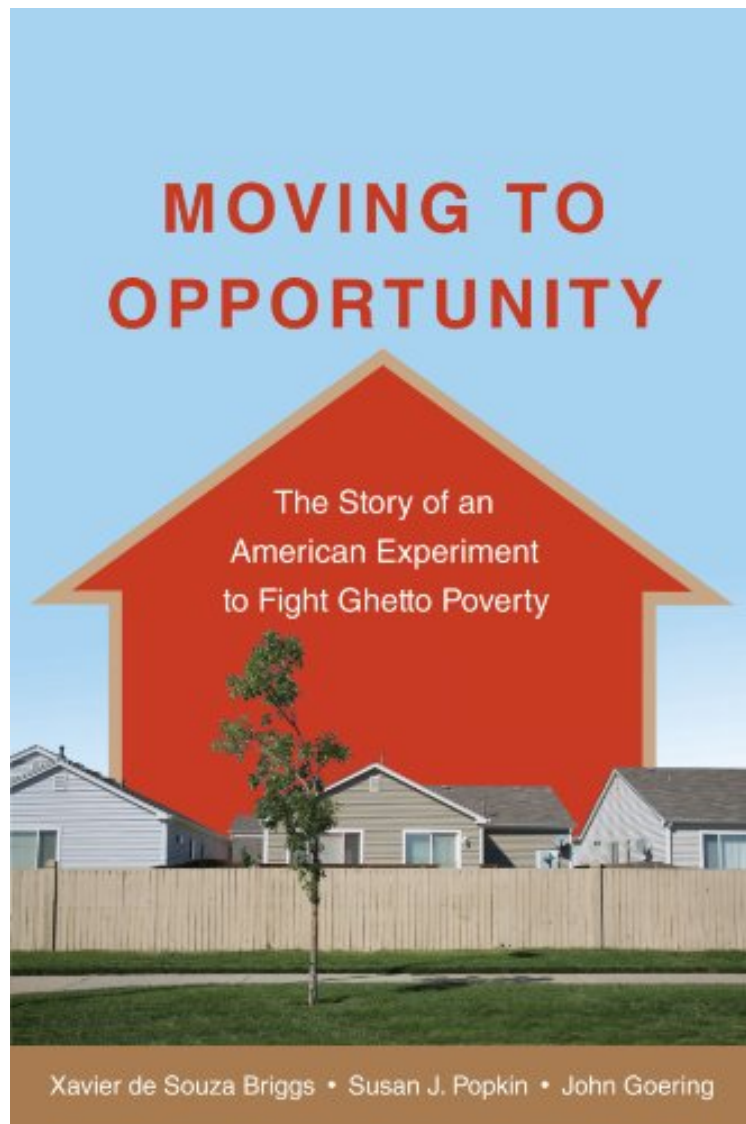


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## Moving to Opportunity: The Story of an American Experiment to Fight Ghetto Poverty

*Xavier de Souza Briggs, Susan J. Popkin, John Goering  
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**Xavier de Souza Briggs, Susan J. Popkin, John Goering : Moving to Opportunity: The Story of an American Experiment to Fight Ghetto Poverty** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moving to Opportunity: The Story of an American Experiment to Fight Ghetto Poverty:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy syhThe Bible to understang MTO demonstration!5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. THIS Moving to Opportunity program began my journey to a great job and success beyond my wildest imaginings.By AUTISTIC WEREWOLFI am an autistic man. I once lived on Subsidized Housing Programs and other special medical programs for the disabled. My apartment home in Baltimore City was a total and utter ghetto dump. I applied for and was granted a Moving to Opportunity Section 8 Certificate. I moved from a nasty apartment in Baltimore City to a far nicer apartment in an only slightly run down area in Columbia, Maryland. I lived close to a college. I went to Maryland division of vocational rehabilitation services and got training help. I eventually took college computer classes got a 4.0 GPA, got a good job as an intern in the Federal Gov't. The good job led to a great permanent job the first I held longer than 6 months. I became the success I am today all because of this program called, Moving to Opportunity.This Moving to Opportunity changed my life for the better in ways so complete no words could do it justice. I grew up in a lower middle class black family. I was used to having nice if basic things. I was not used to life on disability and Section 8, I was used to better. Living in upscale Columbia, Maryland on Section 8 put me close enough to people making good money and living well that it reminded me of my carefree roots when I could afford basic nice things. I grew to want my old life back bad enough to make the Move To Opportunity pay off. I worked hard and became a success.When I saw the book and its subject and I had to read it because this is the program that opened the door to my successful future. The Moving To Opportunity program may not have worked for some but for me it was a smashing success. I grew up in a home with nice things. I grew up accustomed to living comfortably. All that section 8 crap and horrid neighborhoods was not thw custom in which I was raised. I moved out on my own and as an autistic man, I lacked social and cognitive skills needed to work even the most basic job. Moving to Columbia, Maryland and its upscale environment was a wake up call for me to pull myself out of the gutter.Moving to Opportunity was my wake up call and I thank God every day of my life for this program. the Moving to Opportunity Program was easily one of the biggest blessings in my ENTIRE life.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Should be required reading for CongressBy MJ GutierrezExcellent information and clear description of the socioeconomic problems the poor and working poor encounter. Should be required reading for Congress.

Moving to Opportunity tackles one of America's most enduring dilemmas: the great, unresolved question of how to overcome persistent ghetto poverty. Launched in 1994, the MTO program took a largely untested approach: helping families move from high-poverty, inner-city public housing to low-poverty neighborhoods, some in the suburbs. The book's innovative methodology emphasizes the voices and choices of the program's participants but also rigorously analyzes the changing structures of regional opportunity and constraint that shaped the fortunes of those who "signed up." It shines a light on the hopes, surprises, achievements, and limitations of a major social experiment. As the authors make clear, for all its ambition, MTO is a uniquely American experiment, and this book brings home its powerful lessons for policymakers and advocates, scholars, students, journalists, and all who share a deep concern for opportunity and inequality in our country.

"A brilliant, highly readable book...Briggs, Popkin, and Goering suggest a number of useful ideas for dealing with America's ghetto problem including family-strengthening programs and supportive housing for large numbers of "hard-to-house" families...a "must read" book for scholars and policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic."--Journal of Housing and Built Environment"This book is not a purely academic tome filled with incomprehensible statistics; rather, it is more an ethnography and as such can be appreciated by students, faculty, and the general public. Summing Up: Highly recommended."--CHOICE"Moving to Opportunity insightfully reveals how the fight against ghetto poverty is more than just overcoming economic deprivation. It also involves improving safety and feelings of security and therefore increasing freedom from fear. A number of questions remain about the effects of the MTO experiment. However, the striking reduction in anxiety and depression for women and girls is not one of them. Briggs and his colleagues argue persuasively for a major national commitment to affordable rental housing in safe and livable neighborhoods."--William Julius Wilson, Harvard University"This team of respected researchers has applied scientific rigor and experience-based pragmatism to tackle one of the most difficult subjects in the urban policy field: how to harness economic and housing programs to reduce poverty and to create life opportunities for America's poorest families. The result is analyses and conclusions which are sobering but also promising and hopeful." --Henry Cisneros, Executive Chairman, CityView and Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development"[The authors'] extensive experience working in housing and antipoverty policy making, implementation, and evaluation, and their direct involvement with the Moving to Opportunity experiment since it was begun in 1994, positioned them well to write a good book on it. That experience and the high quality of their previous scholarly works ... led me to have high expectations for this book. When I finished reading it, those expectations were, in fact, exceeded. Moving to Opportunity is a 'must read' for anyone interested in understanding the politics of policy making and implementation, the difference between neighborhoods and communities, the harsh realities of living conditions for poor people in and out of inner-city ghettos, and the difficult trade-offs very-low-income parents must make when faced with choices

about where to locate."--Urban Affairs About the AuthorXavier de Souza Briggs is Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the White House and Associate Professor of Sociology and Urban Planning (on leave) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A sociologist by training, his award-winning research focuses on leadership and democratic institutions, inequality, and racial and ethnic diversity in cities. A former faculty member at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, his books include *The Geography of Opportunity* and *Democracy as Problem Solving*. He is founder and director of *The Community Problem-Solving Project @ MIT* and *Working Smarter in Community Development*, two popular and innovative online resources for people and institutions worldwide, and his views have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Salon.com*, *National Public Radio*, *Boston Globe*, and other major media.Susan J. Popkin is Director of the Urban Institute's Program on Neighborhoods and Youth Development. She is a nationally recognized expert on assisted housing, mobility, and the "hard to house." Dr. Popkin is the lead author of *The Hidden War*, has written numerous papers and book chapters on housing and poverty-related issues, and is co-author of the recent book, *Public Housing and The Legacy of Segregation*. John Goering is a Professor at the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College and is on the doctoral faculty of the City University of New York. He is the author or editor of seven books on housing, race and public policy. While at the Office of Policy Development and Research at HUD he helped design and implement MTO, and co-edited the first collection of analyses, *Choosing a Better Life?*, on this demonstration.