

CONTENTS

- List of Illustrations ix
List of Tables xiii
Preface xv
Acknowledgments xvii
- 1 Introduction to natural hazards 1**
Rationale 1
Historical background 1
The world of myths and legends Catastrophism vs uniformitarianism Catastrophe theory The relationship between humans and natural hazards
Chapter outlines 8
- 1 Climatic hazards 13**
2 Large-scale storms as a hazard 15
Introduction 15
Tropical cyclones 18
Introduction Mechanics of cyclone generation Magnitude and frequency World cyclone disasters Geological significance Impact and response
Extra-tropical cyclones 30
Formation Disasters
Storm surges 36
Introduction Causes Probability of occurrence
- 3 Strong wind as a hazard 42**
Introduction 42
Tornadoes 42
Introduction Form and formation Occurrence Tornado destruction Geological and ecological significance Response
Dust storms 50
Introduction Formation Location and frequency of occurrence Major storm events Geological significance
Localized strong winds 55
- 4 Oceanographic hazards 58**
Introduction 58
Waves as a hazard 59
Theory Wave generation World distribution of high waves Waves as a hazard at sea
- Sea-ice as a hazard 65
Ice in the ocean Ice at shore
- Sea-level rise as a hazard 69
Introduction Role of the Greenhouse effect Current rates of change in sea-level worldwide Factors causing sea-level oscillations Global associations between sea-level and climate
- Beach erosion hazard 75
Introduction Sea-level rise and the Bruun rule General causes of erosion Erosion resulting from increased rainfall Erosion attributed to storminess Concluding remarks
- 5 Causes and prediction of drought and flood 85**
Introduction 85
Changes in circulation patterns 86
Drought conditions exacerbated by humans 89
Rajputana desert Sahel region Australia
The Southern Oscillation 93
Introduction Southern Oscillation phenomena Global long-term links to drought and floods Links to other hazards
Sunspots and the 18.6-year lunar cycles 101
Description Astronomical cycles and worldwide drought and rainfall Astronomical cycles and the Southern Oscillation
Concluding comments 105
- 6 Response to droughts 108**
Introduction 108
Droughts and national governments 110
African policy Western societies
International response to drought 117
International relief organizations International aid flops Bob Geldof
Long-term consequences of drought 122
- 7 Associated precipitation hazards 124**
Introduction 124
Thunderstorms, lightning and hail 124
Thunderstorms Lightning Hail
Snowstorms, blizzards and freezing rain 130
Snowstorms Blizzards Freezing rain
Concluding comments 136

8 Flooding as a hazard 138

- Introduction 138
 Flash floods 138
Magnitude and frequency of heavy rainfall Flood power Flash flood events
 High magnitude, regional floods 148
Mississippi River floods of 1973 Great Australian floods of 1974
 Geological changes due to flooding of large rivers 152
A model for change Historical changes to the Mississippi River Historical changes to the Hwang Ho River

9 Fires in nature 157

- Introduction 157
 Worldwide distribution of vegetation 158
 Conditions favouring intense bushfires 159
 Causes of bushfires 162
 Bushfire disasters 163
The world United States Australia
 Concluding comments 169

II Geological hazards 171**10 Causes and prediction of earthquakes and volcanoes 173**

- Introduction 173
 Scales for measuring earthquake intensity 173
 Distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes 175
 Causes of earthquakes and volcanoes 178
Plate boundaries Hot spots Other faulting and Dilatancy Reservoirs or dams
 Prediction of earthquakes and volcanoes 181
Introduction Clustering of volcanic and seismic events Long-term prediction of seismic activity Short-term prediction of seismic and volcanic activity
 Concluding comments 193

11 Earthquakes and tsunami as hazards 195

- Types of shock waves 195
 Seismic risk maps 196
 Earthquake disasters 198
General Tokyo earthquake (1 September 1923) Alaskan earthquake (27 March 1964) The Californian earthquake hazard
 Liquefaction or thixotropy 203
 Tsunami 206

- Description Disaster descriptions Prediction in the Pacific region The threat in Australia*
 Concluding comments 215

12 Volcanoes as a hazard 218

- Introduction 218
 Types of volcanic eruptions 220
 Volcanic hazards 221
Lava flows Ballistics and tephra clouds Pyroclastic flows and base surges Gases and acid rains Lahars Glacier bursts
 Volcanic disasters 228
Vesuvius (25 August AD 79) Mount Pelée (8 May 1902) Krakatoa (26–27 August 1883) Mount St Helens (18 May 1980)

13 Land instability as a hazard 236

- Introduction 236
 Soil mechanics 236
Stress and strain Friction, cohesion and coherence Shear strength of soils: Mohr-Coulomb equation Pore water pressure Rigid and elastic solids Plastic solids
 Classification of land instability 241
Introduction Expansive soils Creep and solifluction Mud and debris flows Landslides and slumps Rockfalls Debris avalanches Air-supported flows
 Subsidence 254
 Concluding comments 255

III Social Impact 257**14 Personal and group response to hazards 259**

- Introduction 259
 Before the event 259
Warnings and evacuation Preparedness, if warned
 Dealing with the event and its aftermath 262
Response during the event Death and grief Possessions and homes Anti-social behaviour Resettlement Myths and heroes
 Additional impacts 268
Emotional problems Critical incidence stress syndrome

15 Epilogue 273

- Glossary 275
 Index 287