



The Tangshan earthquake, also known as the Great Tangshan earthquake, was a natural disaster that occurred on July 28, 1976. It is believed to be the largest earthquake was near Tangshan in Hebei, the People's Republic of China, an industrial city with approximately one million inhabitants. The number of deaths initially reported by the Chinese government was 655,000, but this number has since been stated to be around 240,000 to 255,000. 9. 526 Antioch earthquake hit Syria (region) and Antioch in the Byzantine Empire in 526. It struck during late May, probably between May 20-29, at midmorning, killing approximately 250,000 people. The earthquake was followed by a fire that destroyed most of the buildings left standing by the earthquake. The maximum intensity in Antioch is estimated to be between VIII (Severe) and IX (Violent) on the Mercalli intensity scale. 8. 1970 Bhola cyclone The 1970 Bhola cyclone was a devastating tropical cyclone that struck East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh) and India's West Bengal on November 12, 1970. It remains the deadliest natural disasters. Death toll estimates go from 250,000 to 500,000 people lost their lives in the storm, primarily as a result of the storm surge that flooded much of the low-lying islands of the Ganges Delta. This cyclone was the sixth cyclonic storm of the 1970 North Indian Ocean cyclone season, and also the season's strongest. 7. 1920 Haiyuan earthquake occurred on December 16 in Haiyuan County, Ningxia Province, Republic of China. It was also called the 1920 Gansu earthquake because Ningxia was a part of Gansu Province when the earthquake occurred. The highest death toll estimates are 273,000. 6. 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake occurred on 26 December with the epicenter off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. The shock had a moment magnitude of 9.1-9.3. The undersea megathrust earthquake was caused when the Indian Ocean. It killed 230,000-280,000 people in 14 countries and inundated coastal communities with waves up to 30 meters (100 ft) high. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. Indonesia was the hardest-hit country, followed by Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand. 5. 1737 Calcutta cyclone On 7 October 1737, a natural disaster struck the city of Calcutta in India. For a long time, this was believed in Europe to have been the result of an earthquake, but it is now believed to have been a tropical cyclone. Thomas Joshua Moore, the duties collector for the British East India Company in Calcutta, wrote in his official report that a storm and flood had destroyed nearly all the thatched buildings and killed 3,000 of the city's inhabitants. Other reports from merchant ships indicated an earthquake and tidal surge were been a tropical cyclone. to blame, destroying 20,000 ships in the harbor and killing 300,000 people. It should be noted that the population of Calcutta at the time was around 3,000-20,000. 4. 1839 India cyclone On 25 November 1839, an enormous cyclone caused a 40-foot storm surge that hit Coringa, Andhra Pradesh, wiped out the harbor city, destroyed vessels in its bay, and killed 300,000 people. Survivors never entirely rebuilt the city. 3. 1556 Shaanxi earthquake The 1556 Shaanxi earthquake on record, killing approximately 830,000 people. It occurred on the morning of 23 January 1556 in Shaanxi, during the Ming Dynasty. More than 97 counties were affected. Buildings were damaged slightly in the cities of Beijing, Chengdu, and Shanghai. An 840-kilometre-wide (520 mi) area was destroyed, and in some counties, as much as 60% of the population in the area at the time lived in yardangs, artificial caves in loess cliffs, many of which collapsed with catastrophic loss of life. 2. 1887 Yellow River flood on the Yellow River flood on the Yellow River flood on the Yellow River (Huang He) in China. This river is prone to flooding due to the elevated nature of the river, running between dikes above the broad plains surrounding it. The flood, that began in September 1887, killed about 900,000 people. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters ever recorded. The highest estimates of the death toll are about 2 million. 1. 1931 China floods that occurred in the Republic of China. The floods are generally considered among the deadliest natural disasters ever recorded, and almost certainly the deadliest of the 20th century (when pandemics and famines are discounted). Estimates of the total death toll range from 145,000 to between 3.7 million and 4 million. Volcanic eruption on Martinique This article needs additional citations for verification. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Find sources: "1902 eruption of Mount Pelée" - news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (January 2020) (Learn how and when to remove this message) 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée Eruption column on 27 May 1902 Volcano Mount Pelée Eruption of Mount Pelée" - news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (January 2020) (Learn how and when to remove this message) 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée 1905[1]TypePhreatic, PeléanLocationMartinique, France14°48′27″N 61°10′03″W / 14.80750°N 61.16750°W / 14.80750; -61.16750VEI4[1]ImpactApproximately 29,000 deaths; deadliest eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption of the 20th century.