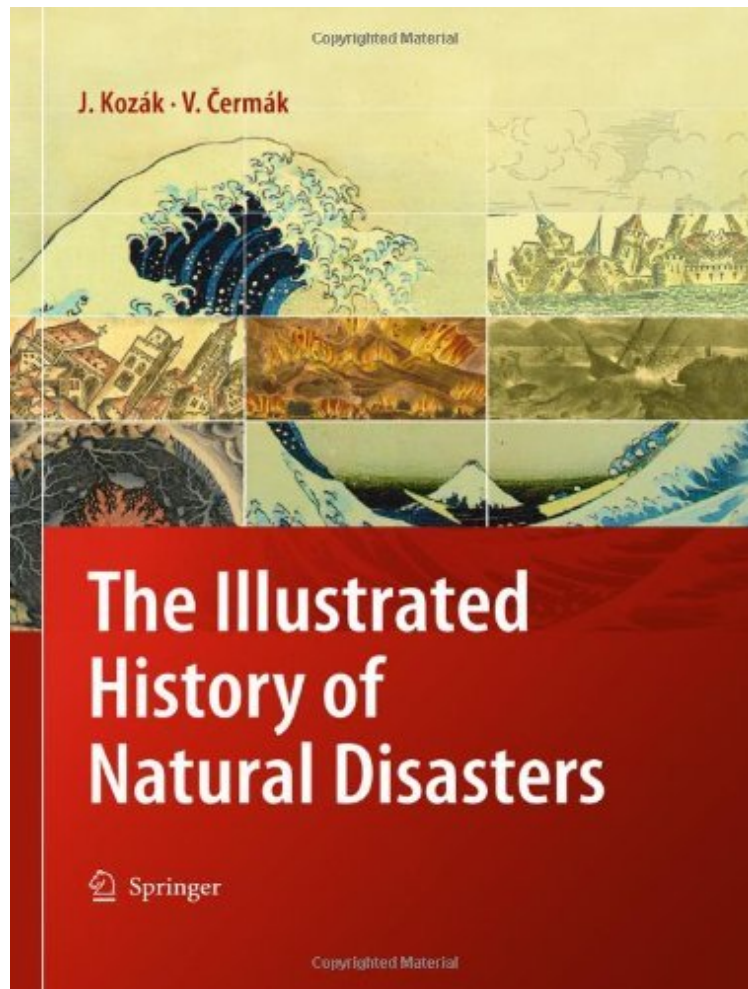


The Illustrated History of Natural Disasters

Jan Kozaacute;k, Vladimir Cermaacute;k
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Jan Kozaacute;k, Vladimir Cermaacute;k : The Illustrated History of Natural Disasters before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Illustrated History of Natural Disasters:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Too much taken from WikiBy SamText was not engaging even though I am interested in the subject. Many of the tables and graphs in this book are openly sourced from wikipedia. As for the images, for an illustrated book on disaster there doesn't seem to be many images compared to the amount of text. Is far from a comprehensive history as misses out important Earthquakes such as the Nobi 1891 Earthquake in Japan which begun the development of seismograph and also misses out the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake which flattened Tokyo) focuses seems mainly on Earthquakes in Europe and USA even though cover is a Japanese print.

This book tells the story of the Earth itself, explaining the interplay of its gradual geologi- levolution, presented as a generally slow and safe process, with the sudden manifestations of natural hazards, which involve disasters that affect

the environment and lead to huge material damage and human losses. The natural forces at play, whether they are violent explosions of volcanic eruptions or almost imperceptible deformations of subsurface rock strata, naturally-sustaining in devastating earthquakes, all control the existence and destiny of a certain part of the global population. The development of man's existence down through history has depended upon his understanding of the world in which he lives, and upon his ability to turn to his own best use the materials that were there for the taking. However, he has had not only to furnish himself with food, water, building materials, and energy to protect himself against occasional natural adversities. Protecting himself from them meant comprehending their causes, and the essential core of his understanding was in recording and depicting them. This book is written for anyone interested in the Earth in general, and in natural disasters in particular, presenting a unique collection of historical illustrations of volcanic eruptions and earthquake events and their repercussions. The book represents a golden mean between scientific and popular works.

