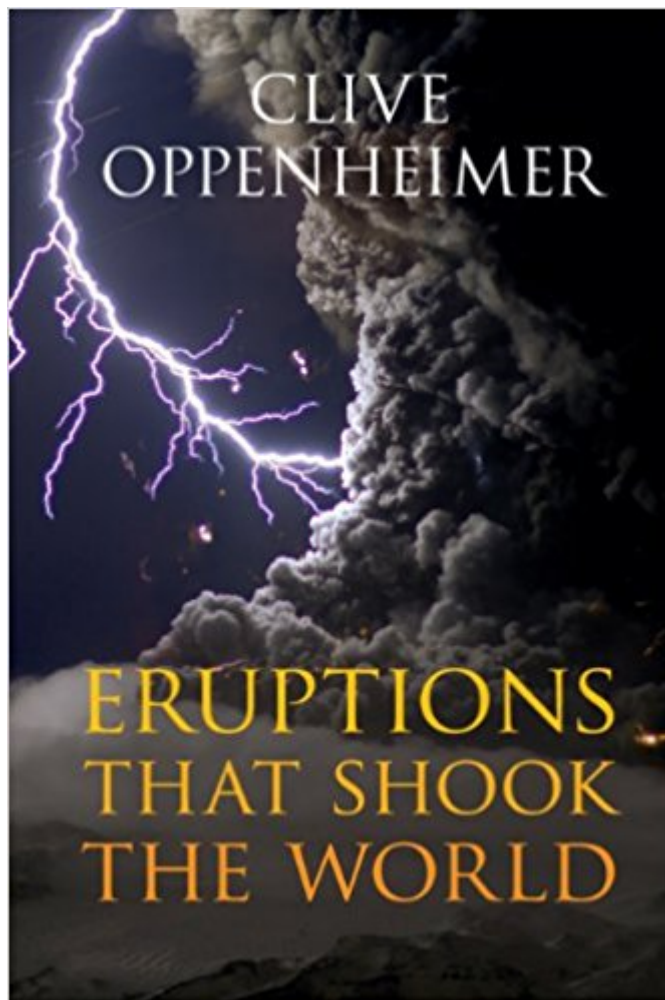


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Eruptions That Shook The World



Synopsis

What does it take for a volcanic eruption to really shake the world? Did volcanic eruptions extinguish the dinosaurs, or help humans to evolve, only to decimate their populations with a super-eruption 73,000 years ago? Did they contribute to the ebb and flow of ancient empires, the French Revolution and the rise of fascism in Europe in the 19th century? These are some of the claims made for volcanic cataclysm. Volcanologist Clive Oppenheimer explores rich geological, historical, archaeological and palaeoenvironmental records (such as ice cores and tree rings) to tell the stories behind some of the greatest volcanic events of the past quarter of a billion years. He shows how a forensic approach to volcanology reveals the richness and complexity behind cause and effect, and argues that important lessons for future catastrophe risk management can be drawn from understanding events that took place even at the dawn of human origins.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book explains the mechanics of volcanoes; the causes of eruptions, the various types of

eruptions, and the effects of past eruptions on human societies. The author also suggests possible actions to mitigate the effects of future eruptions at vulnerable locations, such as Naples, Italy, and various locations on the West coast of the United States. One caveat: if you buy the Kindle edition, as I did, the various charts are unreadable. The Kindles pixel definition is insufficiently fine grained to render the charts readable, even with a magnifying glass!

This book is pretty technical. It's written at the level of a college freshman geology text, but without the formulas. The good is that there is a LOT of information, very interesting information. But if you're wanting light reading it may not be good for you. Personally, I really enjoyed it. The way I enjoyed it was to skip a few parts, especially the ones covering the details of ancient civilizations. Although the author is clearly interested in this historical detail, I thought it had little to do with volcanology. I would recommend this book to someone who wants to learn more than what an overview would provide. Perfect for the amateur or arm chair geologist, but again, it's not light reading. However, you feel like you definitely know more when you get to the end.

The author is an awesome authority of international connections as to what volcanoes do to the earth and how life is influenced by them. The story is well researched and referenced. It is a wonder how life continues on this restless earth and the atmosphere above it. It is reassuring that geologists internationally are collaborating with historians to understand nature. We are given some idea how fragile survival is and how we still have hope to survive. The reader can be lifted into an exciting realm of scientific research, mixed with other disciplines on a scholarly level.

This is a very entertaining and informative history of volcanic eruptions, both famous (e.g., Sambora and Vesuvius) and obscure (e.g., the Laacher See) and their impacts on the environment and human history. The only drawback is that the background Oppenheimer provides on scientific methodologies and mathematical analyses used to measure the intensity and nature of the eruptions makes for occasional hard going for the general reader, but this excellent book is definitely worth the effort.

This book is not tales of specific eruptions. It is an excellent tour of volcanism, history, technical details and runs the gamut of fascinating information. I have learned a great deal from this book. I'm sure I will have to read it again to fully grasp the contents. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in volcanoes.

A good read if you're into geology. Well researched on the long term effects, both local and global, of eruptions recent and long past. If you wonder what might happen after "the big one", this book tells you "what happened last time"

Comprehensive and wonderfully written coverage of Volcanism, not just eruptions but the Science in detail.requires some work on the readers part in some chapters, but rewarding if read carefully.highly recommended for those interested in the a Geoscience of our Planet.R.E.B, M.D.

I love books like this. I have read this book twice already. Well worth it if your are into epic disasters. What I wouldn't give to have a time machine and go watch (From safe distance of course) these epic eruptions happen.

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