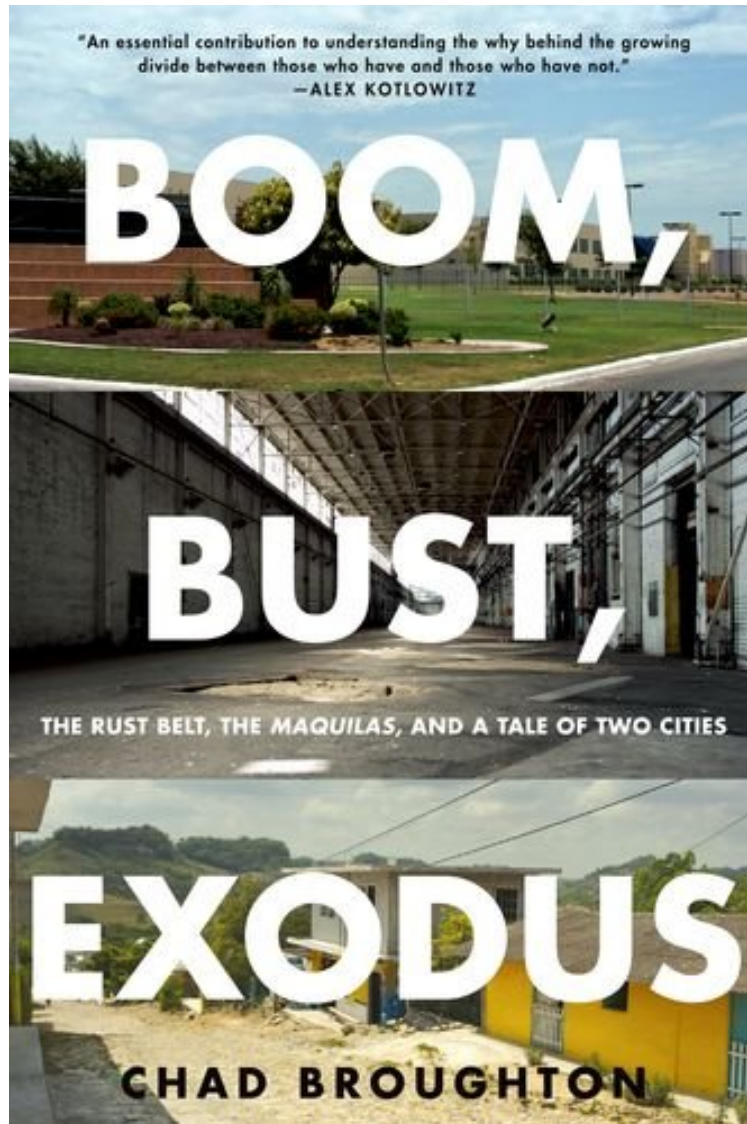


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# Boom, Bust, Exodus: The Rust Belt, the Maquilas, and a Tale of Two Cities

Chad Broughton

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**Chad Broughton : Boom, Bust, Exodus: The Rust Belt, the Maquilas, and a Tale of Two Cities** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boom, Bust, Exodus: The Rust Belt, the Maquilas, and a Tale of Two Cities:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Modern Economics Meets A Tale of Two Cities By Michael

Griswold Boom, Bust Exodus by Chris Broughton is a fairly in-depth study of a segment of the globalized economy. But what makes Broughton's book stand out is that he looks at it from a human perspective rather than just numbers on a spreadsheet or a nicely produced graph. As an added point, he doesn't just look at the workers at the Galesburg Maytag plant who lost the high paying union jobs that many had held for decades, but also the workers in Mexico who replace these people at lower wages, virtually no union protection, and are often exposed to toxic chemicals. The evidence would seem to indicate that there are few real winners other than corporate and business entities. On the other hand, this is far from a doom and gloom story as we see some Maytag workers reinvent themselves while others have the struggles that one might expect of people whose only life was manufacturing. I really liked this story because it brought humanity into the debate over the modern economy—there are winners and losers, but I don't think standard economic analysis really captures the basic fact that you are dealing with human beings. But then again, you can say that about so many things in the United States these days.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An amazing book. Great read for anyone interested in learning ...By Jonathan Grabinsky The author does an amazing job of covering the human dimensions behind global integration. And so illustrative and engaging – I'm going to refer this book to my many economist friends, who often undermine the value of qualitative research. I do find that author takes the anti-corporation rhetoric a little too far at times. I'm also skeptical of the equivalency the author draws between Mexico post-NAFTA and the Porfiriato. I think that one can make a strong argument that, although there is still a lot of work to be done in protecting the rights of low-income workers, struggling populations in Mexico are better off today than they were under the Porfiriato. At least today there are strong social programs, like Oportunidades, that are trying to actively combat poverty. And, to some extent, workers have cheaper and greater options as consumers today than they did when they were forced to buy from the "Tienda de Raya" under Porfirio. I agree with the book that the "free trade benefits everyone" argument is BS, but I do question the validity of the comparison, especially given how circumstantial history is. Some of the characters, like Governor Montemayor (who I had never heard of before), give me hope that there is room for a "third way," under strong leadership, in Mexico. I recently saw Miguel Angel Mancera – the mayor of Mexico City – speak at a conference. I can't make a definitive statement about him, but I do think he's someone with vision and strong leadership, who can hopefully pave a new road for Mexico in the future.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Completely absorbing and heartbreaking By Sara W. My attention span for non-fiction is generally short - of the New Yorker variety. I tore through this book in only a few nights - it's one of the only non-fiction books I've done this with. Broughton does an excellent job of portraying both the settings and the characters in a way that I became invested in their journeys. It sounds strange to be invested in the "journey" of a physical place, but that is what happens to both settings in this book. By the time the settings (and their inhabitants) have become transformed, I was heartbroken, and outraged, and all of that good stuff. You'll never look at your kitchen appliances in the same way, or, in this election year, listen to speeches about trade and jobs overseas, and the working class, and immigrants, and pretty much everything in the same way. I strongly recommend this book.

Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders owed much of their unexpected popularity in the 2016 primaries to their respective stances on trade and immigration policy. Political elites and policy experts were bewildered by combative talk of building a wall and the ubiquity of anti-TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) sloganeering in what many saw as a bizarre election cycle. They have scrambled to explain both Trump's victory and the new political fault lines that have emerged in both major political parties, largely around trade and immigration. In struggling industrial towns and cities, the rise of Trump and Sanders was less of a surprise. These places have long weathered globalization's storm. Many feel left behind and sold short. They are anxious, and they're demanding answers. Galesburg, Illinois, is one such city.

"Boom, Bust, Exodus brings to life the human impact of global industrial change on the people who live with it. Chad Broughton combines a journalist's eye for color and the telling detail with a scholar's grasp of his subject and skill in putting it all into context. There are heroes here, but few villains. Rather, Broughton tells in vivid prose what happens—both to people and their cities—when industry is ripped up from the places where it has always been and transplanted to places that weren't ready for it. Broughton knows the territory. He went to see and to listen, and he understands what he saw and heard. The result is a classic of post-industrial scholarship." --Richard C. Longworth, author of Caught in the Middle: America's Heartland in the Age of Globalism

"Chad Broughton has written a deeply-observed and nuanced account of one of the stories of our time: the migration of a once-thriving American factory over the border into Mexico. When he learns of Maytag's plans to shutter its refrigerator plant, a move decried by a young Senator Obama, Broughton begins a decade-long dive into the drama that envelops both Galesburg, Illinois, where townspeople are losing their \$15.14-an-hour livelihood, and Reynosa, Mexico, where the same jobs will pay \$1.10 and come with a cost. The results are both epic and surprising. The pitfalls of such a project are many, but Broughton avoids pity and screed, delivering a story that is beautifully detailed and rich in human and historic dimension. Most of us talk about a global economy with a vague sense of what that really means. With Boom, Bust, Exodus Broughton has defined it indelibly." --Ann Marie Lipinski, Curator, Nieman Foundation for Journalism, Harvard University

"Chad Broughton's Boom, Bust, Exodus is a beautifully written, humanistic portrayal of globalization as is lived on a day-to-day basis.

Using production as a through line, Broughton takes us from the Midwest to the border to the Mexican interior and back, unsentimentally but empathetically delineating the human consequences of capital mobility in North America in the 21st century." --Leslie Salzinger, University of California, Berkeley, author of *Genders in Production: Making Workers in Mexico's Global Factories* "Broughton has written a powerful indictment of corporate greed and poor public policy, balanced by a tribute to the perseverance of the working-class people of two nations... While most readers will be familiar with the growth of economic inequality in the U.S., Broughton's unflinching, empathetic account puts a human face to that idea." --Publishers Weekly "Broughton's book provides ample documentation of a central truth of late-American history-namely, that capital has no country." --Kirkus "In this richly reported book, Chad Broughton gives us a birds-eye view of the intended and unintended consequences of globalization. Boom, Bust, Exodus is a deeply-felt and narrative-driven work, an essential contribution to understanding the why behind the growing divide between those who have and those who have not." -Alex Kotlowitz, author of *There Are No Children Here* and *The Other Side of the River* "Chad Broughton's well-written and incredibly engaging book poignantly captures the effects of industry relocation on individuals and towns in our globalized economy....For those concerned about the consequences of capital mobility on the lives of ordinary people, Boom, Bust, Exodus is a must-read." -William Julius Wilson, Harvard University "Anyone wishing to understand the human dimensions of the grinding process of North American economic integration should read Chad Broughton's moving tale of two cities." -Emilio Kourí, Director of the Katz Center for Mexican Studies, University of Chicago "Boom, Bust, Exodus is a story of intertwined lives....Connected by production and commerce, possession and dispossession, ownership and loss, profit and precariousness, the men and women and children caught in the shifting tides of a global economy have found in Chad Broughton a sympathetic and informed voice." -Jacob S. Hacker, co-author, *Winner-Take-All Politics* "A unique book, telling its story of the offshoring of a refrigerator plant at many levels-personal, local, national, international-and combining acute sociological analysis with life stories reaching across many years." -Andrew Abbott, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago "Broughton grounds his tale with ample historical context, tracing the rise and fall of the middle class in post-World War II America and Mexico's evolving economic policies with the United States . . . The heart of "Boom" is the people Broughton profiles as they adjust to life with and without Maytag." --Chicago Tribune "As the economic watchword of the millennium, globalization is a cliché. But this story reveals the truly local results of this phenomenon. Though there aren't a lot of winners on the front lines, as in any good Dickens narrative, this tale shows that the human spirit rises above would-be captors."--Library Journal "Broughton describes a modern-day Dickensian nightmare, with workers flocking from formerly agricultural regions to work for Maytag and other US companies seeking to "slough off not only union wages, pension obligations, taxes and regulations, but also any sense of obligation to the place where they made their money.'" The author writes winningly of individual workers in both cities, but this book is as discouraging as it is necessary." ---Boston Globe "It took Broughton more than ten years to research and write this book, and he has crafted a narrative that reads like a novel, well placed a free of polemic. He puts a human face on economic inequity, and by showing that it is politics that brought us to the current predicament, he lets us see that it is through politics that we can find our way out. " -Texas Observer "[A]n extremely valuable account of how economic globalization is being experienced by those most directly affected by it." -CHOICE About the Author Chad Broughton is Senior Lecturer in Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago.