have written this book. Reza Aslan, author of *No god but God* Eliza Griswold is an intrepid and brilliant reporter. She has written a fascinating, nuanced account of Christian-Muslim relations along the fault line of the tenth parallel that puts the arm-chair punditry about "the clash of civilizations" to shame. It should be read by anyone who wants to understand how religion is actually lived and experienced in Africa and Asia. Frances FitzGerald, author of *Vietnam: Spirits of the Earth* Eliza Griswold has long been one of my favorite magazine writers, and many of us have been awaiting this book with the fervent anticipation of a J. K. Rowling fan. And *The Tenth Parallel* does not in any way disappoint. It is brave, sad, informative, and deeply empathetic. I quake a little to think of what Ms. Griswold had to endure to come back with this book, and these stories, but we and the literary world are all the richer for it. Tom Bissell, author of *The Father of All Things* Eliza Griswold is a courageous reporter, a gifted writer, and an acute observer of life. In *The Tenth Parallel* she takes us on a crucially illuminating tour of some of the most volatile terrain in the world, acquainting us with people who are far away both spatially and culturally but whose fates are intertwined with our own. Robert Wright, author of *The Evolution of God* Eliza Griswold, poet and war correspondent, takes her readers on a journey through the birthplace of terror. She marches into unspeakably frightening places, alone, with only her pen as protection. And then she speaks. The poetry of Griswold's prose draws the reader in, even as she foretells great terrors to come. *The Tenth Parallel* is an important book by a courageous American. Jessica Stern, author of *Terror In The Name Of God* About the Author Eliza Griswold, a fellow at the New America Foundation, received a 2010 Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome. Her journalism has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Harper's Magazine*, among others. A 2007 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, she was awarded the first Robert I. Friedman Award for investigative reporting. A collection of her poems, *Wideawake Field*, was published by FSG in 2007.