

The Great Climate Migration: A Study of the Novel *The Wall* by John Lanchester

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<p><i>Received: 23 Jul 2022;</i> <i>Received in revised form: 13 Aug 2022;</i> <i>Accepted: 22 Aug 2022;</i> <i>Available online: 30 Aug 2022</i></p> <p>©2022 The Author(s). Published by International Journal of English Language, Education and Literature Studies (IJEEL). This is an open access article under the CC BY license (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).</p> <p>Keywords— <i>Climate change, refugees, migration, John Lanchester</i></p>	<p><i>John Lanchester's The Wall, set in a dystopian future wrought by climate change, was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize. When compared to other works in the same genre, this cli-fi dystopia seems stale and unoriginal. This article looks at the various fictional and nonfictional works that have recently reflected on the potential impacts of climate change. The work is analysed in light of the findings of climate migration descent, which focus on migrant agencies, climate fiction, and human rights. The Wall forces us to evaluate the extreme dispersion outside of institutional control standards. Focusing on The Wall's portrayal of post-apocalyptic refugees, this article challenges common assumptions about human nature, investigates the mindset required to survive in the aftermath of a catastrophic event, and reveals the societal norms that underpin such a perspective.</i></p>

Introduction

Who exactly are these folks who are trying to get away from the weather? Given that there is currently no generally agreed-upon way to describe the idea that is being questioned, providing an answer to this issue is a difficult task. However, environmental refugees and climate refugees are not the same things at all. Climate refugees are another category entirely. People who are compelled to move because of natural disasters that are not tied to climate change, such as subsidence, volcanic eruptions, or earthquakes, are not included in this research since their circumstances do not warrant their participation. People are considered to be climate refugees when they are unable to make a living in their home country as a direct result of the impacts that climate change has had there. This makes it impossible for them to support themselves in their home country. It's possible that these people were uprooted from their homes permanently against their will, or that they moved temporarily somewhere else within their nation or to a different nation of their own will. It's also conceivable that they relocated because they decided

they wanted to start a new life somewhere else.

The consequences of climate change provide a threat to a large number of nations, regions, and cultural traditions all over the world. People are forced to migrate as a direct consequence of the extreme weather brought on by global warming. As a result of the devastating effects of climate change, several authors of fiction have been inspired to research both true stories and fictionalised representations of climate migration. As a consequence of this, these authors have affected how contemporary society understands climate refugees and how it reacts to them. The effects of climate change might be somewhat different from one civilization to the next. Because every tale has the possibility of climate refugees, it is difficult to express the impacts of climate change via literature. As people have become more conscious of the effects of global warming, an increasing number of authors have begun to focus their attention on those who have been forced to relocate as a direct result of climate change. A variety of people, including journalists, academics, sociologists, and even authors of fictional works, have

given their opinions on the subject. The news stories about mass migration being linked to climate change may be fascinating to read. People have been discussing the connection between climate change and migration for decades now, and increasing ocean levels are often used as an example. Recent projections suggest that the consequences of climate change may result in the displacement of 1.2 billion people throughout the world by the year 2050. Some individuals hold the misconception that the climate migrants whom we warned have already come, and as evidence, they point to the article titled "The Great Climate Migration Has Begun." The spread of populations may be traced back to shifts in the environment that occurred during the duration of human history on Earth. A significant number of academics have established a link between the imminent climate crisis and the pursuit of racial equality, arguing that the wealth and power of the Western world will determine the approach that is taken toward resolving the issue. Many authors have contributed to the body of literature on the subject of climate change. Amitav Ghosh, an Indian novelist who has authored several books on the topic of climate change, had Bangladeshi ancestors who were ecological exiles long before the term was invented. Ghosh is the author of numerous of these works. David Wallace has authored a book titled "*The Uninhabitable Earth*," in which he explores the denial of climate change and the disruptive implications that come along with it. He discusses how Western countries have responded to the problem of climate change. The topic of global warming is addressed in the book in a manner that is both humorous and serious; thus, not all readers may find this approach compelling. He examines issues such as political bargaining, the transmission of the truth, and media coverage of climate change by looking at these themes through the prism of politics and history.

