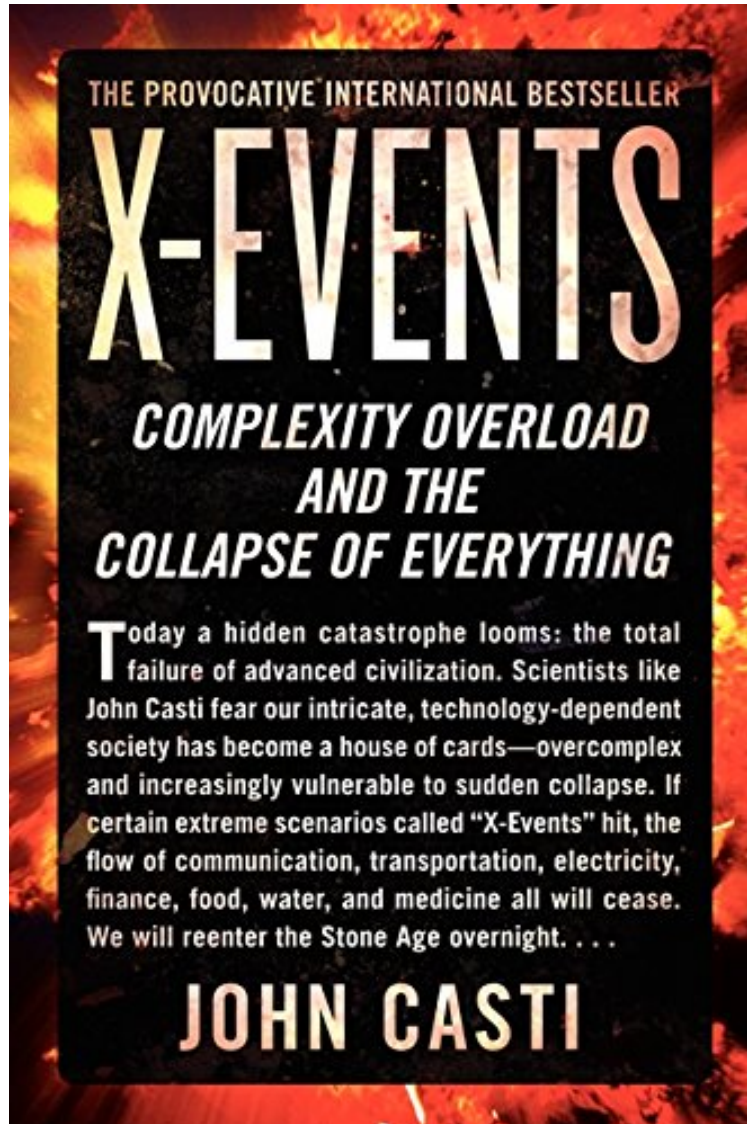


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I am an assiduous reader of John Casti's books. He is a real scientific intellectual. (NASSIM NICHOLAS TALEB, author of *The Black Swan*) One of America's greatest pioneers of simulation. (*London Times*) From the Back Cover: A page-turning exploration of eleven scenarios that may trigger the collapse of the modern world. A renowned systems theorist, John Casti shows how our world has become impossibly complicated, relying on ever more advanced technology that is developing at an exponential rate. Yet it is a fact of mathematical life that higher and higher levels of complexity lead to systems that are increasingly fragile and susceptible to sudden, spectacular collapse. Fascinating and chilling, *X-Events* provides a provocative tour of the catastrophic outlier scenarios that could quickly send us crashing back to the preindustrial age: global financial "black swans"; a worldwide crash of the Internet that would halt all communication; the end of oil; nuclear winter; "nanoplagues"; robot uprisings; electromagnetic pulses; pandemic viruses; and more. You won't ever look at the world the same way again. About the Author: American complexity scientist and systems theorist John Casti, is cofounder of The X-Center, a Vienna-based research institute focusing on human-caused extreme events and how to anticipate them. Casti has published nearly twenty volumes of academic and popular science and received his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Southern California. He lives in Vienna, Austria.