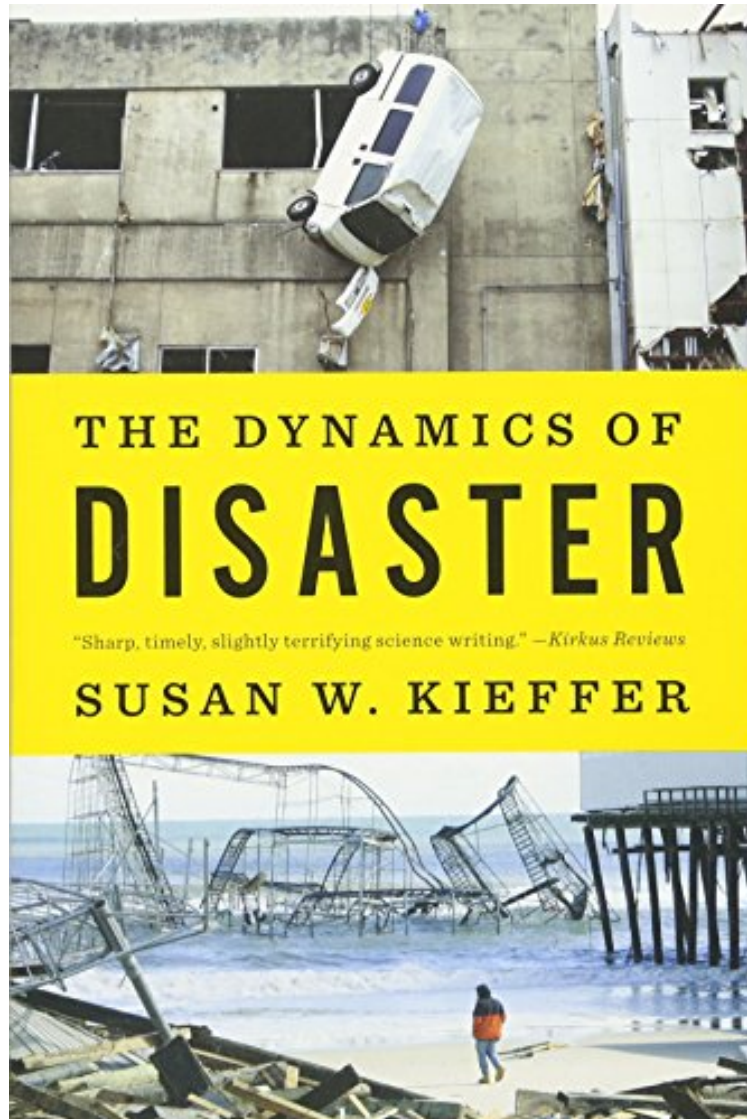


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The Dynamics of Disaster

Susan W. Kieffer

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#1156589 in Books 2014-10-13 2014-10-13 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x .90 x 5.50l, .0 #File Name: 0393349918336 pages | File size: 65.Mb

Susan W. Kieffer : The Dynamics of Disaster before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dynamics of Disaster:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and Important--a page-turner By Dr. Trish This is a fantastic book. I've recommended to colleagues at FEMA and am using it as a text for my disaster classes. It really demonstrates how knowledge of the environment should inform policy. It was a page turner for me! Thanks to Dr. Kieffer for writing this important, accessible, and interesting book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Basic, clear, simplified explanations... By Basil tree 45 of volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, rotas, etc. Better than the

textbook used in my college natural disaster class because the explanations and graphics were so clear. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By mike c Good read...lots of information

"If you are an amateur weather geek, disaster wonk, or budding student of earth sciences, you will want to read this book." Seattle Times
In 2011, there were fourteen natural calamities that each destroyed over a billion dollars worth of property in the United States alone. In 2012, Hurricane Sandy ravaged the East Coast and major earthquakes struck in Italy, the Philippines, Iran, and Afghanistan. In the first half of 2013, the awful drumbeat continued: a monster super-tornado struck Moore, Oklahoma; a powerful earthquake shook Sichuan, China; a cyclone ravaged Queensland, Australia; massive floods inundated Jakarta, Indonesia; and the largest wildfire ever engulfed a large part of Colorado. Despite these events, we still behave as if natural disasters are outliers. Why else would we continue to build new communities near active volcanoes, on tectonically active faults, on flood plains, and in areas routinely lashed by vicious storms? A famous historian once observed that "civilization exists by geologic consent, subject to change without notice." In the pages of this unique book, leading geologist Susan W. Kieffer provides a primer on most types of natural disasters: earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, landslides, hurricanes, cyclones, and tornadoes. By taking us behind the scenes of the underlying geology that causes them, she shows why natural disasters are more common than we realize, and that their impact on us will increase as our growing population crowds us into ever more vulnerable areas. Kieffer describes how natural disasters result from "changes in state" in a geologic system, much as when water turns to steam. By understanding what causes these changes of state, we can begin to understand the dynamics of natural disasters. In the book's concluding chapter, Kieffer outlines how we might better prepare for, and in some cases prevent, future disasters. She also calls for the creation of an organization, something akin to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention but focused on pending natural disasters. 40 illustrations

From Booklist
After surviving natural disasters, from hurricanes to earthquakes to landslides, why do we persist in rebuilding with confidence that technology will protect us from the next time, if there is one? Geologist Kieffer argues that we don't understand disasters as well as we should. She contrasts stealth disasters caused by long-term human impact, including climate change and soil erosion, with natural disasters or acts of God, which are also increasingly affected by human actions. She offers a geological field trip around the planet to illustrate the incredible diversity of geology and to impress readers with a sense of the broad time-scales, from decades to centuries, of geological change. She explores the dynamics of earthquakes in Haiti, tsunamis in Japan, landslides in Switzerland, volcanic eruptions in the Philippines, hurricanes in Missouri, and droughts and deadly floods in Australia. Kieffer ends each chapter with reflections on how warnings are issued and the public responds—sometimes ignoring warnings perceived as too frequent—and recommends a Center for Disaster Control for Planet Earth. Photos enhance the drama of this highly accessible look at disasters. --Vanessa Bush "Sharp, timely, slightly terrifying science writing." -Kirkus
"A clear, engagingly wonky introduction to the field." -Publishers Weekly
"[A] highly accessible look at disasters" -Booklist
"Kieffer's brisk and lucid presentation has some of the relish with which surgeons reputedly regale each other with tales from the operating theatre. Laid out before the reader are the suppurating wounds, scalds, tremors, and scars acquired by the Earth over millennia, centuries, decades, or minutes." -The Times of London
"A study on natural disasters [that] puts the fizz into the physics." -Nature
"Geologist Kieffer analyzes recent earthquakes and eruptions with a clear eye on improving our planning for, and response to, these inevitable events." -Discover Magazine
Picked by Gone Bookserk.com as one of the "Top Science Books of 2013." "This [impressive] book ought to be placed in the hands of politicians, engineers, insurance assessors and, frankly, anyone who sees sense in understanding the processes and systems that guide our planet." -Geographical