[2] The 1902 eruption of Mount Pelée was a volcanic eruption erupt eastern Caribbean, which was one of the deadliest eruptions in recorded history. Eruptive activity began on 23 April as a series of phreatic eruptions from the summit of Mount Pelée. Within days, the vigor of these eruptions from the summit of Mount Pelée. May, when the phreatic eruptions increased again. Lightning laced the eruption clouds and trade winds dumped ash on villages to the west. Heavy ash fell, sometimes causing total darkness. Some of the afflicted residents panicked and headed for the perceived safety of larger settlements, especially Saint-Pierre, about 10 km (6.2 mi) south of Pelée's summit. Saint-Pierre received its first ash fall on 3 May.[3] Mount Pelée remained relatively quiet until the afternoon of 5 May when a mudflow swept down a river on the southwest flank of the volcano, destroying a sugar mill. The massive flow buried about 150 people and generated a series of three tsunamis as it hit the sea. The tsunamis swept along the coast, damaging buildings and boats. The explosions resumed the night of 5 May. The following morning, parts of the eruption had changed. The phreatic eruptions had finally given way to magmatic eruptions as magma reached the surface. These eruptions continued through the next day and night.[3] A brief lull was shattered by a tremendous eruption at about 8:00 a.m. on 8 May. A ground-hugging cloud of incandescent lava particles, suspended by searing turbulent gases called a pyroclastic surge, moved at hurricane speed down the southwest flank of the volcano. The surge reached Saint-Pierre at 8:02 a.m. Escape from the city was virtually impossible. Almost everyone within the city proper—about 28,000 people—died, burned or buried by falling masonry. The hot ash ignited a firestorm, fueled by smashed buildings and countless casks of rum. One survivor within the city was a prisoner (Ludger Sylbaris) who was locked in a windowless underground jail cell, later being discovered by rescue workers.[4] The only other survivors were a few tens of people caught within the margins of the cloud, who were all badly burned.[3] Explosive activity on 20 May resulted in another 2,000 deaths as rescuers, engineers and mariners brought supplies to the island. A powerful eruption on 30 August generated a pyroclastic flow that resulted in over 800 people killed. The eruption continued until 5 October 1905. Before the 1902 eruption, as early as the mid-19th century, signs of increased fumarole activity were present in the Étang Sec (Dry Pond) crater near the summit. [5] Relatively minor phreatic eruptions that occurred in 1792 and 1851 were evidence that the volcano was active and potentially dangerous. The indigenous Carib people were aware of the mountaintop. This was noted the appearance of sulfurous vapors emitting from fumaroles near the mountaintop. This was not regarded as important, as fumaroles had appeared and disappeared in the past. On 23 April there was a light rain of cinders on the mountain's southern and western side, together with seismic activity. On 25 April there was a light rain of cinders on the mountain's southern and western side, together with seismic activity. material did not cause a significant amount of damage. On 26 April the surroundings were dusted by volcanic ash from an explosion; the public authorities still did not see any cause for concern. On 27 April, several excursionists climbed the mountaintop to find Étang Sec filled with water, forming a lake 180 m (590 ft) across. There was a 15 m (50 ft) high cone of volcanic debris built up on one side, feeding the lake with a steady stream of boiling water. Sounds resembling a cauldron with boiling water were heard from deep underground. The strong smell of sulfur was all over the city, 6.4 km (4.0 mi) away from the volcano, causing discomfort to people and horses. On 30 April Rivière des Pères and the river Roxelane swelled, carrying boulders and trees from the mountaintop. The villages of Prêcheur and Sainte-Philomène received a steady stream of ash. At 11:30 p.m. on 2 May, the mountaintop received a steady stream of ash. At 11:30 p.m. on 2 May, the mountaintop. the island. The explosions continued at 5-6 hour intervals. This led the local newspaper Les Colonies to indefinitely postpone a proposed picnic on the mountain, originally planned for 4 May.[citation needed] Farm animals started dying from hunger and thirst, as their sources of water and food were contaminated with ash. On Saturday 3 May, the wind blew the ash cloud northwards, alleviating the situation in Saint-Pierre. The next day the ash fall intensified, and the communication between Saint-Pierre and the prêcheur district was severed. The ash cloud was so dense that the coastal boats feared navigating through it. Many citizens decided to flee the city, filling the steamer lines to capacity. The area was covered with a layer of fine, flour-like white ash. 1902 eruption On Monday 5 May, activity appeared to decrease, but at about 1:00 p.m. the sea suddenly receded about 100 m (330 ft) and then rushed back, flooding parts of the city, and a large cloud of smoke appeared westward of the mountain. One wall of the Étang Sec crater collapsed and propelled a mass of boiling water and mud (a lahar) into the Blanche River, flooded the Guérin sugar works and buried about 150 victims under 60 to 90 m (200 to 300 ft) of mud. Refugees from other areas rushed into Saint-Pierre. That night, the atmospheric disturbances disabled the electric grid, sank the city into darkness and added to the confusion. The next day at about 02:00, loud sounds were heard from within the depths of the mountaintop, and both craters glowed reddish orange into the night. Through the day, people were leaving the city, but more people from the countryside were attempting to find refuge in the city, increasing its population by several thousand. The newspapers still claimed the city was safe. News of the Soufrière volcano erupting on the newspapers still claimed the city was safe. pressure was being relieved. However, Captain Marina Leboffe's barque Orsolina left the harbor with only half of his cargo of sugar loaded, despite shippers' protests and under threat of arrest. Leboffe, a native Neapolitan, reportedly told the port authorities, "I know nothing about Mt. Pelée, but if Vesuvius were looking the way your volcano looks this morning, I'd get out of Naples!"