



Parag Khanna

Director of the Hybrid Reality Institute, leading global strategist, world traveler and best-selling author

Dr. Parag Khanna is a visionary strategic futurist and bestselling author. He is the founder and managing partner of FutureMap, a boutique advisory firm that marries rigorous data analysis, sophisticated scenarios, and cutting-edge mapping to generate foresight for confident decision-making.

Parag's biography

About Parag Khanna

Dr. Parag Khanna is a visionary strategic futurist and globally bestselling author. He is the founder and managing partner of FutureMap, a boutique advisory firm that marries rigorous data analysis, sophisticated scenarios, and cutting-edge mapping to generate foresight for confident decision-making. A world-renowned authority on [globalization](#), Dr. Khanna was named one of Esquire's "75 Most Influential People of the 21st Century" and featured on WIRED's "Smart List".

Khanna is the leading forecaster of how our complex global system is rapidly evolving. He delivers data-rich visualizations that distill geopolitical, economic, and technological megatrends, and gives tailored and detailed presentations embodying his deep expertise and firsthand experiences in more than 150 countries. His engagements deliver strategically insightful and actionable value, including from FutureMap's proprietary software Climate Alpha, the leading platform for forecasting asset values under diverse scenarios.

Khanna has provided his foresight to over thirty governments, including serving as an advisor to the U.S. National Intelligence Council and on the Singapore government's Committee on the Future Economy. He has also served on the boards of numerous financial firms and [technology](#) companies.

Parag's analyses are regularly featured in influential media such as CNN, Bloomberg, CNBC, BBC, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Economist, Financial Times, National Geographic, TIME, Fast Company, Harvard Business Review, The Atlantic, Foreign Affairs, and Foreign Policy. Khanna was a featured speaker at TED in 2016 and TED Global in 2009, with his talks garnering more than three million

views online.

Khanna's newest book is *MOVE: The Forces Uprooting Us (2021)*, which was named one of the best books of 2021 by Financial Times and endorsed by famed experts Nouriel Roubini, Kim Stanley Robinson, Alec Ross, Balaji Srinivasan, and others. His book *The Future is Asian: Commerce, Conflict, and Culture in the 21st Century (2019)* earned high praise from Larry Summers, Jim Rogers, and many other luminaries. It was called "dazzling" by Kirkus Reviews and hailed as "authoritative... a standard reference," by the Financial Times.

Khanna is also the author of an authoritative trilogy on the future of world order beginning with the bestseller *The Second World: Empires and Influence in the New Global Order (2008)*, followed by *How to Run the World: Charting a Course to the Next Renaissance (2011)*, and concluding with *Connectography: Mapping the Future of Global Civilization (2016)*. These books garnered accolades from leading figures such as Eric Schmidt, Chuck Hagel, Fareed Zakaria, Mark Mobius, Robert Kaplan, Kevin Kelly, Martin Sorrell, and Klaus Schwab. The New York Times Book Review hailed Khanna as "a foreign policy whiz kid."

Khanna also authored two other books, *Technocracy in America: Rise of the Info-State (2017)* and *Hybrid Reality: Thriving in the Emerging Human-Technology Civilization (2011)* (co-authored with his wife Ayesha Khanna). The former was strongly endorsed by notable intellectuals such as Tyler Cowen and Lawrence Lessig, and the latter was celebrated by Alvin Toffler, Peter Diamandis, Peter Schwartz, and others. His books have been translated into more than twenty languages and received feature coverage in leading publications across the world.

Before founding FutureMap, Khanna was a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre on Asia and Globalisation at the National University of Singapore, as well as a senior fellow at New America and the Brookings Institution. In 2007, he deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan as a senior geopolitical advisor to U.S. Special Operations Forces. He also worked at the World Economic Forum in Geneva and the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Dr. Khanna holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, and a B.A. and M.A. from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He speaks German, Hindi, French, Spanish, and basic Arabic. He is a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

Parag's talks

- **Global Scenarios for the Post-Pandemic World**

The two words that best capture the post-pandemic world are "continental drift." The global economy is rapidly becoming more regional. Globalization continues in many areas such as commodities, capital flows, and digital services, but from energy to electronics, North America, Europe, and Asia are becoming more self-sufficient through trade agreements and industrial policy aimed at controlling the supply chains. At the same time, a new era of competitive connectivity has begun as the tug-of-war heats up between China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the West's "Build Back Better World" (B3W) agenda. Drawing on the copious research presented in his acclaimed book *Connectography*, Parag Khanna provides cutting-edge insights into the geopolitical, geoeconomic, and geotechnological shape of the future, with specific recommendations on how and where to invest in a volatile world.

- **The Global War for Young Talent**

The lasting impact of the pandemic will be both demographic and geographic. We are reaching "peak humanity," a global population not likely to cross nine billion people, but most of the

world's people are still young — and as they vote with their feet, they determine the winners and losers of the 21st century. Countries are now vigorously competing in a global war for youth to attract the taxpayers, workers, homeowners, and entrepreneurs of the future. Companies must do the same — but in a remote working world, millennials and Gen-Z are a moving target. How can corporations attract young employees to headquarters while also building a decentralized workplace culture? Drawing upon the insightful research from his latest book *MOVE*, Parag Khanna presents the world from the standpoint of the youth who will define it, guiding your talent acquisition and retention strategies for the years ahead.

- **Climate Adaptation: This Century's Highest Priority**

Deadly disasters are intensifying, with ever greater costs to societies everywhere. Rising sea levels and floods, droughts and heatwaves, cyclones and forest fires, cause upwards of \$200 billion in damage annually. Climate refugees now outnumber political and economic migrants. The world will not only be hotter but also more violent, with conflicts over food and water, and uncontrolled mass migrations. That is why climate adaptation must be every nation and company's foremost priority. This includes fortifying and redesigning our homes and buildings, investing in renewable energy and resilient food production, and relocating our businesses, citizens, and workers to more stable habitats. The climate will not adapt to us; we will have to adapt to it. Drawing up FutureMap's proprietary Climate Alpha software, Parag Khanna provides tailored analysis of the locations across the globe best suited to your business requirements and guides you in creating a tailored strategy for climate resilience.

- **The Future is Asian: Billions of People, Trillions of Dollars**

Asia remains the world's growth engine, representing more than half the world's population and fifty percent of global GDP. China is neck-and-neck with the US as the top destination for foreign investment, and has accelerated its quest for technological autonomy and expanded use of its currency. Meanwhile, the world's largest trade agreement — Asia's Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) — has come into effect. The next chapter of Asia's economic story is also being written by the "fourth wave" regions of South and Southeast Asia, with countries such as India and Vietnam delivering the world's fastest growth and taking the lead in new unicorn companies. As the author of the landmark book *The Future is Asian*, there is no better guide than Parag Khanna to the geography that drives the world economy.

- **Global Financial Services**

Dr. Khanna has a long track record of advising the financial services industry across institutional investors, sovereign wealth funds, private equity and hedge funds, wealth management, (re-)insurance, and other verticals. His briefings to financial institutions often cover the shifting trajectories of the world's three economic megaregions — North America, Europe, and Asia — based on the latest monetary, fiscal, trade, and other policy decisions. He also specializes in how demographics, technology, and climate change intersect to shape the global economy, which geographies and asset classes to combine for a high-yield portfolio, and how and where the next generation of investors and entrepreneurs should plan to allocate capital.

- **Transportation and Mobility: Automotive and Aviation**

Dr. Khanna's mapping of the future of demographics and infrastructure is highly sought after in the transportation sector. He brings to life the cities, nations, and regions that will drive demand for mobility services, and flows of goods and people between them. He also answers big questions such as how sustainable and multimodal transport can cater to the next generation of workers and travelers, and what transportation will look like in the cities and habitats of the future.

- **Government and Public Institutions**

Dr. Khanna is a trusted advisor at the highest levels of many governments around the world. His

firm FutureMap has conducted detailed research on economic strategy, investment promotion, and government reform for some of the forward-looking countries. His briefings to cabinet ministers and government agencies often cover how fiscal policy and technology platforms can prepare society for disruptions ranging from labor automation to climate change, how to structure public-private partnerships to finance new infrastructure, the strategic master-planning of cities and special economic zones, how to reform immigration policy to recruit top talent across sectors, and how to enhance sustainability in critical habitats while maintaining economic growth.

