



# The Great Human Diasporas: The History Of Diversity and Evolution

*By Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza, Francesco Cavalli-Sforza*

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Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza draws upon his lifelong work in archaeology, anthropology, genetics, molecular biology, and linguistics, to address the basic questions of human origins and diversity. Coauthored by his son, Francesco, the book answers age-old questions such as: Was there a mitochondrial Eve? Did the first humans originate in Africa or in several spots on the planet at about the same time? How did humans get onto North America, the tip of South America, and Australia?

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

The title *The Great Human Diasporas* implies that this book is a history of human migration, but it is much more. It is a readable, accessible summary of the lifework of Luca Cavalli-Sforza, who has done more than anyone else to reveal the genetic makeup of human populations. Originally written in Italian with Cavalli-Sforza's filmmaker son Francesco, it maintains some qualities of an interview: *The Great Human Diasporas* is full of anecdotes about the Pygmies with whom Cavalli-Sforza works, the text is frequently personal yet not self-serving, and it clearly shows how he helped tie together population genetics, linguistics, and anthropology to offer a new, non-racist view of human diversity.

#### From Publishers Weekly

Stanford geneticist Luigi Cavalli-Sforza has spent more than 30 years studying genetic variations in DNA samples from the people around the world. The evidence, he says, supports the belief that modern humans originated in Africa, the Middle East or both regions, then spread around the planet. In this lucid report, written with his son Francesco, an educational film director, he uses genetic differences, maps, computer simulations and an analysis of linguistic changes in the world's languages to hypothetically reconstruct the mass migrations of people across continents since modern humans first appeared. He begins this scientific odyssey with an account of his hunt with pygmies—one of the last remaining tribes of hunter-gatherers—in an African rain forest; then he discusses the spread of agriculture, cultural transmissions of behavior patterns, the Human Genome Project and the exceedingly slight differences among the races.

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#### From Library Journal

*The Great Diasporas* gives general readers access to the original, interesting interdisciplinary research of Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza, a noted population geneticist. (Francesco Cavalli-Sforza is a creator and producer of educational films in Italy.) Although in part a first-person account, this book is mainly a semipopular exposition of what genetic variation among existing populations reveals about the evolution and history of the human species. Focusing on the genetic evidence for ancient dispersions of humankind—hence the title—the book's principal argument is that migrations have had a far greater influence on human genetic diversity than many researchers have supposed. Of the numerous topics covered, the most novel is the employment of genetic data to construct a tree of all human populations and especially to reconstruct the migrations of neolithic farming peoples into Europe. For the most part, the book is lucidly and engagingly written, though the brief discussion of statistical method (namely, principal components analysis) in Chapter 6 assumes previous knowledge and should therefore have been clarified. Recommended for all libraries.

*James D. Haug, East Carolina Univ. Lib., Greenville, N.C.*

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#### Mark Hofmeister:

*The Great Human Diasporas: The History Of Diversity and Evolution* can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could

increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to get every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing The Great Human Diasporas: The History Of Diversity and Evolution although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

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