[6] Many other civilians were refused permission to leave town.[7] Governor Louis Mouttet and his wife stayed in the city, although he planned to make an excursion closer to the volcano in the morning. By the evening, Mount Pelée's tremors seemed to calm down again. Evacuees on Rue du Pavé, Fort-de-France after 1902 eruption, photographed by William H. Rau Relief map of the pyroclastic surges of Mount Pelee Map of St Pierre 1 January 1902 On Thursday morning 8 May, the night shift telegraph operator was sending the reports of the volcano's activity to the operator was sending the reports of the volcano's activity to the operator was sending the reports of the volcano's activity to the operator at Fort-de-France, claiming no significant new developments; his last transmission at 07:52 was "Allez", handing over the line to the remote operator. In the next second, the telegraph line went dead. The upper mountainside ripped open and a dense black cloud rolled upwards, forming a gigantic mushroom cloud and darkening the sky in an 80 km (50 mi) radius. The initial speed of both clouds was later calculated to be over 160 km/h (100 mph).[8] The horizontal pyroclastic surge hugged the ground and sped down towards the city of Saint-Pierre, appearing black and heavy, glowing hot from within. It consisted of superheated steam and volcanic gases and dust, with temperatures exceeding 1,075 °C (1,967 °F). In under a minute it reached and covered the entire city, instantly igniting everything combustible. The cable repair ship, CS Grappler, floating offshore, was set on fire and sunk by the surge, with the loss of all hands.[9] The Canadian cargo liner Roraïma was also set aflame and reduced to a burning wreck by the pyroclastic flow. The wreck is still present offshore of Saint-Pierre. Twenty-eight of her crew, and all passengers except two (nine year-old Margaret or Mary Stokes and her creole nurse or nanny), were killed.[7][10] A rush of wind followed, this time towards the mountain. Then came a half-hour downpour of muddy rain mixed with ashes. For the next several hours, all communication with the city was severed. Nobody knew what was happening, nor who had authority over the island, as the governor was unreachable and his status unknown. There are unnamed eyewitness said "the mountain was blown to pieces—there was no warning," while another said "it was like a giant oil refinery." One said "the town vanished before our eyes." The area devastated by the pyroclastic cloud covered about 21 km2 (8 sq mi), with the city of Saint-Pierre taking the brunt of the damage. At the time of the eruption, Saint-Pierre had a population of about 28,000, which had swollen with refugees from the minor explosions and mud flows first emitted by the volcano. Legend has previously reported that out of the 30,000 in the city, there were only two survivors: Louis-Auguste Cyparis, a felon held in an underground cell in the town's jail for wounding a friend with a cutlass, and Léon Compère-Léandre, a man who lived at the edge of the city. In reality, there were a number of survivors who made their way out of the fringes of the blast zone. Many of these survivors—whose names and stories were never recorded—were badly burned, and some died later from their injuries. A number made their way to Le Carbet, just south of Saint-Pierre behind a ridge that protected that town from the worst of the pyroclastic flow; survivors were rescued on the beach there by Martinique officials.[11] Remains of Saint-Pierre Compère-Léandre stated the following, the earth began to tremble, and the sky suddenly became dark. I turned to go into the house, with great difficulty climbed the three or four steps that separated me from my room, and felt my arms and legs burning, also my body. I dropped upon a table. At this moment four others sought refuge in my room, crying and writhing with pain, although their garments showed no sign of having been touched by flame. At the end of 10 minutes one of these, the young Delavaud girl, aged about 10 years, fell dead; the others left. I got up and went to another room, where I found the father Delavaud, still clothed and lying on the bed, dead. He was purple and inflated, but the clothing was intact. Crazed and almost overcome, I threw myself on a bed, inert and awaiting death. My senses returned to me in perhaps an hour, when I beheld the roof burning. With sufficient strength left, my legs bleeding and covered with burns, I ran to Fonds-Saint-Denis, six kilometers from Saint-Pierre.[7] One woman, a housemaid, also survived the pyroclastic flow but died very shortly after being discovered. A third reported survivor was Havivra Da Ifrile, a 10-year-old girl who had rowed to shelter in a cave.