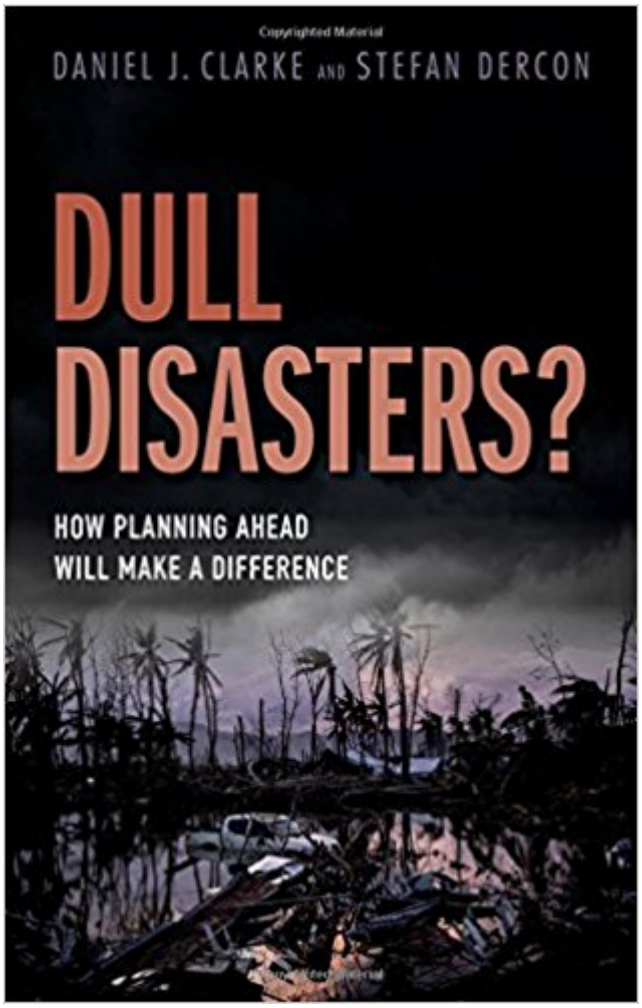
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Dull Disasters?: How Planning Ahead Will Make A Difference



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Synopsis

In recent years, typhoons have struck the Philippines and Vanuatu; earthquakes have rocked Haiti, Pakistan, and Nepal; floods have swept through Pakistan and Mozambique; droughts have hit Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia; and more. All led to loss of life and loss of livelihoods, and recovery will take years. One of the likely effects of climate change is to increase the likelihood of the type of extreme weather events that seems to cause these disasters. But do extreme events have to turn into disasters with huge loss of life and suffering? Dull Disasters? harnesses lessons from finance, political science, economics, psychology, and the natural sciences to show how countries and their partners can be far better prepared to deal with disasters. The insights can lead to practical ways in which governments, civil society, private firms, and international organizations can work together to reduce the risks to people and economies when a disaster looms. Responses to disasters then become less emotional, less political, less headline-grabbing, and more business as usual and effective.The book takes the reader through a range of solutions that have been implemented around the world to respond to disasters. It gives an overview of the evidence on what works and what doesn't and it examines the crucial issue of disaster risk financing. Building on the latest evidence, it presents a set of lessons and principles to guide future thinking, research, and practice in this area.

Book Information

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (July 16, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0198785577

ISBN-13: 978-0198785576

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.7 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,391,246 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 inÃ Â Books > Business & Money > Insurance > Property #271 inÃ Â Books > Business & Money > Economics > Urban & Regional #904 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Natural Disasters

