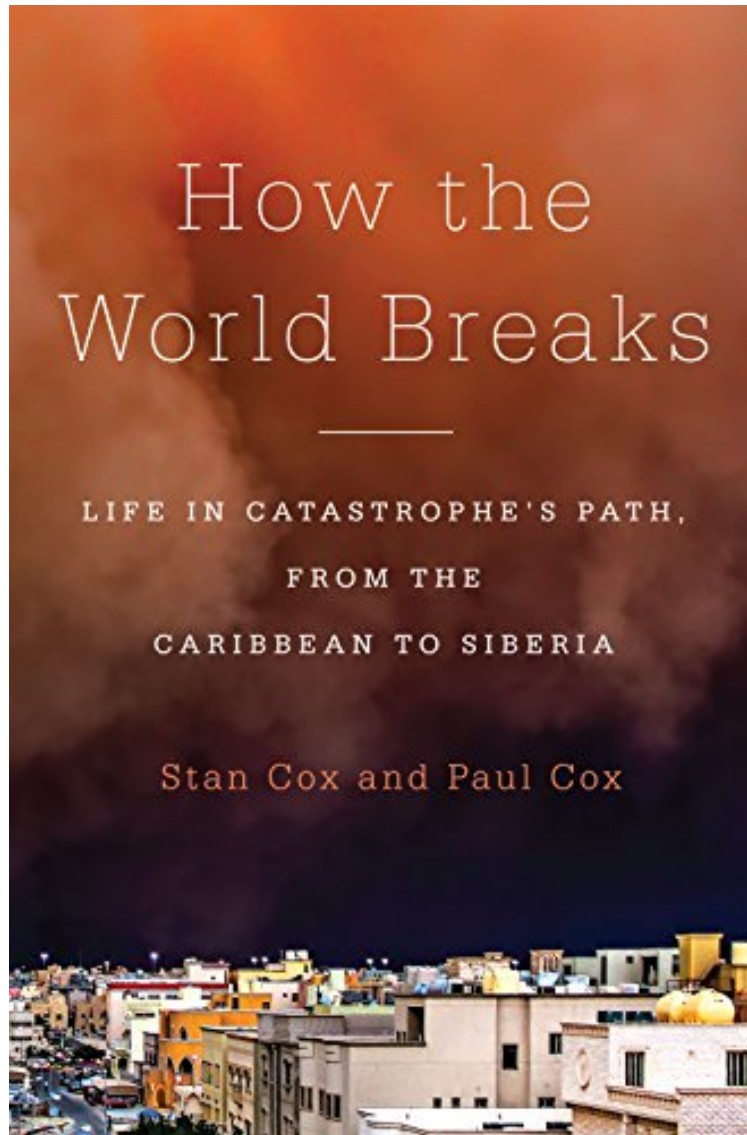


[PDF] How the World Breaks: Life in Catastrophe's Path, from the Caribbean to Siberia

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Stan Cox, Paul Cox

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If its going to happen, you better prepare for it. If you arent prepared for it, you better learn from the aftermathBy Robert Moore-Go Cubs GWhen a natural disaster strikes, communities,

nations, and societies respond in a variety of ways. This book highlights a lot of dos and don'ts by closely examining the aftermath of major disasters around the world. And it looks ahead to some potential catastrophes in the making (hellooooo Miami!). It also provides some fascinating insights on how cultures can come together in the wake of disasters, like in the Philippines where more than one major hurricane recently battered the island nation. This outstanding book provides invaluable lessons that were all going to need to be learned from. This book made my 2016 Climate Change reading list [...]

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. With Eyes Wide Deep By Jed S. Bickman This is a deeply-reported and deeply empathic book. The Coxes travel widely, and when they arrive in a place, they listen to the people on the ground (and in the labs and offices) with open hearts and open ears. This is how they reveal some important dynamics about how societies and disasters interact -- frequently, interact to outsource the risk of hazards and catastrophes onto the bodies of the world's poor. If you read Mike Davis, Naomi Klein, or Bill McKibben, this is essential reading. It's a page-turner--very well written--and is the only guide to an increasingly hazardous planet you will need. Incredibly timely, important, and very substantial.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended for the expert and the novice By Michele Fernandez Highly recommended for the expert and the novice. Stan and Paul Cox have managed to take the issues of natural and man-made disasters and turn them into a captivating read. Through globetrotting stories and real-life illustrations, the authors have brought to life the realities of climate change and natural disasters in today's world and the result is both relatable and terrifying.