- **The Environment: Energy, Agriculture, Water, and Health**

Dr. Khanna is a leading expert on the governance of our natural commons, and the new global division of labor emerging as we adapt to climate change. He dissects the geography and composition of energy, food, water, and other resources and the new technologies and trade patterns shaping these markets. He also covers how our social policies and safety nets should evolve to cope with accelerating climate disruptions while improving social safety nets. Drawing upon the innovative Climate Alpha toolkit, which analyzes hundreds of variables to make real estate price predictions, he also reveals the emerging “climate oasis” geographies best suited for large-scale population resettlement and how their resources can be sustainably cultivated.

- **Advertising and Marketing, Retail and Entertainment**

Dr. Khanna is the leading next-gen global public intellectual with his finger on the pulse of consumer preferences around the world. His work on youth demographics reshapes our understanding of the mass market of young, single, urban professionals, capturing their needs and hopes. His presentations capture how the values of connectivity, mobility, and sustainability impact societal behavior and spending priorities. He explains how brands should position themselves to appeal to millennials, Gen-Z, and Gen-Alpha in major markets around the world. And he also reveals what you need to know about the countries and cities that are the most desirable locations for the next generation.

- **Management Consulting, Professional Services, and Human Resources**

Dr. Khanna’s expert synthesis of megatrends has long made him a go-to resource for the world’s leading consulting and professional services firms. His presentation of inter-disciplinary scenarios broadens the knowledge and foresight capabilities of corporate leaders as they confront a complex future. Additionally, his specific strategic guidance is tailored to client’s needs and informs management as they navigate and respond to geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation, and the competition over global rules and standards. And his insights into which countries are the most attractive to next-gen talent helps you better build global teams with remote workers.

- **Academia and Higher Education, Civil Society Social Organizations**

Dr. Khanna is an acclaimed scholar who has lectured at dozens of major universities around the world and whose books are taught across numerous departments from colleges to high schools. His interdisciplinary blend of geography, politics, economics, demographics, environment, philosophy, and social analysis provides the holistic foundation students and youth at all levels need to prepare for a complex future. He is often consulted by academic institutions, foundations, and charities on how they can strengthen their impact in addressing key societal challenges, both domestically and internationally. Some of the major themes civic groups seek his insight on include the key areas to promote skill-building programs, how youth should navigate professional and geographic opportunities across the public and private sectors, and how they can use their skills to engage in constructive activism.

- **Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality**

Dr. Khanna has traveled to more than 150 countries and is widely consulted by travel and tourism

companies seeking to understand future demographic, migration, and cultural trends. He has also advised many governments seeking to promote their nations as tourist and remote work destinations. As cries of “toxic tourism” give way to a “war for tourists”, he explains what measures are most essential to ensuring safe and sustainable experiences. He also provides cutting-edge guidance on how the global travel sector can promote new modes of digital identification—from immunity certificates to blockchain passports—to make post-pandemic travel more seamless. And as digital nomads scatter in search of locations offering the best work-life balance, he advises on how cities and nations can brand themselves as destinations for long-term residency.

- **Real Estate, Construction, Infrastructure, and Logistics**

Dr. Khanna has long been one of the most sought after experts for the residential and commercial real estate industries due to the forecasting of high-growth cities and emerging infrastructures contained in his visionary book *Connectography*. Today global real estate is being shaken up by demographic deflation, supply chain disruptions, climate change, corporate relocations, and remote work, all forces he details in his new geographic tour de force *MOVE*. As real estate firms grapple with these new realities, Dr. Khanna provides sharp analysis on the next thriving residential markets and business hubs. He also delivers guidance on how construction and logistics firms should incorporate the latest technologies to deploy energy self-sufficient and even “mobile real estate” and infrastructure. Importantly, drawing up his firm FutureMap’s proprietary Climate Alpha software, he helps clients seize first mover advantage in the most valuable geographies of the future.

- **Technology, Media, and Telecom**

Dr. Khanna coined the term “geotechnology” to capture how the balance of innovation has superseded the traditional balance of power in global affairs. He has advised the world’s leading technology companies from Silicon Valley and Europe to India, China, and Japan on how the Internet of Things, AI, crypto-currencies and other frontier technologies will reshape societies, economies, and politics. His latest book *MOVE* captures how the “mobility of everything,” physical and digital, will result in a new hierarchy of countries, cities, and companies across the world.