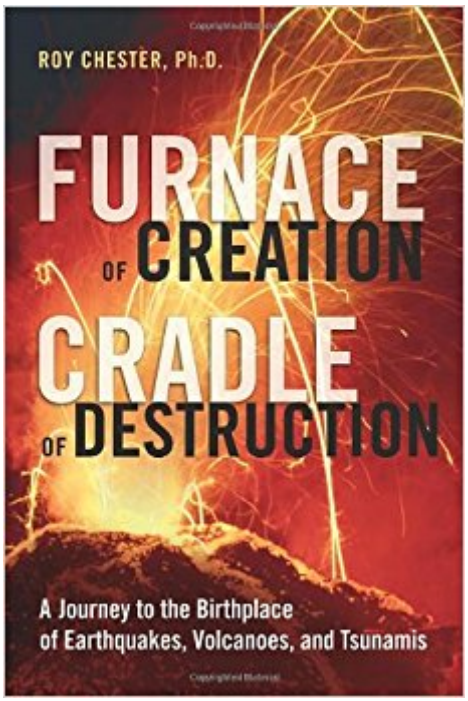
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Furnace Of Creation, Cradle Of Destruction: A Journey To The Birthplace Of Earthquakes, Volcanoes, And Tsunamis



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Synopsis

Choice Outstanding Academic Titles of 2009 Earth Science category Over the past few years, devastating tsunamis off the coast of the Indian Ocean have killed hundreds of thousands of people. Even more alarmingly, scientists predict that these tsunamis, as well as a series of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, may eventually threaten Hawaii, California, and Oregon. The cause of this trinity of natural disasters is plate tectonics. Perhaps the greatest advance made in the field of earth science, the plate-tectonics theory argues that the surface of the Earth is broken into large plates, which change in size and position over time. The edges of these plates rub against each other, causing earthquakes, volca-noes, and tsunamis that continue to inflict such intense destruction to the surface our planet. In Furnace of Creation, Cradle of Destruction, renowned scientist Roy Chester reveals the fascinating history of this discovery and tells the enigmatic story of one of the great mysteries of our time: how the surface of our planet was created and how it has evolved. From the early discoveries of Sir Francis Bacon to the begin-nings of geology and the controversy surrounding the theory of conti-nental drift, this impeccably researched book reveals the evolution of a vital scientific theory. Lucid and compelling, this book offers a long-awaited explanation of the underlying forces that shape our world.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Eminently readable!...outstanding book provides a clear explanation of theÃ¢â ¬Â¦Ã¢â ¬Ëœdisaster trinitiesÃ¢â ¬â„¢... A rare and refreshing read!.. Highly

recommended.Ã¢â ¬Â• -- Choice magazine Ã¢â ¬Å“Ã¢â ¬Â¦ full of good science, interesting charactersÃ¢â ¬Â¦a fine resource for a high school geology student or teacher.Ã¢â ¬Â• -- NSTA Recommends

Choice Outstanding Academic Titles of 2009 Earth Science category Over the past few years, devastating tsunamis off the coast of the Indian Ocean have killed hundreds of thousands of people. Even more alarmingly, scientists predict that these tsunamis, as well as a series of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, may eventually threaten Hawaii, California, and Oregon. The cause of this trinity of natural disasters is plate tectonics. Perhaps the greatest advance made in the field of earth science, the plate-tectonics theory argues that the surface of the Earth is broken into large plates, which change in size and position over time. The edges of these plates rub against each other, causing earthquakes, volcaÃ Â- noes, and tsunamis that continue to inflict such intense destruction to the surface our planet. In Furnace of Creation, Cradle of Destruction, renowned scientist Roy Chester reveals the fascinating history of this discovery and tells the enigmatic story of one of the great mysteries of our time: how the surface of our planet was created and how it has evolved. From the early discoveries of Sir Francis Bacon to the beginÃ Â- nings of geology and the controversy surrounding the theory of contiÃ Â- nental drift, this impeccably researched book reveals the evolution of a vital scientific theory. Lucid and compelling, this book offers a long-awaited explanation of the underlying forces that shape our world.

The development and acceptance of plate tectonics theory is arguably the most important advance in Science since the Darwinian revolution (I am a Geneticist). I have followed the story (from its obscurity) for 60 years, and in my opinion this book is still up to date on what it covers. I read again it to review its clear and concise approach when starting a new school year of volunteering in classrooms. Also I have bought it to present to friends who are interested in Science but are not Geologists. The feedback from my 96 year old friend who received this copy was "I am enjoying this immensely."

He was unable to take this course at the time he went to college and more is being learned about it all the tim.e

The author clearly explains the history of earth science as it relates to the realization of plate tectonics. This is fascinating and eye-opening for a layperson like me! I found myself up late several

nights reading this book.The author also makes the material relevant by using the natural disasters across time to illustrate many points. There are over a dozen "Panels" that explain some of the most incredible natural disasters such as the New Madrid earthquake of 1811-12, the Pakistan earthquake of 2005, and of course the 2004 Tsunami in Indonesia. There are also many charts and diagrams explaining plate tectonics, ocean floor spreading, fault lines, "hot zones", etc. Add to that the many charts (such as the most devastating earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis of recorded history) - these all make the book an easy read.If you were horrified yet fascinated with the 2004 Tsunami and the science surrounding our understanding of the events, then this book will definitely keep your attention.The only minor criticism I have is that the author mentions the "shackles of religion" holding back modern science and seems to think that modern science has made religion and/or faith redundant. I would strongly disagree with this. But, that is a VERY minor criticism.Highly recommended.

this was a huge mess! Besides being wrong in many points, he was inaccurate in many others. The only chapter worth keeping was the one on Plate Tectonics. Where was the editor on this???

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