Let's suppose for the moment that there will be further warming of the planet. It highlights how human apathy and negligence have set the earth on a trajectory that will soon make it unsuitable for human existence. This is a direct result of the actions that humans have taken. We looked at Europe's part in the issue of climate refugees, following in the footsteps of Ghosh's research. He takes use of refugees from Syria who were forced to migrate to Europe as a result of a mix of civil war, famine, and climate change. He uses these people as a source of information. As a direct result of a global invasion, the whole Western Hemisphere has been reduced to complete ruin. At the box office, films revolving around post-apocalyptic

settings, the end of the world, and zombies have all been financially successful. "Bird Box," "Mad Max: Fury Road," "Children of Men," and "The Colony" are some of the most well-known films now in theatres. Why does the prospect of a dark future for mankind have to be portrayed in such a dramatic manner? These apocalyptic scenarios depicting climate change, air pollution, water shortages, and melting ice caps are alarmingly accurate in their presentation of these issues. Imagine for a moment that the entire earth has been obliterated. Every day brings us that much closer to our goal. There is a need for more complex fiction if we are going to be able to deal with the scientific and cultural realities of climate change. When authors present climate change as an issue that is globally interrelated, complicated, and controversial, they go beyond using the environment as a background and instead discuss how it influences the storyline and the imaginary characters, which results in the creation of a variety of narratives. This goes beyond simply using the environment as a backdrop.

Even though climate change is the primary driver of many of today's most pressing problems, the phrase "climate refugee" is vague and difficult to define. It may be difficult to establish a connection between rising temperatures and altering population patterns resulting from climate change because of the potential for ambiguity in the data. Migration patterns can be affected by a wide range of different circumstances. When it comes to the topic of the connection between migration and climate change, a significant number of social scientists advise against making snap judgments. At this moment in time, all human movement takes place within the context of global trends such as expanding population, urbanisation, and globalisation, with climate change playing only a very little part, if any involvement at all, in this process of migration at all.

The thoughts of several industry professionals suggest that migration brought on by climate change will eventually take the place of a globalised network of mobility regimes that are maintained by the extraction of fuel. During the course of the previous two decades, there has been a general rise in the quantity of writing produced on this topic in the form of books and articles. The writers go over some of the repercussions that might result from climate change. In the paper titled "The End We Start From," which was authored by Megan Hunter and Claire Value Watkins, the authors analyse and contrast the impacts of drought and flooding on citrus groves located in the United Kingdom and the state of California. The

effects of climate change are shown to be hurting the world depicted in these paintings. In works on climate change, the idea of climate justice is pushed by blurring the lines between those who are rich and those who are susceptible to the effects of climate change. It would be advantageous to have the ability to envision the future via the prism of climate fiction. The migration caused by climate change, as well as the literary portrayal of it, presents several challenges. There is a good chance that the lack of current data and a casual attitude about perturbations in the climate system will be seen to be components of the greater intellectual and cultural failure that is at the root of the climate crisis. Reading fiction should be approached with caution since it has the potential to inspire behaviours that are not acceptable. The appropriation of the migrant experience that takes place in fiction about climate migration gives us the chance to perceive things from the perspective of those who will be forced to flee their homes in the future.

This study takes a humorous look at how author John Lanchester addresses the subject of climate change in his novel *The Wall*. The hardship of climate refugees who were forced to flee their homes as a result of altering market conditions is depicted in this book. The Wall is a metaphor for the negative repercussions that climate change will have in the future. It's a dreadful but well-written fiction about the racial and economic disparities, national identity, and immigration rules that may happen in the future. This book is of poor quality. During the course of this discussion, we are going to speak about how the author of this book anticipates the future of issues such as migration, war, and climate change.

The beach is depicted in a substantial quantity of current British writing as providing insight into Britain's position in the world; this body of work serves as a platform for analysing national identity and lends support to the aforementioned canon of literature (Packham, p. 206). Several contentious issues, including inequality, migration, and climate change, are now being debated. The ability of Trump's team to keep the president's focus on the topic of immigration was made possible by their assurances that the president would construct a wall. This action made by Trump sheds a lot of light on who he is as a person, in addition to illuminating the metaphorical potency of the wall, which is to keep the dispossessed around. This book, which has been given the title *The Wall*, is jam-packed with engrossing storylines, and it makes no secret of the fact that one of its purposes is to draw analogies between the two. The story's main

character explains to the reader that they are on the lookout for metaphors (Lanchester, p. 1)

