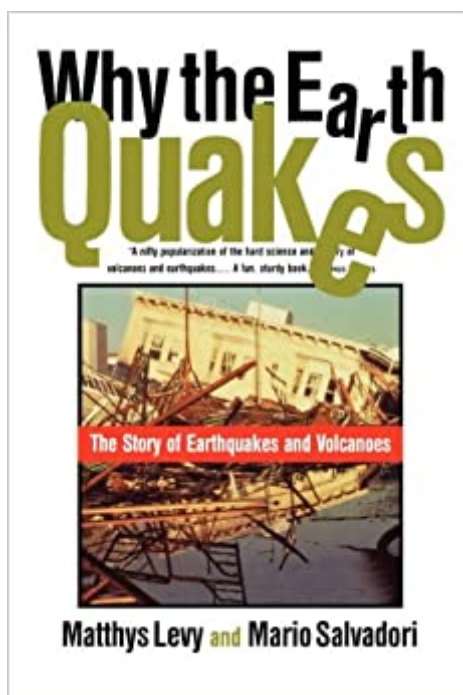


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Why The Earth Quakes: The Story Of Earthquakes And Volcanoes



Synopsis

“At last an inviting book on earthquakes, written by scientists whose easily understandable prose takes us on a tour not only of seismology but also of modern building technologies, volcanoes, and that California constant, the magnificent rubbing and pushing of tectonic plates beneath us.” —San Francisco Chronicle Book Review In this "excellent survey of earthquakes and their effects—their mystery, terror, and science" (Christopher Arnold, president, Building Systems Development), two of the world's premier structural engineers take readers on a fascinating trip from the Earth's beginnings to recent developments in seismic technology. 100+ illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Structural engineers Levy and Salvadori (*Why Buildings Fall Down*, LJ 5/1/92) use examples from history to explore how human-made structures fare in the wake of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The authors briefly explain the nature of the earth, then discuss modern engineering solutions for keeping buildings upright during earthquakes. The book's strengths include explanations of how past earthquakes and volcanic eruptions affected human habitations, Michael Lilly's generally clear illustrations and the glossary, which supplements explanations in the text. An index (not seen) should facilitate access. Additional maps and fuller explanations of figures in captions would have made the content easier to follow. In spite of some moralistic segments and the final chapter on the "Big Bang," which seems out of place, the book provides an intriguing look

at historical cataclysms along with their causes, their effects, and possible safeguards against them. Recommended for general science collections. ?Jeanne Davidson, Oregon State Univ., Corvallis Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Part roll call of cataclysms, part building engineering, this short guide is animated by a simple human concern: saving lives. As the best defense is an intelligently built structure, the authors describe (nontechnically) strategies for absorbing shock waves, trends in retrofitting, and the causes of particular failures. (Failure is a forte of these authors of *Why Buildings Fall Down*, 1992.) In the narrative department, Levy and Salvadori examine famous instances of exploding volcanoes and devastating earthquakes, reliably giving the figures on casualties and Richter magnitudes and leavening the grimness with notes about why, for example, a Frank Lloyd Wright hotel withstood the 1923 Tokyo earthquake. Line drawings (but no photographs) visualize the scenes, and one practical section delivers Q & A's about survival tips for quaky areas of the United States. But what were the authors thinking of in adding a nongermane and simplistic chapter on cosmology? One blemish doesn't negate the whole intent, however, which is to bring the basics of tectonics to the curious. Gilbert Taylor --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Very interesting, could have used a little more info about volcanoes though.

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