



Farrar, Straus and Giroux
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Publication date: March 26, 2024
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"*On the Move* explains how we got here and where we're headed. It's a crucial guide to the world we are creating."

—Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *Under a White Sky* and *The Sixth Extinction*

On the Move

The Overheating Earth and the Uprooting of America

Abrahm Lustgarten



Over the next 30 years, perhaps 20-40% of Americans could be moving as a result of climate migration. Even at the smallest end of the spectrum that is roughly **twice the largest migration in American history**. How do we prepare as a nation? And how do you know if you're a part of that percent that will migrate?

ON THE MOVE: The Overheating Earth and the Uprooting of America by investigative journalist Abrahm Lustgarten (FSG; March 26; \$30; 324 pages with maps, charts, tables) is the first book to deeply report the scientific and policy catalysts for climate-driven migration in the U.S. and to forecast specifically how many Americans may move as a result of climate change, where they will go, and when.

This is the climate change conversation the United States has not been having. *On the Move* shows how to see the slow-moving, imperceptible change, not the big disasters. For example, Lustgarten explores heat degrading crop yields which are eroding the economy across the farm belt. What does that look like? What does experiencing that change feel like? Lustgarten's goal is to help us understand the context and implications of what's unfolding for our lives, and give us guideposts for what we're going to do about it. With climate-driven economic upheaval comes an option for a reset, a chance to fix structural problems in our economy that will make the nation resilient.

On the Move is built on a scientific analysis that includes billions of data points and modeling by the United Nations and some of the best private researchers in the world, including the Rhodium Group. The measurements and statistics the book relies on are the result of that analysis and represents the most advanced empirical consideration of climate-driven

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migration in the United States ever done. Many of the statistics and scientific conclusions used in the book - representing future agricultural crop yields, for example, or economic impacts of warming - have never been published before. Together they create the most vivid and well-informed picture of climate migration possible.

Lustgarten also offers guidance for people living in climate change challenged areas. He speaks to the people who may never move and shows what individuals and their communities will have to do so that they won't have to. Some people may want to invest. *On the Move's* new information might suggest how and where. Others might want to become activists. This book shows who needs help and what issues might benefit from their contributions. Some might not think small changes matter. This book shows the difference in results between small change and big change. Some might wish to ignore climate change in its entirety. *On the Move* shows why this is impossible, but offers alternative, pragmatic, local approaches.

Large-scale climate driven migration in the United States is only bad news if it is ignored. Planning for it, capitalizing on it with foresight, understanding the sweeping change in the shape and location of communities across America, with vast implications for its politics and its economy can make the United States a stronger place full of opportunity in a warmer world.

This migration represents the greatest cultural shift to happen in this country since the ends of slavery and World War II. Mass migration is a new permanent state, not a momentary trend or crisis. *On the Move* offers specific guidance on how to adapt to that new reality, and where to find prosperity and order in the process.

EARLY PRAISE FOR ABRAHM LUSTGARTEN AND *ON THE MOVE*

"An urgent examination of how the U.S. will be affected by migrations driven by global warming . . . a nuanced account of how myriad factors intertwine to fuel migration . . . [with] poignant portraits . . . Readers will be unnerved." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Traveling the nation, [Abraham] Lustgarten interviews experts and victims to paint a grim but fact-based picture . . . Lustgarten finishes . . . that aggressive action can still mitigate the damage and even revive neglected regions such as the Rust Belt." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Abraham Lustgarten has written a thoughtful, heartfelt account of how Americans will be—and, in fact, already are being—displaced by climate change. *On the Move* explains how we got here and where we're headed. It's a crucial guide to the world we are creating." —**Elizabeth Kolbert**, author of *Under a White Sky* and *The Sixth Extinction*

