

Michael Peel

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Date of birth: 9th July 1974

Education

1992-6: Trinity College, University of Oxford, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BH.
Degree: BA (first class) in chemistry.

1985-92: Exeter School, Manston Terrace, Exeter EX4 4NS.
A-Levels: Chemistry (A), French A/S (A), English A/S (B), maths (B), biology (C).

Journalistic experience

August 2013- Present: Bangkok-based regional multimedia correspondent, Financial Times, covering Southeast Asian countries. Also covered Afghanistan elections.

January 2011- August 2013: Middle East Correspondent, Financial Times, based in Abu Dhabi. I covered the uprisings in Egypt, Libya and Syria and also reported from many other countries, including Iraq, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. My FT work on Syria was shortlisted in two categories in the 2013 One World media awards, including international journalist of the year.

September 2009: My first book, *A Swamp Full of Dollars*, was shortlisted for The Guardian's first book award. *Swamp*, which tells the story of the murky embrace of big oil and modern Nigeria, was also nominated for the Orwell Prize for political writing and received wide critical praise.

May 2006 – December 2010: Legal Correspondent, Financial Times, writing widely on the law and courts. I focused particularly on corporate financial crime, including the BAE Systems corruption case.

January 2006-March 2006: Book research fellowship at Wolfson College, University of Cambridge.

March 2005-March 2006: Associate fellow, Chatham House. I published two briefing papers on Nigeria, looking at oil and financial crime. The financial crime paper was widely covered in the media.

May 2002- April 2005: West Africa correspondent, Financial Times. I was based in Nigeria and covered many countries in the surrounding region. Notable assignments included the civil wars in Liberia and Ivory Coast, and the alleged Equatorial Guinea coup plot and its aftermath. I was shortlisted twice for the Washington Post's Laurence Stern fellowship for young journalists.

October 1999-April 2002: London-based staff correspondent in the financial services team of the Financial Times. I reported heavily on the collapse of Enron, the energy trading company.

January 1997-October 1999: Graduate trainee and staff reporter, Financial Times.

September-December 1996: Journalism training course at the Editorial Centre near Hastings, UK.

1992-6: Editor of the Oxford University newspaper *Cherwell* and co-founder of a magazine for new writing. Assignments included interviewing Tony Blair.

Freelance work: Frequent interviews on TV and radio. Contributor to *Granta*, the *London Review of Books*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Prospect*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *The New Republic*.

Awards

- Winner of a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust travelling fellowship in 2000, which I used to report from India, Madagascar and Papua New Guinea.

Languages

- French (good), Spanish (intermediate), Arabic (conversational), Thai (basic)
- Shorthand at 100 words per minute