We've always lived on a dangerous planet, but its disasters aren't what they used to be. *How the World Breaks* gives us a breathtaking new view of crisis and recovery on the unstable landscapes of the Earth's hazard zones. Father and son authors Stan and Paul Cox take us to the explosive fire fronts of overheated Australia, the future lost city of Miami, the fights over whether and how to fortify New York City in the wake of Sandy, the Indonesian mud volcano triggered by natural gas drilling, and other communities that are reimagining their lives after quakes, superstorms, tornadoes, and landslides. In the very decade when we should be rushing to heal the atmosphere and address the enormous inequalities of risk, a strange idea has taken hold of global disaster policy: resilience. Its proponents say that threatened communities must simply learn the art of resilience, adapt to risk, and thereby survive. This doctrine obscures the human hand in creating disasters and requires the planet's most beleaguered people to absorb the rush of floodwaters and the crush of landslides, freeing the world economy to go on undisturbed. The Coxes' great contribution is to pull the disaster debate out of the realm of theory and into the muck and ash of the world's broken places. There we learn that change is more than mere adaptation and life is more than mere survival. Ultimately, *How the World Breaks* reveals why unless we address the social, ecological, and economic roots of disaster millions more people every year will find themselves spiraling into misery. It is essential reading for our time.

Praise for *How the World Breaks*: "Highly recommended" *Library Journal* A frightening, from-the-trenches overview of "natural" and man-made disasters and responses to them across the globe. Kirkus says "This book, crafted with stunning, moving, and crisp story-telling, settles the score about the stark human fingerprint on our own civilizations' agonies and misfortunes. It is clearly a battle we cannot afford to lose, and *How the World Breaks* is the reality jolt we need. I will hold Stan and Paul Cox responsible for that day when we walk towards a new dawn declaring triumph over the madness." Yeb Sao, former climate diplomat and leader of the Peoples Pilgrimage "A devastating account of how regular working people show great bravery and generosity in the face of disaster, but also how the sheer number of disasters can overwhelm a society's ability to recover." Erik Loomis, author of *Out of Sight* "With powerful prose and meticulous scrutiny, *How the World Breaks* strips naked the dynamics of risk creation and the consequent disasters. Alternating chapters of keen analysis and veracious case studies elucidate the false notion that disasters bring about beneficial change, demonstrate who profits as opposed to who pays the price, and illuminate how failed disaster policies have led to horrific duress. A must-read for everyone in all the fields relating to disaster studies, and indeed all who are asking what is breaking apart the world today." Dr. Susanna Hoffman, editor of *The Angry Earth and Catastrophe and Culture* "This is an important book. The Coxes with eyes wide deep see beneath the shimmering surface of progress and development. They name our demons, revealing how the assumptions we make for the sake of our behavior are burdening to death the most vulnerable people of the world and accelerating our demise." Godfrey Reggio, director of the *Qatsi* trilogy "In this period of ecological, social, and economic collapse, *How the World Breaks* is a must-read for all." Dr. Vandana Shiva "I found *How the World Breaks* intriguing and unexpected in how it uses major disasters to illuminate inequalities of both wealth and power and cases where a society acted wisely." Adam Hochschild, author of *Spain in Our Hearts* and other books "Think climate change is a far off, distant threat? Then think again. In their must-read new book *How the World Breaks*, father and son team Stan and Paul Cox travel the world exploring how the devastating impacts of disasters are made notably worse by human-caused climate change." Michael E. Mann, distinguished professor, Penn State University, and author of *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars* Praise for *Losing Our Cool*: Stan was *The Atlantic's* Readers' Choice Brave Thinker One of the Mother Nature Network "Top Ten Environmental Books of the Year" This is an important book. The history of air-conditioning is really the history of the world's energy and climate crises, and by narrowing the focus Stan Cox makes

the big picture comprehensible. He also suggests remedies which are different from the ones favored by politicians, environmentalists, and appliance manufacturers, not least because they might actually work. David Owen, New Yorker staff writer and author of *Green Metropolis* This book is the go-to source for a better understanding of the complexity of pumping cold air into a warming climate. Maude Barlow Stan Cox, in his fascinating book *Losing Our Cool*, offers a long list of ways in which air conditioning has transformed the U.S. economy. Bradford Plumer, *The Washington Post* As Stan Cox details in his excellent new book, *Losing Our Cool*, air conditioning has been a major force in shaping western society. *The National* Stan Cox offers both some sobering facts and some interesting strategies for thinking through a big part of our energy dilemma. Bill McKibben Well-written, thoroughly researched, with a truly global focus, the book offers much for consumers, environmentalists, and policy makers to consider before powering up to cool down. *Publishers Weekly*