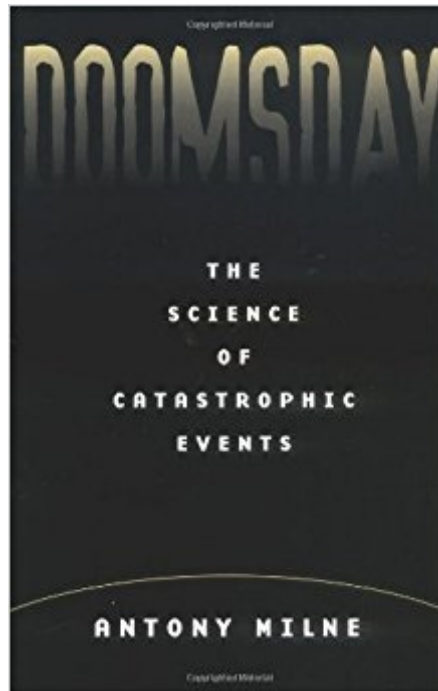


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Doomsday: The Science Of Catastrophic Events



Synopsis

Catastrophes are part of Earth's real history. Its grim disasters, acting as a backdrop against which human dramas have been played out, have been recorded in many ancient writings. As Milne shows, doomsday catastrophism, once the prerogative of 18th-century geologists steeped in the Biblical memory of the Great Flood, has now regained respectability. Catastrophism applies to many disciplines such as planetary science, biology, climatology, and evolutionary theory. The universe itself, we now believe, is a product of a giant cosmic catastrophe. Indeed life itself may have arisen when the moon may have crystallized out of a crashing mini-planet that enabled organisms to emerge into tidal pools. Floods and natural disasters seem to be on the increase everywhere and are no longer just a Third World problem. The fear of climatic disturbances are the source of regular international conferences, and it is seriously suggested that the U.S. military shoot down plummeting comets before they destroy civilization, as they once destroyed the dinosaurs. Milne provides a contemporary look at catastrophism in its scientific and in its disastrous earth-shattering sense. Within one volume a wide range of up-to-date scientific facts and concepts are examined. Milne gives readers interested in scientific controversies, contemporary affairs and environmental issues an important document that chronicles the end of a turbulent and disturbing 2,000 years.

Book Information

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Praeger; 1st Edition edition (January 30, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0275967476

ISBN-13: 978-0275967475

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #814,711 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #133 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Regional Planning #865 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Urban Planning & Development #1262 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Occult & Paranormal > Ancient & Controversial Knowledge

Customer Reviews

"Milne brings a well-balanced, rational approach to his highly readable examination of catastrophe science, and he is pragmatic in his warnings about future disasters."-NEXUS?Milne brings a

well-balanced, rational approach to his highly readable examination of catastrophe science, and he is pragmatic in his warnings about future disasters.?-NEXUS

ANTONY MILNE is an established British science writer and author of seven earlier books./e He is an Associate Member of Spaceguard UK and has been a Research Fellow in environmental science for NATO's Scientific Affairs Division.

I read this right after the December 26, 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which killed at least 125,000 humans. It was a very timely book at that tragic point in time. Basically, this is a wide-ranging and fast-moving overview about how catastrophes and cataclysms shape our world, our universe, and our culture, starting with the Big Bang. The author seamlessly weaves together every academic discipline from quantum physics to Mayan archaeology. Antony Milne doesn't go into a great deal of depth in any particular area but this is a solidly thought-provoking work. It's also a humbling book, since it shows that not just the human race but our whole universe will not last forever. I am surprised this book has only been released as an expensive academic hardcover: a popular trade paperback edition would probably reach a wide audience.

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