Because of the striking similarities in their histories and cultures, several readers are led to the conclusion that the island depicted in *"The Wall"* is Great Britain. As a direct response to rising water levels and the presence of one million migrants in need of food assistance, the 15-foot-tall concrete barrier was created. In addition to acting as a defensive barrier, this wall may also be put to use as a polder if the water level continues to rise. The phrase "others" alludes to the millions of people throughout the world who are now suffering from hunger. The book is depressing; it is predicated on the idea of a terrible event, and the author envisioned what it would be like or the consequences if the event took place. The writing is so realistic that it may nearly be considered non-fiction, which contributes to the work's overall gloomy tone.

In this civilization, everyone is expected to spend two years guarding the wall, and anybody who attempts to breach it runs the risk of being assassinated, banished to sea, or transformed into allies by the other citizens. When defenders are eliminated, they are promptly replaced one-for-one by assistants, who are subjected to conditions so deplorable that they may as well be slaves. This spy educates wall troops on what's going on in other nations at present. One of the authors has made remarks indicating that the transformation is still occurring. The consequences of climate change are still being noticed in a sizeable fraction of the world's regions that experience the highest average temperatures.

The attitudes that the protagonist has toward the story's many other characters help to maintain the integrity of a delicate line. Kavanagh had a mental vision of himself as an "Other" who was floating through the night on a raft or boat that he had fashioned himself, staring up at the wall and down into the darkness below. This mental image was quite vivid to Kavanagh. The men dispersed, formed new groups, ascended to higher terrain, and searched for a ledge, cave, spring, or oasis in which to take refuge. The transformation continued in its course. The wind blew hard enough to rip the shelter away from its base, the water level rose, the earth caught fire, the crops were ruined, the ledge collapsed, and the well ran dry. Those who were unlucky enough to be affected by the shift have, once again, abandoned the planet in significant numbers, just as they did when it first became widespread. (65)

Throughout the course of the story, the main

character undergoes a transformation that sees them move from protector to pariah. Even though the military is keeping an eye on all of us, regardless of whether we are within or outside the borders, the xenophobic attitude of the government leaves rich Americans and illegal migrants in the same precarious position.

World War II is represented by the gruesome and violent imagery that can be found on the wall. It is hard to picture living without the succession of upheavals and repercussions on every sector of society that people go through during a global conflict; but, in this instance, the adversary is climate change. It is impossible to envision living without these things. When one considers the world as will be four degrees warmer, it is difficult to conceive of what life would be like without these things. If climate change is going to cause a four-degree rise in global temperature in only one or two generations, then those generations will have to have been reared on separate planets. This is the only explanation for such a rapid increase. The narrator and his generation blame the older for their inadequacies, and as a result, the older generation is compelled to live behind a wall as a result of the narrator and his generation's judgement. This poem demonstrates the difficulties that may occur between generations. The members of my generation, those of us who were born after the Change, find it hard to connect with our parents because of the attitude of "It's not me; it's you." Generational remorse is experienced by older individuals as a result of the fact that they screwed up the planet and their children and grandkids had to inherit it. But they messed up the world, and we are all aware of this fact...so the world didn't need to exist...something that the older generations struggle to comprehend...why don't you go back to the world, clean it up, and then come back here? (56)

As the repercussions of climate change expand to all areas of the world, they will only continue to exist in our memories, leaving us to bemoan their disappearance. However, even though this is one of the distinguishing elements of climate fiction, it is not entirely impossible either.

Kavanagh pays a visit to his parents, who are now unable to prevent the effects of climate change and can only lament the loss of the world they once knew while watching their children and grandchildren be forced to live in a prehistoric era. Kavanagh's parents lament the loss of the world they once knew while looking on helplessly as their children and grandchildren are forced to live in a prehistoric era.

The author feels that the narrator is conveying the truth about his feelings, viewpoint, reality, and how he views things; this is true even if the narrator is expressing generational disparities. It is not mutually exclusive for someone to be honest while still being fair. The author of the line that you just read wants you to believe that even though the narrator is telling the truth about how he sees it, you are still perplexed by the fact that his elderly parents are sitting there watching TV while he attributes a lot of vitality to them. This is because there is a distinction to be made between telling the truth and being fair, and the author of the line that you just read wants you to believe that. This is because the author intends for you to think that the narrator is not being honest with you at any point in the story.