From the reviews: "The Illustrated History of Natural Disasters, by geophysicists Jan Kozak and Vladimir Cermak, is a timely collection of pictorial records of earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis from antiquity to modern times. This events is well documented in the book which includes stories . . . helps us to understand that catastrophes are part of the history of humanity while reminding us of the vulnerability of the human species in the face of nature's wrath." (Alexis Drahos, *Nature*, Vol. 465, June, 2010) "This work provides historical accounts and folklore supplemented with images that convey perspectives on nature and the role and fate of humans. Kozaacute;k and Cermaacute;k . . . organized images primarily selected from Kozaacute;k's personal collection. . . . Summing Up . . . Earth and environmental history collections serving upper-division undergraduates and above." (L. S. Zipp, *Choice*, Vol. 48 (3), November, 2010) "What a surprising book! . . . European earthquakes are the main focus of the study but volcanoes and significant tsunamis are also comprehensively discussed and illustrated . . . This is a timely review of this disaster given the choice of Lisbon by the International Association for Earthquake Engineering to host the 2012 World Conference on Earthquake Engineering. . . . it will appeal to a wider audience those interested in the history of science and/or the conjunction of art and science." (Kevin McCue, *The Australian Geologist*, March, 2011) "The Illustrated History of Natural Disasters is based on a selection of reproductions of rare engravings from the private collection of one of the authors. . . . This book is likely to be of interest to historical geologists, as well as art historians interested in the geological background of the many striking works of art that have been produced . . . serves as a very visual reminder to readers that these major geological events have been impacting on our society and shaping our history for centuries." (Jan Lindsay, *Bulletin of Volcanology*, Vol. 73, 2011) From the Back Cover This richly illustrated pictorial history of natural disasters has been composed from a large selection of images of a wide variety of sources, mostly private collections. These include reproductions of rare engravings, maps both old and new, sketches, and diagrams. The individual full-page reproductions give historical views on natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, avalanches, landslides and rock falls. The illustrations are accompanied by text describing the geophysical and historical background of the disasters, the origin of each of the engravings and stories behind the events. At the forefront of this book are the fascinating depictions of famous disasters that occurred from the 14th to the 19th centuries. These include those at Basel in 1356, Tokyo in 1650, Constantinople in 1762, as well as the eruption of Etna in 1669 and the San Francisco earthquakes of 1868 and 1909. The authors move on into the era of living memory too, covering a variety of more recent earthquakes with consequences still felt today. The text of the book goes much further, introducing the reader to the development of the modern view on the dynamical manifestations of the Earth, its structure, and the internal forces that create the conditions for catastrophic events. This is complemented and enriched by maps together with selected larger plates illustrating the early conceptions of the Earth. Finally, the authors present a chronological record of the major milestones in the development of seismology. This book is valuable not only as a scientific chronicle of natural disasters, but also due to its artistic, cultural and historical merits. Key themes: history, engravings, natural disasters, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes Both authors are senior research scientists in the Geophysical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Jan Kozaacute;k was originally engaged in laboratory seismology and later moved to historical studies in seismology and volcanology. In addition to his scientific work, he has been an ardent collector of old prints; within the last 40 years he collected one of the world largest series . . . over 2300 of pre-photographic depictions of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis. Among his 170 publications there are over ten books of pictorial character dealing mostly with the Earth sciences, and also with historical architecture and European history. Vladimiacute;r Cermaacute;k is an internationally recognized expert in geothermics, he has coordinated several research programs and convened a number of international symposia and workshops. He pioneered the basic heat flow studies in Europe; he is the author and co-author of several books, atlases and over 200 papers published in various international geological and geophysical journals. V. Cermaacute;k served as the Director of the Geophysical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences (1990-1998), was the Vice-President of the European Geophysical Society (1994-1998), and Chairman of the International Heat Flow Commission of the IASPEI (1995-1999). Currently he is a member of the Academia Europea,

German Geophysical Society and American Geophysical Union. He is also the current President of the Czech National Committee of Geodesy and Geophysics.