"The best way to understand how the climate crisis is changing America – culturally, economically, politically – is to read *On the Move*. It's a brilliant, deeply researched look at the transformation that's already underway in places like California and Michigan as people flee wildfires and extreme heat and flooding and imagine new lives in a less risky place. Along the way, Lustgarten grapples with some of the most important questions of our time: As climate impacts accelerate, who will benefit? Who will lose? Will climate-driven migration increase injustice and violence, or will it bring economic growth and a more stable democracy? *On the Move* captures the tumult of all this—think of it as a guidebook to the coming chaos of life in a

rapidly warming world.” —Jeff Goodell, *New York Times*—bestselling author of *The Heat Will Kill You First*

"Abrahm Lustgarten has written the best account of one of the least examined but most immediate consequences of climate change. *On the Move* is an unflinching guidebook to our near future, aggressively reported, rigorously quantified, as terrifying as it is revelatory. Duluth, here we come." —Nathaniel Rich, author of *Second Nature* and *Losing Earth*

“Around one third of global migration is already driven by climate change. How much more will it be in the future? A lot more, as Abrahm Lustgarten carefully forecasts in this important book. Can we both relocate and future-proof ourselves at the same time? That is the great challenge humanity faces in an over-heating world.” —Parag Khanna, author of *Move: Where People are Going for a Better Future*

About the Author

Abrahm Lustgarten is an investigative reporter writing about climate change at ProPublica and for *The New York Times*. His writing also appears in *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, and *Scientific American*. His series on drought in the American West was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize, and his investigation into the oil industry was the subject of the Emmy nominated *Frontline* documentary *The Spill*. His other books include *Run to Failure: BP and the Making of the Deepwater Horizon Disaster* and *China's Great Train: Beijing's Drive West and the Campaign to Remake Tibet*. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. More can be found on his website - abrahm.com.



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ON THE MOVE: THE OVERHEATING EARTH AND THE UPROOTING OF AMERICA by Abrahm Lustgarten will be published in hardcover by Farrar, Straus and Giroux on March 26, 2024 (\$30.00 | 336 pages | ISBN: 978-0-374-17173-5). For more information, please contact Lottchen Shivers, FSG Publicity, Lottchen.Shivers@fsgbooks.com, 845-453-0383.

PRAISE FOR ABRAHM LUSTGARTEN

CHINA'S GREAT TRAIN

"I can't think of any story that better captures the exhilaration and the agony of our pell-mell globalization. *China's Great Train* is a powerful piece of reporting and of reflection, and it never edges away from the tough questions."

—Bill McKibben, author of *Deep Economy*

"A great yarn . . . [Lustgarten] also accomplishes something more valuable: He provides insight into the seat-of-the-pants nature of many of China's massive schemes."

—*The Washington Post Book World*

“Lustgarten has pulled off something quite extraordinary: by shining a finely-pointed and intimate light on a handful of people directly affected by one of the modern era's greatest engineering feats--or follies--he has rendered a far broader portrait of what happens when two great cultures come into collision. In the process, he not only explores the age-old question of what price progress, but the far more essential question of just how progress might be defined. A must read for anyone who seeks to understand the colossal changes taking place in today's China.”

—Scott Anderson, author of *Moonlight Hotel and The Man Who Tried to Save the World*

“*China's Great Train* is a wonderful account of a project that combined technological ambition, nationalistic and ethnic hubris, and individual determination, cunning, and vision. It is a saga in the spirit of David McCullough's accounts of the building of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Panama Canal --but about a project happening right now. Its implications aren't all positive--about China, Tibet, or the process of modernization--but Abraham Lustgarten does an admirable job of leading the reader to surprising understandings of all those topics.”

—James Fallows, author of *Blind Into Baghdad and Looking at the Sun*

“Lustgarten lifts the rug off the grand national project of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. His compelling descriptions of bureaucratic struggles and bitter human costs are contrasted with the great Chinese national pride and the heroism of those who tried to solve the problems to make the train work. This is an insider's view and an important contribution to understanding the enigmas of China.”

—James R. Lilley, author of *China Hands* and former U.S. ambassador to the People's Republic of China