[12] Included among the victims were the passengers and crews of several ships docked at Saint-Pierre. Remains of the Roraima before it sank At about 12:00, the acting governor of Martinique sent the cruiser Suchet to investigate what had happened and the warship arrived off the burning town at about 12:30. The fierce heat beat back landing parties until nearly 15:00, when the captain came ashore on the Place Bertin, the tree-shaded square with cafés near the center of town. Not a tree was standing; the denuded trunks, scorched and bare, lay prone, torn out by the roots. The ground was littered with dead. Fire and a suffocating stench prevented any deeper exploration of the burning ruins. May 14, 1902 remains of victims of the 1902 disaster Mt. Pelee- (View of St. Pierre, Martinique) (4544943822) Views of St. Pierre, ruins (Ludger Sylbaris at left?) Views of St. Pierre, Martinique) (4544943822) Views of St. Pierre, Martinique) (4544943822) Views of St. Pierre, ruins (Ludger Sylbaris at left?) Views of St. Pierre, Martinique) (4544943822) Views of St. Pierre, ruins (Ludger Sylbaris at left?) Views of St. Pierre, Martinique) (4544943822) Views of St. Pierre, ruins (Ludger Sylbaris at left?) Views of St. Pierre, Martinique) (4544943822) Views of St. Pierre, ruins (Ludger Sylbaris at left?) Views of St. Pierre, rui ruins Desolate City of the Dead, St. Pierre, Martinique, F. W. I Main Street, Le Morne-Rouge, after the August 30 eruption Meanwhile, a number of survivors had been blown into the water by the impact of the blast, and who had clung to wreckage for hours. All were badly burned In the village of Le Carbet, shielded from the fiery cloud by a high promontory at the southern end of the city, were more victims, also badly burned; few of these lived longer than a few hours.[citation needed] The area of devastation covered about 20 km2 (10 sq mi). Inside this area, the annihilation of life and property was total; outside was a second, clearly defined zone where there were casualties, but the material damage was less, while beyond this lay a strip in which vegetation was scorched but life was spared. Many victims were in casual attitudes, their features calm and reposeful, indicating that the eruption blast had reached them without warning; others were contorted in anguish.[citation needed] The clothing had been torn from nearly all the victims struck down outdoors. Some houses were almost pulverized; it was impossible even for those familiar with the city to identify the foundations of the dead by burning; burial was not possible given the number of dead. Thousands of victims lay under a shroud of ashes, heaped in windrows metres deep, caked by the rains; many of these bodies were not retrieved for weeks, and few were identifiable. The United States quickly offered help to Martinique's authorities. On 12 May, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt instructed the secretaries of war, navy, and treasury to start relief measures at once.[13] Multiple U.S. ships were dispatched to the island with haste, namely the cruiser Cincinnati, lying at Santo Domingo; the Dixie, a converted freighter which carried Army rations, medical supplies and doctors:[4] and the Navy tug l Puerto Rico. President Roosevelt asked Congress for an immediate appropriation of \$500,000 for emergency assistance to the victims of the calamity. Roosevelt said: "One of the greatest calamities in history has befallen our neighboring island of Martinique ... The city of St. Pierre has ceased to exist ... The government of France ... informs us that Fort-de-France and the entire island of Martinique are still threatened. They therefore request that, for the purpose of rescuing the people who are in such deadly peril and threatened with starvation, the government of the United States may send as soon as possible the means of transporting them from the stricken island." The U.S. Congress voted for \$200,000 of immediate assistance and set hearings to determine what larger sum might be needed when the full nature of the victims. A national committee of prominent citizens also took charge of chartering supply ships. Canada, the UK, Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Japan, Russia and the Vatican also offered help. The volcanic spine of Mount Pelée On May 20, a second eruption similar to the first one in both type and force obliterated what was left of Saint-Pierre, killing 2,000 rescuers, engineers, and mariners bringing supplies to the island. [14] During a powerful eruption on August 30, a pyroclastic flow extended further east than the flows of May 8 and 20. Although not guite as powerful as the previous two eruptions, the August 30 pyroclastic flow struck Morne Rouge, killing at least 800,[15] Ajoupa-Bouillon [16] (250 fatalities),[15] parts of Basse-Pointe (25 fatalities), and Morne-Capot (10 dead). [15] A tsunami caused some damage in Le Carbet. [16] To date, this was the last fatal eruption of Mount Pelée. [15] Beginning in October 1902, a large lava spine grew from the crater floor in the Étang Sec crater, reaching a maximum width of about 100 to 150 m (300 to 500 ft) and a height of about 300 m (1,000 ft). Called the "Needle of Pelée" or "Pelée's Tower", it grew 15 m (50 ft) a day, achieving more or less the same volume as the Great Pyramid of Egypt. After 5 months of growth, the unstable mass collapsed into a pile of rubble in March 1903.[17] The eruption eventually ended on October 5, 1905.[1] Southern face of Mount Pelée's lava spine showing the smoothly extruded eastern side The study of the causes of the disaster marked the beginning of modern volcanology with the definition and the analysis of the deadliest volcanic hazard: pyroclastic flows and surges, also known as "Peléan eruptions." Among those who studied Mount Pelée were Antoine Lacroix and Angelo Heilprin. Lacroix was the first to describe the nuée ardente (pyroclastic flow) phenomenon.