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# Man-Made Catastrophes, Revised Edition

*Lee Davis*

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**Lee Davis : Man-Made Catastrophes, Revised Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Man-Made Catastrophes, Revised Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy L.W. Brittianas advertised2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Compendium of Man-Made Disasters throughout History!By Mike O'ConnorThis is the second edition of a reference book originally published in 1993. If your interest is tragic air crashes, fires, sinkings, nuclear accidents and miscellaneous tragedies brought about by the hand of man, this book is for you. In almost 400 entries, author Lee Davis presents 2,000 years of disasters primarily caused by human stupidity, neglect, greed and a host of other causes from around the globe.No one-volume history could describe in detail all man-made disasters of the past 2,000 years. Though Davis' book includes such events as the fire that ravaged Rome in 64 AD, most entries deal with events in the last 200 years. He breaks down the events into eight categories - Air Crashes, Civil Unrest and terrorism, Explosions, etc. - and then provides lists, for example, of 'The Worst Recorded Air Crashes' arranged by country/location followed by a chronological list. After a one-three page overview of that particular disaster category, Davis examines many but not all of those events in summaries ranging in length from a 1/4 of a page to several pages. One hundred photos complement the text.This volume is obviously great for students writing reports, covering, as it does, events ranging from the Tay River Bridge railway disaster in 1879, the St. Bartholomew's Massacre in 1572, the 1666 London fire, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, etc. Knowledge junkies will appreciate it - 'enjoy' seems somehow wrong - as well. And, though some may view this as a 'Magical Misery Tour,' Davis sometimes includes examples of the

bravery and nobility of those frail humans caught in the midst of these horrendous events. And, aside from the human toll, many of these tragedies also had sometimes major and long-listing consequences which Davis covers quite well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating detailsBy G. KalerHate to say I like this book, after all it is about catastrophes. However, it is a fascinating read! The human race are slow learners, I can tell you that. History repeats, repeats, and repeats itself.

In the same way that natural disasters have seemingly proliferated since 1990, there has also been an increase in the number of catastrophes caused by human error or destructive motivation. From the burning of Babylon in 538 BC to the 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York, this work offers a worldwide survey of cataclysmic events that have devastated the globe and altered the course of human history. More than 350 entries organized by disaster-type including air crashes, acts of terrorism, explosions, maritime disasters, nuclear and industrial accidents, and railway and space disasters - offer insights into the background of the events as well as their impact on mankind and the environment. Eyewitness accounts, helpful chronologies and photographs are highlighted throughout. Events covered include: burning of Rome (AD 64); railway collision, Versailles, France (1842); sinking of the Andrea Doria, Atlantic Ocean (1956); Challenger disaster (1986); massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China (1989); bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building, Oklahoma City, USA (1995); and the bombings of US Embassies at Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (1998).

From BooklistThe first edition of this work covered events from the burning of Rome in 64 C.E. to the explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. This version adds more than 70 incidents and 22 new photographs, including many of the terrorist events of recent years. It is a companion volume to *Natural Disasters* [RBB Je 1 15 02].The author attributes most man-made disasters to some combination of stupidity, neglect, and avariciousness. Most war-related events are not included here; the author deems them "useless" in that, unlike tragic events--which provide opportunities for bravery and knowledge and growth--there is no "surviving dignity" attached to war. Within each category of disaster ("Air Crashes," "Civil Unrest and Terrorism," "Explosions," and more), entries are listed geographically and then chronologically. Accounts are factual and include quotes from observers and participants. All chapters include contents lists and chronologies. "Civil Unrest and Terrorism" features a key to major terrorist organizations. The two-page list of electronic sources also appears to cite specific stories and articles instead of suggesting places students would go to learn more about a type of activity. There is an extensive index. Although there are several sources that address natural disasters and some that combine natural and man-made disasters into a listing of the worst, this seems to be the only one that focuses on catastrophes caused by human error or malevolence. Depressing though it may be, its compilation of facts and opinions about those events might prove educational. It is recommended for high-school, public, and academic libraries, especially where the previous edition has been well used. RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Lee Davis is the author of several books on the environment, including *Natural Disasters* and *Environmental Disasters*, published by Facts On File/Checkmark Books. He is also an adjunct professor at Suffolk Community College. He lives in Westhampton, NY.