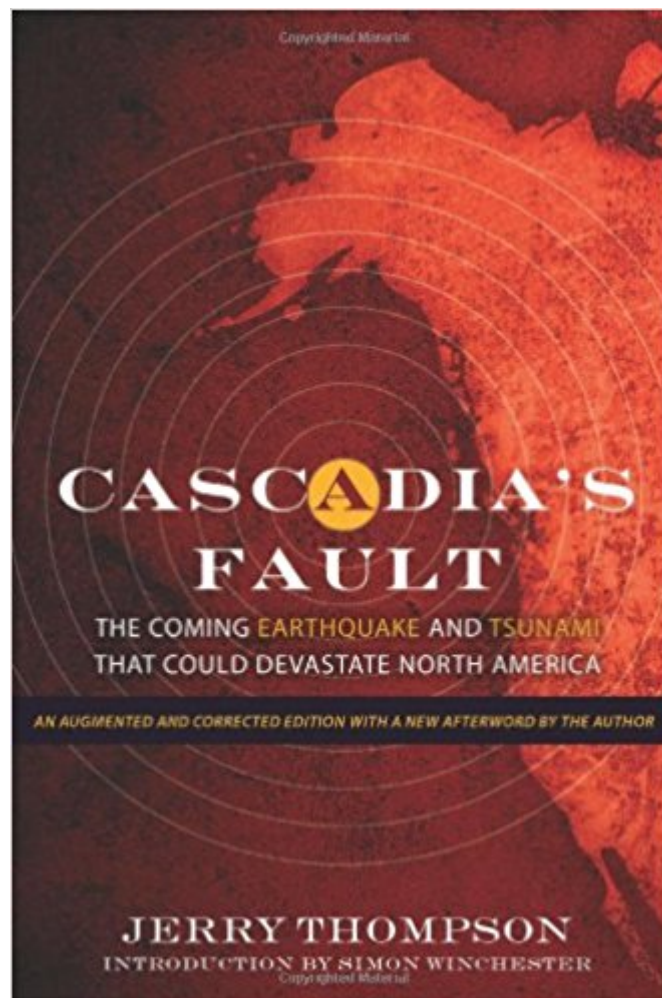




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Cascadia's Fault: The Coming Earthquake And Tsunami That Could Devastate North America



Synopsis

Includes— a new Afterword by the author on the 2011 Japan Earthquake, the lessons learned, and the parallel threat— to North America.— A new study just published by the US Geological Survey confirms and underlines many of the issues raised in the first edition of Cascadia's Fault. There is a crack in the earth's crust that runs roughly 31 miles offshore, approximately 683 miles from Northern California up through Vancouver Island off the coast of British Columbia. The Cascadia Subduction Zone has generated massive earthquakes over and over again throughout geologic time—at least thirty-six major events in the last 10,000 years. This fault generates a monster earthquake about every 500 years. And the monster is due to return at any time. It could happen 200 years from now, or it could be tonight. The Cascadia Subduction Zone is virtually identical to the offshore fault that wrecked Sumatra in 2004. It will generate the same earthquake we saw in Sumatra, at magnitude nine or higher, sending crippling shockwaves across a far wider area than any California quake. Slamming into Sacramento, Portland, Seattle, Victoria, and Vancouver, it will send tidal waves to the shores of Australia, New Zealand, and Japan, damaging the economies of the Pacific Rim countries and their trading partners for years to come. In light of recent massive quakes in Haiti, Chile, Mexico -- and Japan --— Cascadia's Fault not only tells the story of this potentially devastating earthquake and the tsunamis it will spawn, it also warns us about an impending crisis almost unprecedented in modern history.