[18][19] The destruction caused by the 1902 eruption was quickly publicized by recent modern means of communication.[citation needed] It brought to the attention of the public and governments the hazards and dangers of an active volcano. The Eruption of Mount Pelee - 1902 French film by Georges Méliès List of volcanic eruptions 1500-1999 List of volcanic eruptions by death toll 1902 eruption of Mount Lamington ^ a b c d "Pelée". Global Volcanism Program. Smithsonian Institution. Archived from the original on 4 August 2020. Retrieved 25 January 2020. ^ Tilling, Robert I.; Kauahikaua, James P.; Brantley, Steven R.; Neal, Christina A. (2014). "The Hawaiian Volcanoes. Government Printing Office. p. 2. ISBN 978-1-4113-3872-2. ^ a b c "Volcano Watch - Chronology of a volcanic disaster: The worst volcanic disaster of the 20th century occurred in 1902 on Martinique, an island in the French West Indies". 11 March 2004. Archived from this source, which is in the public domain. ^ a b McCullough, David (1977). "The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870-1914". ^ Scarth, Alwyn (2002). La Catastrophe. Oxford. p. 30. ^ "'Wave of Fire': The Maritime Catastrophe of Mont Pelee". SDSU. 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La Catastrophe. Oxford. pp. 219-210. ^ Masson. p. 38. Archived from the original on 31 May 2022. Retrieved 1 October 2020. From vol. 1, p. 38: After describing on p. 37 the eruption de ce que j'appellerai désormais la nuée ardente, un immense nuage de cendres couvrait l'ile tout entière, la saupoudrant d'une mince couche de débris volcaniques." (Shortly after the eruption of what I will call henceforth the dense, glowing cloud [nuée ardente], an immense cloud of cinders covered the entire island, sprinkling it with a thin layer of volcanic debris.) Retrieved from "Every year, some of the deadliest natural disasters — earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, wildfires and droughts — kill nearly 60,000 people, according to Global Change Data Lab. Violent natural disasters have been a fact of human life since the beginning of humankind, but the death counts of the most ancient of these disasters are lost to history. The ancient Mediterranean island of Thera (now Santorini, Greece), for example, experienced a catastrophic volcanic eruption that eradicated the entire Minoan civilization around 1600 B.C., according to a 2020 study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences. But exactly how many lives were lost? We'll never know. However, thanks to historical records and journals, historians can at least estimate the number of fatalities linked to disasters that occurred in the common era. According to such records, the following natural disasters are some of the deadliest of all time. You may like The A.D. 1138 Aleppo earthquakeThe 13th-century citadel of Aleppo in Syria has been listed since 1986 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (Image credit: DEA / C. SAPPA/De Agostini via Getty Images)On Oct. 11, 1138, the ground under the Syrian city of Aleppo began to shake. The city sits on the confluence of the quake is lost to time, but contemporary chroniclers reported that the city's citadel collapsed and houses crumbled across Aleppo. The resulting death toll is estimated at around 230,000, but that figure comes from the 15th century, and the historian who reported it may have conflated the Aleppo quake with one that occurred in what is now the modern-day Eurasian country of Georgia according to a 2004 paper in the journal Annals of Geophysics. Still, this supposed death toll marks this event as one of the most deadly natural disasters of all time. An aerial view of the destruction caused in Meulaboh city, Indonesia, by a quake and tidal wave that made landfall on Dec. 26, 2004. (Image credit: HO/AFP via Getty Images)Another deadly natural disaster was a catastrophic magnitude 9.1 earthquake that struck undersea off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, on Dec. 26, 2004. The quake created a massive tsunami that killed approximately 230,000, and displaced nearly 2 million people in 14 South Asian and East African countries. Traveling as fast as 500 mph (804 km/h), the tsunami reached land in as little as 15 to 20 minutes after the quake hit, giving residents little time to flee to higher ground. In some places, especially hardest-hit Indonesia, the tsunami are estimated at \$10 billion dollars. This event is considered the third largest earthquake in the world since 1900, and its tsunami has killed more people than any other tsunami in recorded history, according to NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information. The 1976 Tangshan earthquake in the world since 1900, and its tsunami has killed more people than any other tsunami has killed more people tsunami has killed more peop magnitude 7.8 earthquake in 1976. (Image credit: Sovfoto/Universal Images Group via Getty Images)At 3:42 a.m. on July 28, 1976, the Chinese city of Tangshan was razed to the ground by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake, according to a report by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Tangshan, an industrial city with a population of about 1 million at the time of the disaster, suffered staggering casualties of over 240,000. While this was the official death toll, some experts suggest this number is grossly underestimated and that the loss of life was likely closer to 700,000. Reportedly, 85% of Tangshan's buildings collapsed, and trembles were felt in Beijing, China, more than 100 miles (180 km) away. It took several years before the city of Tangshan was rebuilt to its prior glory. The A.D. 115 