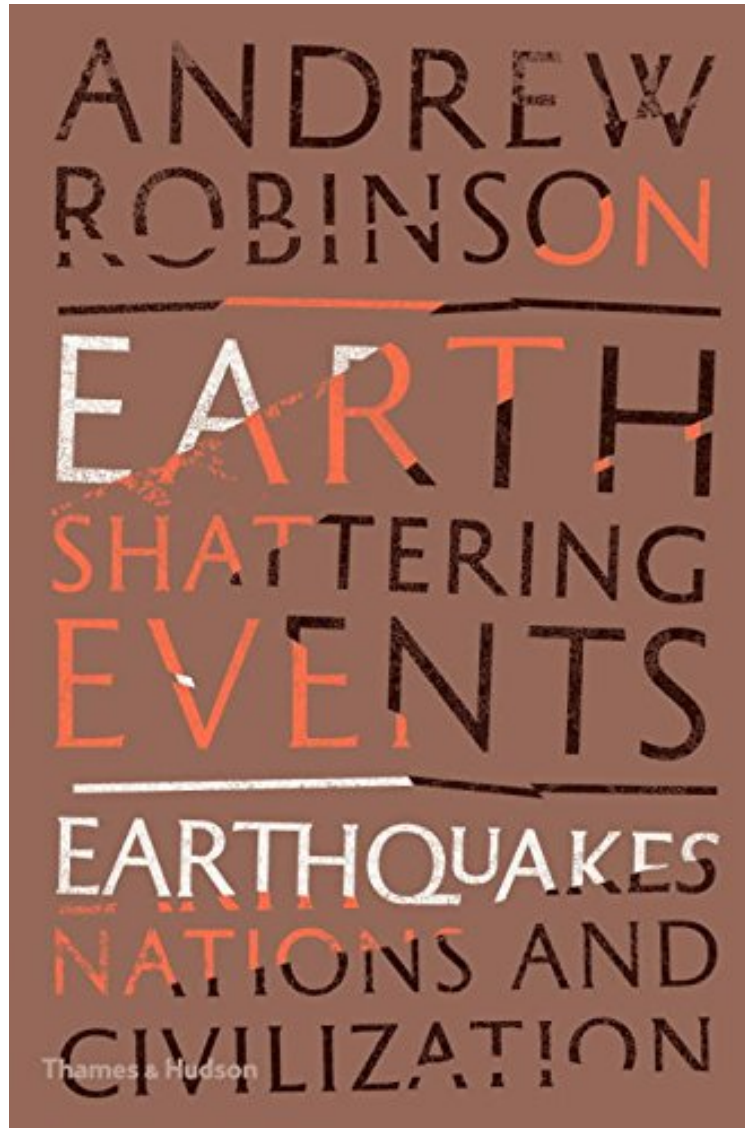


(Mobile book) Earth-Shattering Events: Earthquakes, Nations, and Civilization

Earth-Shattering Events: Earthquakes, Nations, and Civilization

Andrew Robinson

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Andrew Robinson : Earth-Shattering Events: Earthquakes, Nations, and Civilization before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Earth-Shattering Events: Earthquakes, Nations, and Civilization:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Stephen Desrosiers Good book! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a fascinating subject By Sussman An earthquake is the observable shaking of the surface of the Earth, resulting from the sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust that creates seismic waves. The

seismicity movement of an area refers to the frequency, type and size of earthquakes experienced over a period of time. A record of earth motion as a function of time is called a seismogram. This book is almost a reference to those larger seismic events and how those quakes have impacted and changed the history of the populace of the regions/cities, which they, in some cases devastated. There is a look at "Earthquake environmental effects, such as tsunamis as well as diverse seismic sources such as volcanic, tectonic and oceanic". The field of Seismology includes aforementioned events. Mankind has had to live seismic events throughout known history, and this book shows us how it has shaped both the narrative of human settlements as well as shaping their destiny. Thus, the author goes through earthquakes like London, England 1750, Lisbon, Portugal 1755, Caracas, Venezuela 1812, Naples, Italy 1857, San Francisco, CA, USA, 1903. With the most recent being Fukushima, Japan, quake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown of 2011. In this case, there was an undersea megathrust earthquake off the coast of Japan. It was the most powerful earthquake ever recorded to have hit Japan, and the fourth most powerful earthquake in the world. The net result was the generation of a Tsunami wave, flooding, mudslides, fires, building and substructure destruction, nuclear events together with radiation discharges. All in this a fascinating subject that leads off to different areas. There are interesting black and white plates at the commencement of each section and a pertinent bibliography and note for further reading found at the end of the book. This is a book that is both clear, concise in its approach and above all an enjoyable read that draws in the subject into layperson terminology. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Some events, some nations ...By P. Salus This is a difficult book for me to review. I purchased it for my spouse, and she found it "Interesting." I think Robinson's basic notion, that earthquakes have had great historical import, to be unexceptional. But the holes in his book are enormous. I looked in vain for a mention of Iceland (where earthquakes have been documented for a thousand years), or Australia (where the first documented earthquake occurred barely 20 years after the First Fleet [1788]), or Hawaii (where I know of seven with a magnitude 6.5 since 1868). These are but a few lacunae. There are many more. Robinson writes entertainingly, but his eye only picks up a few items.

