

Contents

Part I State of Research, Concepts, and Methods

- Historical Disaster Experiences: First Steps Toward a Comparative and Transcultural History of Disasters Across Asia and Europe in the Preindustrial Era** 3
Gerrit Jasper Schenk

- Living with Hazard: Disaster Subcultures, Disaster Cultures and Risk-Mitigating Strategies** 45
Greg Bankoff

Part II Materiality of Disasters: Natural Impact, Social Experience

- Several Natural Disasters in the Middle East (at the Beginning of the Eleventh Century) and Their Consequences** 63
Juliette Rassi

- Fanā'* and *Fasād*: Perceptions and Concepts of Crises and Disasters in Fourteenth-Century Egypt** 81
Sarah Büssow-Schmitz

- The Black Death and the Human Impact on the Environment** 93
Stuart Borsch

- The Day the Sun Turned Blue: A Volcanic Eruption in the Early 1460s and Its Possible Climatic Impact—A Natural Disaster Perceived Globally in the Late Middle Ages?** 107
Martin Bauch

- Cultural Implications of Natural Disasters: Historical Reports of the Volcano Eruption of July, 1256 CE** 139
George Saliba

When Europe Was Burning: The Multi-season Mega-drought of 1540 and Arsonist Paranoia	155
Christian Pfister	
Part III Heaven and Earth: Searching for Reasons	
“Assur Will Suffer:” Predicting Disaster in Ancient Egypt	189
Joachim Friedrich Quack	
“Natural” Disasters in the Arabic Astro-meteorological Malḥama Handbooks	207
Kristine Chalyan-Daffner	
Tracing the Will of the Stars: Indian Astrology and Divination About Natural Disasters and Threats	225
Audrius Beinorius	
Explaining the 1934 Bihar-Nepal Earthquake: The Role of Science, Astrology, and “Rumours”	241
Eleonor Marcussen	
Part IV Urban Experience: Earthquakes and Fires	
The 1173/1759 Earthquake in Damascus and the Continuation of Architectural Tradition	269
Verena Daiber	
Living with Disaster: Aleppo and the Earthquake of 1822	295
Stefan Knost	
“The Great Fire in Cairo in 1321:” Interactions Between Nature and Society	307
Syrinx von Hees	
Perceiving Urban Fire Regimes in Europe and China (1830 to 1870): British Fire Insurance Businesses and the Sudden Challenge of Globalisation	327
Cornel Zwierlein	
Part V Frequent Experience and Adaptations: Floods and Landscapes of Defence	
Economic Adaptation to Risky Environments in the Late Middle Ages: The Case of the <i>Accrués</i> of the Doubs in Chaussin (Jura, France) from c. 1370 to c. 1500	355
Thomas Labbé	

Measuring “Disaster”: The “Everydayness” of Fluvial Landscapes and the Colonial State in Gangetic <i>Diaras</i>, 1790s–1880s	369
Nitin Sinha	
When the “Deluge” Happened: The Flood of 1929 in the Surma–Barak Valley of Colonial Assam	379
Monisankar Misra	
Alpine Landscapes of Defence: On Modern-Vernacular Avalanche Protection Systems in the Swiss Alps	399
Michael Falser	
Name Index	423
Place Index	427
Subject Index	431