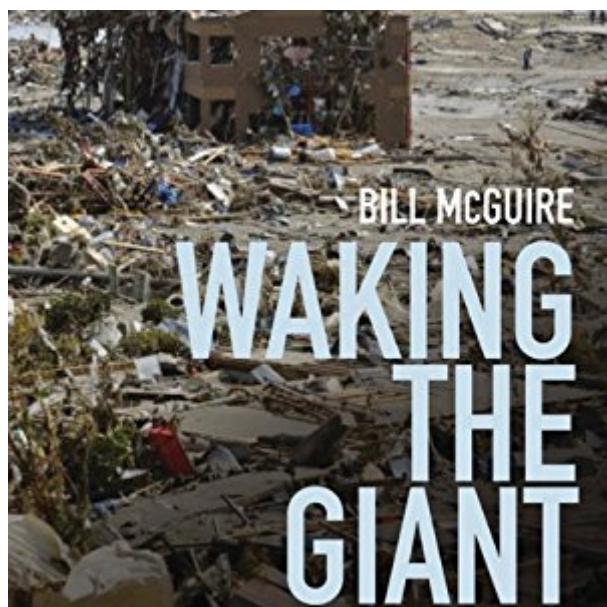


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# **Waking The Giant: How A Changing Climate Triggers Earthquakes, Tsunamis, And Volcanoes**



## **Synopsis**

An astonishing transformation over the last 20,000 years has seen our planet changed from a frigid wasteland into the temperate world within which our civilization has grown and thrived. This dynamic episode in our planet's history, right at the close of the Ice Age, saw not only a huge temperature hike but also the Earth's crust bouncing and bending in response to the melting of the great ice sheets and the filling of the ocean basins - dramatic geophysical events that triggered earthquakes, spawned tsunamis, and provoked a series of eruptions from the world's volcanoes. In *Waking the Giant*, Bill McGuire argues that now that human activities are driving climate change as rapidly as anything seen in post-glacial times, the sleeping giant beneath our feet is stirring once again. When and if it finally wakes, we should all be afraid - very afraid. Could we be leaving our children not only a far hotter world, but a more geologically unstable one too?

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Anthropogenic climate change is, in this reviewer's opinion, one of the most significant problems we face. The term "global warming" only describes a mechanism and not the totality of its effects. Murphy is a vulcanologist and uses his knowledge of Earth science to describe reasonably likely effects of continued global warming and its resulting climate change on tectonic plate movement and other causes of earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. We can reasonably expect to see significantly more such destructive events in the near future. I would have liked to see more citing of sources of information that would better help the reader in conversation with

skeptics.(This reviewer is not the person of the same name mentioned in the book.)

I have been researching and writing about water for over forty years, and have a library of over 600 books dealing with water and/or the environment.In my opinion, this book is a well written fascinating read, and I have recommended this book to many of my friends and professional peers.The book's author, Bill McGuire, has deepened my knowledge of various ice ages and sea level changes throughout the evolution of our planet.The theme flowing throughout the book is an exploration relative to the potential impacts of our human anthropogenic influences on weather; sea level; volcanic activity; climate change; glacier and polar ice melting, and other changes that may threaten survival of human civilization and other life forms. To that end, this book is successful in opening our minds to historical geological data - especially, data that documents historic atmospheric scenarios similar to what we have today.I also enjoyed learning about: the volcanic eruption from 74,000 years ago that almost caused the extinction of our human race; how the moon and sun push and pull on our tectonic plates; the new measurement scale for earthquakes; how dams cause earthquakes; how earthquakes occur when ice pressure is removed; history of how water causes mega landslides on land and beneath the ocean; how 10 to 50 times the quantity of water in our Earth's oceans is locked deep in our planet's interior; how volatile and destructive methane gas, locked in gas hydrates beneath ice and oceans, can virtually change our Earth's climate overnight.Regardless of one's background - if you want to get an overview of climate change and global warming, and see through the garbage being circulated by today's special interests and television's uninformed and manipulated talking heads - READ THIS BOOK.

McGuire book was an excellent read. He outlines how the earth has gone through astonishing transformations and how current human induced climate change may bring about both geological changes and climatic changes, such as possible reawakening of long dormant volcanoes and earthquake faults. I would recommend this book to a layman like myself who is very interested in addressing climate change.

Revolutionary start to a new awareness of climate change. As we grasp these implications it will become the main focus of concern, global warming will be increasingly associated with volcanism. A readable summary of this new direction for earth physics. My own opinion is that eventually, by 2027, we will realize that climate changes, and earth tidal forces, are the real motivators for plate tectonics. What the book demonstrates of the scientific change so far, is only a beginning.

I first came across Bill McGuire (aka Disasterman), Director of the Aon Benfield UCL Hazard Research Center, volcanologist, Benfield Professor of geophysical hazards at the University of London, and author of "Waking the Giant" in Susan Casey's nonfiction best-seller— The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks, and Giants of the Ocean, where he made some serious predictions about how the changing climate is going to affect (among other things) wave height and the intensity of storms. I had also seen him on at least a couple of the cable TV programs that specialize in the prediction of humanity's demise in various unpleasant ways. I particularly remember him discussing the prospect of another eruption of the Yellowstone super-volcano, and the possibility of a mega-tsunami triggered by the future collapse of La Palma's Cumbre Vieja volcano (this book takes the problem of collapsing volcanoes even further in the chapter, "Earth in Motion"). Professor McGuire was one of our earliest scientific prophets of world-wide disaster, and has published many books and papers on the subject, including— Global Catastrophes: A Very Short Introduction. His newest book, "Waking the Giant" (2011) concentrates on the mechanisms by which climate change triggers earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. This book does not rehash arguments for and against the reality of climate change. It assumes anthropogenic climate change is a fact and moves on to detail our vulnerability to the geological manifestations caused by the rapid warming of our planet. Our planet's past is the key by which this author predicts our future: "rapid and dramatic environmental changes in the past, particularly at times of major climate transition, have...elicited a considerable response at the Earth's surface and beneath. Many geological systems such as extant volcanoes, active faults, and unstable slopes are shown to be often critically poised so that even tiny external perturbations can be capable of triggering reactions in the form, respectively, of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and landslides." When is the most logical time in our planet's past to determine how rapid climate changes drive geological catastrophes? Warm episodes with carbon-enriched atmospheres and rapidly melting ice sheets provide a good analogue to current conditions. What Professor McGuire and other scientists have discovered during these periods is what makes reading this book like watching a horror movie in slow-motion. In these pages, monstrous catastrophes bound toward us out of the past as a preview of our future. Landslide activity in mountainous regions around the world already seems to be increasing: "In the Andes, where 18,000 died in 1970, obliterated by a massive rock and ice avalanche triggered by an offshore earthquake, progressively rising temperatures are likely to seriously increase the landslide risk to those towns and villages huddled beneath the world's longest land-hosted mountain range." This book provides a disturbing, well-documented scenario for what our future will be like

when the slumbering giant beneath our feet wakens once again.

While it's true that author Bill McGuire sometimes seems overly invested in the possibility of catastrophe, this book convincingly argues that the effects of changing pressures from receding ice and increasing oceanic water levels may include earthquakes and volcanoes.

we normally think only about next week, but this will challenge you to think about bigger things on a longer time scale. Good read.

Okay, but a bit mediocre.

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