Rising Tides: Climate Refugees in the Twenty-First Century

John R. Wennersten
Denise Robbins
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This chilling and urgent call to action spares no detail in its mission to present the facts on a looming humanitarian disaster.

Climate-change warning messages too often focus on the environment without going into specifics of how humans will be hurt by global warming. Rising Tides single-handedly rectifies this issue. Meticulously researched and data oriented, it assigns concrete numbers and provable facts to an issue that policy makers should be more worried about: mass migration as a result of climate change. Exhaustively, the book covers migration as a result of farming failure, resource wars, water availability shifts, desertification, and immediate disasters, all the while factoring geopolitical, cultural, political, and environmental factors together. Thanks to an equal reliance on current events and models, as well as the authors' thorough understanding of geopolitics, the case is beyond convincing.

This is a book that seems to have been specifically written for the international policy maker, and indeed, this demographic should consider it essential, even critical, reading. However, local and national politicians should not ignore it; Rising Tides dedicates a great deal of space to the phenomenon of internally displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina and the Dust Bowl.

Tonewise, Rising Tides is unremittingly intense. Its focus is on human suffering, emphasized by numbers but driven home by strong, active language, descriptions of the conditions of refugee life, and unabashed calls to action on the part of the international community. The fact that it is a passionate book does not at all injure it as a resource. On the contrary, the text comes across as extremely earnest, a good combination with the expertise of its research. Rising Tides is undoubtedly an alarm, but thanks to its thoroughness and currency, it reads as an important wake-up call.

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