Antioch earthquakeA vintage engraving shows the ruined city walls of Antioch, which served as a regional capital to both the Roman and Byzantine empires, sits in modern-day Turkey atop a triple tectonic junction between the African plate, the Arabian plate and the Anatolian sub-plate. On Dec. 13, A.D. 115, the tectonic system beneath the city produced an estimated magnitude 7.5 earthquake that reached an "extreme" intensity on the Mercalli intensity scale. The earthquake resulted in approximately 260,000 deaths and destroyed Antioch, as well as five nearby cities. It also triggered a local tsunami that severely damaged Beirut, the capital of modern-day Lebanon, and the harbor of an ancient port city called Caesarea Maritima. The Roman emperor Trajan was caught in the earthquake while wintering in Antioch and became trapped under the rubble of his home, but he managed to escape with only minor injuries. The A.D. 526 Antioch earthquakeA 1890 drawing of the "Approach to Antioch," a centre of early Christianity. Artist unknown. (Image credit: duncan1890 via Getty Images)As with all disasters occurring millenia ago, a precise death toll for the A.D. 526 Antioch earthquake is hard to come by. Contemporary chronicler John Malalas wrote at the time that about 250,000 people died when the temblor hit the Byzantine Empire city (now Turkey and Syria) in May, 526. Malalas attributed the disaster to the wrath of God and reported that fires destroyed everything in Antioch that the earthquake did not. According to a 2007 paper in The Medieval History Journal, the death toll was higher than it would have been at other times of the year because the city was full of tourists celebrating Ascension Day — the Christian feast that commemorates Jesus' ascension into heaven. The 1737 Calcutta cycloneA 19th-century engraved map shows the layout of the Ganges Delta and the Bay of Bengal. (Image credit: mikroman6 via Getty Images) The 1737 Calcutta cyclone, also known as the Hooghly River cyclone, made landfall in the Ganges Delta just south of the city of Calcutta (modern-day Kolkata), in India's West Bengal state, early in the morning of Oct. 11, 1737 — although some accounts say the storm occurred on Sept. 30. The cyclone is the earliest super-cyclone on record in the North Indian Ocean, meaning it had wind speeds of at least 140 mph (225 km/h) that were sustained for 3 minutes. The cyclone caused a storm surge up to 40 feet (13 meters) high in the Ganges and traced a 200-mile-long (320 kilometers) path of destruction. It left few buildings standing in Calcutta and sank roughly 20,000 boats in the Bay of Bengal. The storm caused 300,000 deaths according to some accounts — but researchers point out there is a discrepancy between this casualty count and the urban population of Calcutta at the time, which was less than 20,000. The 1920 Haiyuan earthquakeParts of the Great Wall of China run through Haiyuan County, where a huge earthquake in 1920 killed at least 200,000 people. (Image credit: Imago / Alamy Stock Photo)"The Haiyuan earthquake was the largest quake recorded in China in the 20th century with the highest magnitude and intensity," Deng Qidong, a geologist with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said during a seminar in 2010. Related: How are earthquakes measured? The earthquake, which struck north central China's Haiyuan County on Dec. 16, 1920, also rocked the neighboring Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces. It was reportedly a 7.8 on the Richter scale, however, China today claims it was of magnitude 8.5. There are also discrepancies in the number of lives lost. The USGS reported total casualties of 200,000, but according to a 2010 study by Chinese seismologists, the death toll could have been as high as 273,400. The region's high deposits of loess soils (porous, silty sediment that's very unstable) triggered massive landslides which were responsible for over 30,000 of these deaths, according to a 2020 study published in the journal Landslides. The 1839 Coringa cyclonePeople living on the Bay of Bengal are no strangers to natural disasters. Here, people try to repair a broken dam after the landfall of cyclone Amphan in Satkhira, a town on the Bay of Bengal, in spring 2020. (Image credit: K M Asad/LightRocket via Getty Images)The Coringa cyclone made landfall at the port city of Coringa on India's Bay of Bengal on Nov. 25, 1839, whipping up a storm surge of 40 feet (12 m), according to NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory Hurricane Research Division. The hurricane's wind speeds and category are not known, as is the case for many storms that took place before the 20th century. About 20,000 ships and vessels were destroyed, along with the lives of an estimated 300,000 people. The 1881 Haiphong typhoonToday, Haiphong is a major port city with over 2 million inhabitants in northeastern Vietnam. (Image credit: Gonzalo Azumendi via Getty Images) Another disaster with a similar death toll as the Coring cyclone is the 1881 typhoon that hit the port city of Haiphong in northeastern Vietnam on Oct. 8. This storm is also believed to have killed an estimated 300,000 people. The 2010 Haiti earthquakeRescuers search for people among the rubble of Haiti's National Palace building in Port-au-Prince five days after the 2010 earthquake. (Image credit: LUIS ACOSTA/AFP via Getty Images)The catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquakes of all time. Haiti's standing as one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere and its limited history of large earthquakes left it extremely vulnerable to damages and loss of life. As many