Likely, they haven't been broken yet, mostly because no one wants to live in a future in which the only way to appreciate the beauty of a beach is through the medium of a screen. The narrative arrives at its conclusions and makes its suggestions by exploiting the gap that exists between the point of view of the narrator and that of the audience. One of them has a place to call home, while the other does not, even though they are both having a difficult time adjusting to the new reality that the transfer has brought about. Illegal immigrant enslavement is worse. It's possible that pretending to be someone else may let someone get away with using a fake identity.

I am conscious of the fact that it is agonising to have aid, another person at one's beck and call; yet, this circumstance is in no way similar to that of the mediaeval times. It's similar to helping those who are in need or who are homeless, but it's not nearly the same thing at all. If you had said that, there is no way in hell that I would have believed you for one second. It's dehumanising. What actions should one take? The one thing that is always going to happen to humans is that they will always become older. My generation doesn't grasp it. (148-9). Given that the speaker is keeping other people as slaves, this excuse gives the impression of being callous and heartless. This statement suggests that some individuals do not support the provision of aid. The youthful members of the elite claim in their speech that some of your fellow citizens support building a wall. They have been told that the Wall is only supposed to serve as a diversion for water and not for humans. The act of reporting another person to authorities to receive aid is frowned upon by certain people. Those who support the institution of slavery would have you believe that there is a far broader network of slaves than you would be

aware of (191). The author researches a distinct type of prospective political upheaval that may take place in society after it has been affected by global warming at each step of the process.

Despite the tragic end that befell Lanchester, the narrative maintains its upbeat mood throughout. People who are always on the move do not necessarily run up against closed doors, particularly in cultures where political ideals and social agency are in scarce supply. It seemed as if it were a long-forgotten recollection or an idea that had been around for a very long time. Your own home is a safe refuge where you may go to get some rest whenever you need to. Someone else has brought it up in the past. Spending time on the wall offers you a cause to wonder whether or not someone would ever want to take you in. Anyone may reject you (54). The fact that Kavanagh and Hifa ended up in the Hermit's care at the end of the narrative is an illustration of how even when you are in a dangerous situation, a stranger can make you feel as though you are in your own house. It is clear from the Hermit's display of compassion that not all of the individuals in the story fled away from their homes.

Conclusion

This concept is explored in the book titled "*The Wall*" which depicts how a shift in the weather and the physical distance between oneself and others who are dominating may influence one's thinking. On the one hand, we see how the narrator contemplates the meaning of the universe as he spends time with his parents. On the other hand, we see how he has moral or ethical blinkers on as he fails to see the new character of the society in which he resides or the fact that it operates as a slave state. In both cases, we see how he has blinders on. He needed to keep up with the tale to have a grasp on what was going on. He is neither introspective nor inquisitive about the environment or the people in it, and he possesses a very precise method of classifying diseases that affect the people defending the wall. His entrance as narrator as well as the latter portion when violence intervenes show that he is a unique narrator; he is neither introspective nor inquisitive about the environment or the people in it. The more we find out about him, the more we realise that portraying him in the way that he is is intentional; he grew up in a world of change, so he has nothing to compare his world to; he knows the world used to be different, but such a world no longer exists; he has to learn to live in this while also learning to cope with the constant change, so he is naive. He has the mind of a

child in that he doesn't question or doubt the world around him.

The Wall is a novel that is both interesting and quick-paced. It's possible that even the characters that aren't Kavanagh get the same amount of attention. In its role as a satire, it also carries a significant amount of weight. It demonstrates that economic or moral reasoning does not justify the tendency toward isolationism, which is revealed by the fact that. A significant amount of attention is being paid to Brexit, which may be seen as a message that says "love it or leave it" or as a warning that the future bears a prediction about digging out internal adversaries and expelling them. The current day's news is full of reports about the plight of destitute immigrants who are making the perilous journey to our shores to start a new and better life here. It's a great book to get into right now if you have some free time. A world in which a bleak future has been brought about by the combined effects of climate change, rising sea levels, and acts of terror.

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