Customer Reviews

"With innovations in science and finance, making disasters 'dull' must be our aim. Shocks don't need to become full blown disasters, if we better anticipate and pre-plan for shocks, and reinforce

local response capacity. The World Humanitarian Summit and what flows from it provide a key opportunity to make this happen." -- Stephen O'Brien, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs"A thought-provoking book with a selection of excellent ideas for managing risks. For a country like Ethiopia subject to frequent drought the ideas on planning for and managing shocks in advance makes sense. Climate change makes it even more likely that the frequency of these shocks will increase in the future, and we need to plan for this. This kind of approach, linking the public and private sector in insuring and financing disasters, gives us much to take and consider." -- Sufian Ahmed, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia; Former Minister of Finance, Ethiopi"This book is a timely and valuable contribution to an important global conversation on addressing risk and vulnerability. Disasters are becoming more severe and the impact of climate change - the ultimate threat multiplier - is exacerbating food insecurity, water scarcity, conflict and migration. In Dull Disasters, the authors offer a persuasive message: today's disasters need leaders who do not just respond emotionally and energetically to crises, but leaders who use political, legal, and financial mechanisms that result in better preparedness." -- Gloria Grandolini, Sr. Director Finance and Markets Global Practice, The World Bank Group"Countries have a great deal to gain from anticipating the use of a portfolio of financial instruments to improve their capacity to cope with disasters and manage catastrophic risks. Doing so requires careful diagnostics, design, experimentation, and evaluation. Yet, this is a vastly under-researched topic. In that perspective, the book makes a unique contribution to the literature by critically summarizing the current state of research on this issue and constructing a research agenda. This will be most useful in guiding future research on the management of disaster risk and recovery." -- Alain de Janvry, Professor of Agricultural & Resource Economics, University of California at Berkeley"Natural catastrophes are increasing in frequency and severity. What is more, the gap between economic and insured losses has remained stubbornly large. The consequences are especially severe in emerging and developing countries, which are both the worst hit and the least prepared. Tools exist to narrow that gap using innovative solutions that can help countries, cities and individuals preserve hard-won development gains even in the face of floods, earthquakes, adverse weather and other setbacks. This book highlights a sensible way forward to make the world more resilient." -- Martyn Parker, Chairman Global Partnership, Swiss Re"Given the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters brought on by climate change and the stress of massive numbers of displaced people placed on all of society due to man-made disasters, planning for disasters is increasingly crucial for society. This book brings the needs, principles and processes together in a highly readable fashion.

It is a must read for all policy makers and students of public, private, and non-government institutions." -- Jerry Skees, H. B. Price Professor of Agricultural Policy and Risk, University of Kentucky

Daniel J. Clarke is an actuary and development economist who works as a Senior Insurance Specialist in the Disaster Risk Financing & Insurance Program, a joint program between the World Bank Group and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. Over the last decade he has worked with more than twenty developing country governments to develop efficient, cost-effective solutions for enhanced financial protection against disasters. He has a first class degree from Cambridge University in Mathematics in Computer Science and a D.Phil. in Economics from the University of Oxford, and is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries.Stefan Dercon is Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Oxford, and a Professorial Fellow of Wolfson College. He is also Chief Economist of the UK Department for International Development. Previously he taught in Belgium and at the University of Addis Ababa. His interest is in applying microeconomics and statistics to problems of development. He has worked on risk and poverty, agriculture and rural institutions, political economy, childhood poverty, social and geographic mobility, micro-insurance, and measurement issues related to poverty and vulnerability.

As a dedicated Insurance-linked securities (ILS) and reinsurance professional, I was delighted to find and read this relevant and timely gem. Daniel Clarke and Stefan Dercon cleverly and persuasively address the complex challenges the nation-state (and their international partners) face from the destructive forces of Mother Nature. The wisdom shared in this book will be useful to the various stakeholders of society and applied to natural events globally.DonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t be fooled by the title ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœDull Disasters?ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ this book is anything but dull. In parts, the book seems to be an uncomfortable mirror of reality. More deeply, though, the book is something else. It offers a new perspective and suggests tools on how to improve things and therefore is a book of hope on how to dull natural disasters. A good book to read and re-read, highly recommended!(Antonio Guevara, London)

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