as 3 million people were affected by the quake. Death toll estimates were all over the place; initially, the government of Haiti estimated fatalities stood at 230,000 people, but in January 2011, officials revised that figure to 316,000. A 2010 study published in the journal Medicine, Conflict and Survival put the number at around 160,000 deaths, while the USGS claimed even lower numbers — around 100,000. These disparities reflect the difficulty of counting deaths even in the modern era, not to mention the political wrangling that goes on over "official" numbers. The 1970 Bhola cycloneAerial view of the coastal area of Patuakhali in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) Nov. 13, 1970, after it was hit by the Bhola tropical cyclone and tidal wave. (Image credit: Express Newspapers via Getty Images)This tropical cyclone hit what is now Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) on Nov. 12-13, 1970. According to NOAA's Hurricane Research Division, the storm's strongest wind speeds measured 130 mph (205 km/h), making it the equivalent of a Category 4 major hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane scale. Ahead of its landfall, a 35-foot (10.6 m) storm surge, combined with a lack of evacuation, resulted in a massive death toll estimated at 300,000 to 500,000 people. A 1971 report from the National Hurricane Center and the Pakistan Meteorological Department acknowledged the challenge of accurately estimating the death toll, especially due to the influx of seasonal workers who were in the area for the rice harvest. As of the writing of this article, the Bhola cyclone is considered the deadliest tropical cyclone on record, according to the World Meteorological Organization. And it caused an estimated \$86 billion in damages. The 1556 Shaanxi province is home to the holy mountain Huashan, which is pictured here. (Image credit: Yaorusheng via Getty Images) The deadliest earthquake in history hit China's Shaanxi province is home to the holy mountain Huashan, which is pictured here. on Jan. 23, 1556. Known as the "Jiajing Great Earthquake" after the emperor whose reign it occurred in, the temblor reduced a 621-square-mile (1,000 square kilometers) swath of the country to rubble, according to the Science Museums of China. An estimated 830,000 people died as their yaodong — cave homes carved into the region's loess plateausian of the country to rubble, according to the Science Museums of China. - collapsed. The exact magnitude of the quake is lost to history, but modern-day geophysicists estimate it at around magnitude 8. The 1887 Yellow River is now closely monitored and controlled to help prevent flooding. This aerial photo taken on July 19, 2020 shows water released from the Xiaolangdi Reservoir Dam in Luoyang in China's central Henan province, in preparation of the upcoming annual flood season at the Yellow River basin. (Image credit: VCG/VCG via Getty Images)The Yellow River (Huang He) in China was precariously situated far above most of the land around it in the late 1880s, thanks to a series of dikes built to contain the river as it flowed through the farmland of central China. Over time, these dikes had silted up, gradually lifting the river in elevation. When heavy rains swelled the river in elevation. Catastrophes and Human Tragedies" (Greenwood Publishing Group, 2008). As a result of this flood, an estimated 900,000 to 2 million people lost their lives. The 1931 Yangtze River floods This aerial photo taken on July 28, 2020 shows a flooded sports ground along the Yangtze River in Wuhan in China's central Hubei province. (Image credit: STR/AFP via Getty Images)Excessive rainfall over central China in July and August of 1931. The Yangtze River overtopped its banks as spring snowmelt mingled with the over 24 inches (600 millimeters) of rain that fell during the month of July alone. (The Yellow River and other large waterways also reached high levels.) According to "The Nature of Disaster in China: The 1931 Yangzi River Flood" (Cambridge University Press, 2018), the flood inundated almost 70,000 square miles (180,000 square miles (1 the number of dead at around 2 million, but other agencies, including NOAA, say it may have been as many as 3.7 million people. Additional resources For more on natural disasters check out DK's Eyewitness Books "Natural Disasters: Confront the Awesome Power of Natural Disasters: Confront the Awesome Power of Natural Disasters check out DK's Eyewitness Books "Natural Disasters: Confront the Awesome Power of Natural Disasters check out DK's Eyewitness Books "Natural Disasters: Confront the Awesome Power of Natural Disasters check out DK's Eyewitness Books "Natural Disasters: Confront the Awesome Power of Natural Disasters: Confront the Awesome Power of Natural Disasters check out DK's Eyewitness Books "Natural Disasters: Confront the Awesome Power of Natural Disasters: Conf Control and Prevention page "Natural Disasters and Severe Weather". Bibliography Nicholas N. Ambraseys, "The 12th century seismic paroxysm in the Middle East: a historical perspective", Annal of Geophysics, Volume 47, June 2004. 