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Customer Reviews

The recent seismic catastrophe in Japan is a foretaste of a similar cataclysm brewing in America, according to this alarming geological exposé. Thompson, a former Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reporter and documentarian, investigates the Cascadia Subduction Zone, an 800-mile-long fault where the ocean floor slowly grinds away underneath the North American continental plate. The fault has a millennia-long history of causing major quakes, including magnitude-9 monsters and 90-foot waves that could lay waste to Vancouver, Seattle, and dozens of coastal towns. But because no written records of this history exist and the fault has been quiescent since 1700, geologists were unaware of the danger. How they uncovered the violent history of this deceptively placid area, long a subject of academic controversy, is the fascinating scientific detective story at the heart of Thompson's account. He follows along as researchers piece together clues from ocean sediment core samples and tree rings, antique Japanese manuscripts, and laser gadgets and GPS devices that measure the inch-a-year movements of mountain chains; he blanches as their computer models illustrate the devastating impact of tsunamis and the fatal rhythms through which skyscrapers resonate to a temblor's shocks. The result is a lucid, engrossing look at the Earth's subtle dynamics—and a timely warning about their awesome power very close to home. (June) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for Cascadia's Fault"Reporter Jerry Thompson puts the history of subduction earthquakes and the resultant tsunamis into clear perspective. In Cascadia's Fault: The Coming Earthquake and Tsunami That Could Devastate North America, Thompson has written a very readable tale of how plate tectonics and earthquake science works, and what we need to know if we insist on being Left Coasters." "Sacramento News & Review"A level-headed look at a potentially devastating natural disaster . . . fascinating." "Booklist"Writer and director Jerry Thompson describes the brilliant scientific research conducted by Canadian and U.S. geologists and geophysicists that led to the important discovery that the Pacific Northwest experiences some of the largest earthquakes on Earth; giant subduction zone earthquakes. The Cascadian Subduction Zone is armed and dangerous; an earthquake comparable to, or even larger than, the great earthquake in Japan in March 2011, is inevitable. This inevitability demands that we better prepare ourselves and our cities for the Big One. Cascadia's Fault is a captivating read that gives readers a sense of the excitement of scientific discovery and the importance of science to society. "John Clague, Director, Centre for Natural Hazard Research, Simon Fraser University"If you don't know much about the risk posed by Cascadia, then you are not alone; indeed, for a

long time even geologists were in the dark. The story of how they slowly uncovered the danger signs is the focus of journalist Jerry Thompson's excellent new book, *Cascadia Fault*, a creditable attempt to raise awareness beyond geoscientists and emergency planners who have, as he puts it in his introduction, been "having a devil of a time getting anyone to pay attention." Highly Allochthonous" Jerry Thompson, a longtime journalist, doesn't say much if anything about politics in his new book. But the political implications of his book, for Canada and the United States, are inescapable." The Tyee"Thompson, a journalist and documentary film producer, presents this frightening look at the Cascadia subduction zone and the risk it poses to major American West coast cities through powerful earthquakes and devastating tsunami waves. Drawing from current seismology research and the effects of recent massive quakes in Chile, Sumatra and Japan, the work outlines the risks to this seemingly quiet section of the "Ring of Fire" and advocates for better disaster preparedness as the only way to survive the inevitable disaster to come." Booknews

Very interesting, but a bit convoluted.... I found "The Troubled Earth" to be much clearer and a more interesting story, the way it was written. Thompson's book, while it has a lot of details, it's almost too much detailed information that does not really add to the story. Just repeats. It is good for background information.

I was completely unaware of this fault and learned quite a bit. It often reads like a fiction book, recalling various historical earthquake events. It shows that we cannot rely very heavily on what we consider 'recorded human history' with regard to our planet and how it acts (ie. climate change). Well written.

I learned an awful lot about earthquakes reading this. Riveting in its presentation and obviously well researched. I'm glad I bought it so I can reread it. Excellent book.

If you are a science and geology wonk like me, its a great book. I didn't really know the history of the discover of the hugely dangerous subduction fault. Now I do Great read.

I have known about the fault for a little while. What I found interesting was the way it was uncovered over time, and the fight they had with established views to convince science that this was a real thing.

Provides a compelling case for the Cascadia Fault and its future impact on the West Coast. Makes for good reading, although in some places it becomes a bit repetitive. It updates previous books with new research results that provide further positive evidence for the fault and its probable impact on millions of people.

Impressive logical scenario of a lot of destruction we have to look forward to. We are all living anywhere near the ocean at Geology's whim. The earth has a lot more to show us whether we want to see it or not. Kind of like an old hound scratching fleas whenever it gets irritated.

A compelling book. If you live along the West coast, you better read this account of your region's past history and certain future. More maps needed to clearly illustrate the material. Some redundancy.

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