"A truly welcome and refreshing study that puts earthquake impact on history into a proper perspective." --Amos Nur, Emeritus Professor of Geophysics, Stanford University, California, and author of *Apocalypse: Earthquakes, Archaeology, and the Wrath of God* Since antiquity, on every continent, human beings in search of attractive landscapes and economic prosperity have made a Faustian bargain with the risk of devastation by an earthquake. Today, around half of the world's largest cities as many as sixty lie in areas of major seismic activity. Many, such as Lisbon, Naples, San Francisco, Teheran, and Tokyo, have been severely damaged or destroyed by earthquakes in the past. But throughout history, starting with ancient Jericho, Rome, and Sparta, cities have proved to be extraordinarily resilient: only one, Port Royal in the Caribbean, was abandoned after an earthquake. *Earth-Shattering Events* seeks to understand exactly how humans and earthquakes have interacted, not only in the short term but also in the long perspective of history. In some cases, physical devastation has been followed by decline. But in others, the political and economic reverberations of earthquake disasters have presented opportunities for renewal. After its wholesale destruction in 1906, San Francisco went on to flourish, eventually giving birth to the high-tech industrial area on the San Andreas fault known as Silicon Valley. An earthquake in Caracas in 1812 triggered the creation of new nations in the liberation of South America from Spanish rule. Another in Tangshan in 1976 catalysed the transformation of China into the world's second largest economy. The growth of the scientific study of earthquakes is woven into this far-reaching history. It began with a series of earthquakes in England in 1750. Today, seismologists can monitor the vibration of the planet second by second and the movement of tectonic plates millimeter by millimeter. Yet, even in the 21st century, great earthquakes are still essentially "acts of God," striking with much less warning than volcanoes, floods, hurricanes, and even tornadoes and tsunamis. 13 black-and-white illustrations

A truly welcome and refreshing study that puts earthquake impact on history into a proper perspective. - Amos Nur, Emeritus Professor of Geophysics, Stanford University An ambitious argument that earthquakes change the course of history. - *The Sunday Times* (UK) An engaging mixture of fact, anecdote, and historical analysis Robinson has a talent for evoking chaos and, unavoidably, his brain-melting descriptions have a disaster-movie quality it's hard to tear your eyes away from the page. - *Daily Telegraph* (UK) Chilling A gripping study. - *Sunday Telegraph* A fascinating and fact-rich study of earthquakes and their consequences [and an] innovative and persuasive book.. Robinson's sequences of consequences are enlightening and intriguing. - *The Times* (UK) Delightfully un-academic but thoughtfully structured Thought-provoking. - *Geoscientist* A highly readable and informed introduction to the history of earthquakes Robinson offers a balanced analysis, highlighting connections between major earthquakes and historical developments while avoiding the pitfalls of environmental determinism. A skilled writer, Robinson provides engaging accounts of specific disasters and their impact. Highly recommended. - *Choice* About the Author Andrew Robinson has written more than twenty-five books on the arts and sciences. They include *Lost Languages: The Enigma of the World's Undeciphered Scripts*, *India: A Short History*, and *Earthshock*, which won the Association of Earth Science Editors Outstanding Publication Award. He is also a regular contributor to magazines, such as *Current World Archaeology*, *History Today*, *The Lancet*, *Nature*, and *Science*. A former literary editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, he was also a

visiting fellow at the University of Cambridge.