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Chris Courtney, "The Natural disaster in China: The 1931 Yangzi River Flood", University of Cambridge Press, February 2018, A natural disaster in China: The 1931 Yangzi River Flood", University of Cambridge Press, February 2018, A natural disaster in China: The 1931 Yangzi River Flood", University of Cambridge Press, February 2018, damage has been a lot. There had been many major disasters in the world that have shattered many cities and countries. This list looks at 10 of the most terrifying, deadliest natural disasters ever. 1138 - Aleppo Earthquake Aleppo is situated northern portion of the Dead Sea and it separates the African plate from the Arabian Plate. The series of the earthquakes took place from October 1138 to the month of the June 1139. The area that was the hit the most was Harim. The earthquake caused deaths of around 230,000 people. In the year 2004, another great disaster in the world took place in the Indian Ocean known as Tsunami. It was an earthquake in the undersea killing ample amount of people and communities all over. The magnitude was around 9.0 and the death count was 230,000. The Bangiao dam was made to survive a great flood. However, in the years. The sluice gates could not take the water pressure and 64 dams failed because of that. When the dam burst, a large wave resulted and caused ample amount of damage. It finished the area of 55 kilometers causing 231000 deaths all over. The Tangshan in the Hebei in China with the population of around one million inhabitants. It killed around 242,000 people. Kaifeng is a city in Henan province and is situated in the southern bank of the yellow river. The city was flooded in the year 1642 by the army to stop the resulted by the enormous of that. In the year 1642 by the army to stop the peasant named Rebel Li Zicheng to take over. Nearly 600,000 people were killed because of that. In the year 1642 by the army to stop the peasant named Rebel Li cyclone destroyed the harbor city of the Coringa. The death count in the cyclone was 300,000 and above. It is a deadliest earthquake on record with a death count of almost 830,000 people. It occurred on the 23 January in the year 1556 in Shaanxi China. There were more than 97 countries affected because of the earthquake. It was a tropical cyclone that hit the east Pakistan named as Bangladesh and India's West Bengal on November 12, 1970. The death toll of this disaster was between 500,000 to 1000,000. It is also amongst the deadliest tropical cyclone ever recorded, and one of the deadliest tropical cyclone ever recorded. because of the drought, which taking place in the twenty nations. More than 20,000 people starved to death because of that. Also, the rivers and lakes dried up because of the drought. The 1918 flu pandemic was an unusually deadly influenza pandemic. In the year 1918 to 1919, the flu struck the world that resulted in around 35 million to 75 million deaths all around the world. It infected 3 to 5 percent of the world's population, making it one of the deadliest natural disasters in history. Natural disasters in history occurred in various countries, causing millions of deaths cumulatively. Advances in predicting natural events are limited, leaving us vulnerable to future disasters. All of the worst disasters in recorded history have been natural disasters — earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, and floods. A natural hazard is a natural disaster when it actually takes place, causing significant loss of life and property. The potential impact of a natural disaster depends on the size and location of the event. If the disaster takes place in a heavily populated area, it immediately causes more damage to both life and property. There have been numerous natural disasters in recent history, ranging from the January 2010 earthquake that struck Haiti, to Cyclone Aila, which hit Bangladesh and India in May of 2009, killing approximately 330 people and affecting upwards of 1 million. There is debate as to what the deadliest disasters of all time actually are, due to discrepancies in death tolls, especially with disasters that occurred outside of the last century Following is a list of ten of the deadliest disasters in recorded history, from lowest to highest estimated death toll. 10. Aleppo Earthquake (Syria 1138) - 230,000 dead 8. Haiyun Earthquake (China 1920) - 240,000 dead 9. Indian Ocean Earthquake (China 1976) - 242,000 dead 6. Antioch Earthquake (Syria and Turkey 526) - 250,000 dead 5. India Cyclone (India 1839) - 300,000 dead 4. Shaanxi Earthquake (China 1856) - 830,000 dead 2. Yellow River Flood (China 1837) - 900,000-2,000,000 dead 3. Bhola Cyclone (Bangladesh 1970) - 500,000-4,000,000 dead 2. Yellow River Flood (China 1837) - 900,000-4,000,000 dead 3. Bhola Cyclone (Bangladesh 1970) - 500,000 dead 4. Shaanxi Earthquake (China 1837) - 900,000-4,000,000 dead 4. Shaanxi Earthquake (China 1837) - 900,000-4,000,000 dead 5. India Cyclone (Bangladesh 1970) - 500,000 dead 5. India Cyclone (China 1887) - 500,000 dead 5. India Cyclone (Bangladesh 1970) - 500,000 dead 5. India Cyclone (Bangladesh 1970) - 500,000 dead 5. India Cyclone (China 1887) - 50 day, geologic processes are taking place that can disrupt the current equilibrium and produce natural disasters. These events are generally only catastrophic, however, if they take place in an area where they affect human populations. Advances have been made in predicting such events; however, if they take place in an area where they affect human populations. prediction. There is often a relationship between past events and future events and some areas are more prone to natural disasters (floodplains, on fault lines, or in areas previously destroyed), but the fact remains that we cannot predict or control natural disasters (floodplains, on fault lines, or in areas previously destroyed), but the fact remains that we cannot predict or control natural disasters (floodplains, on fault lines, or in areas previously destroyed). natural disasters. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit

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