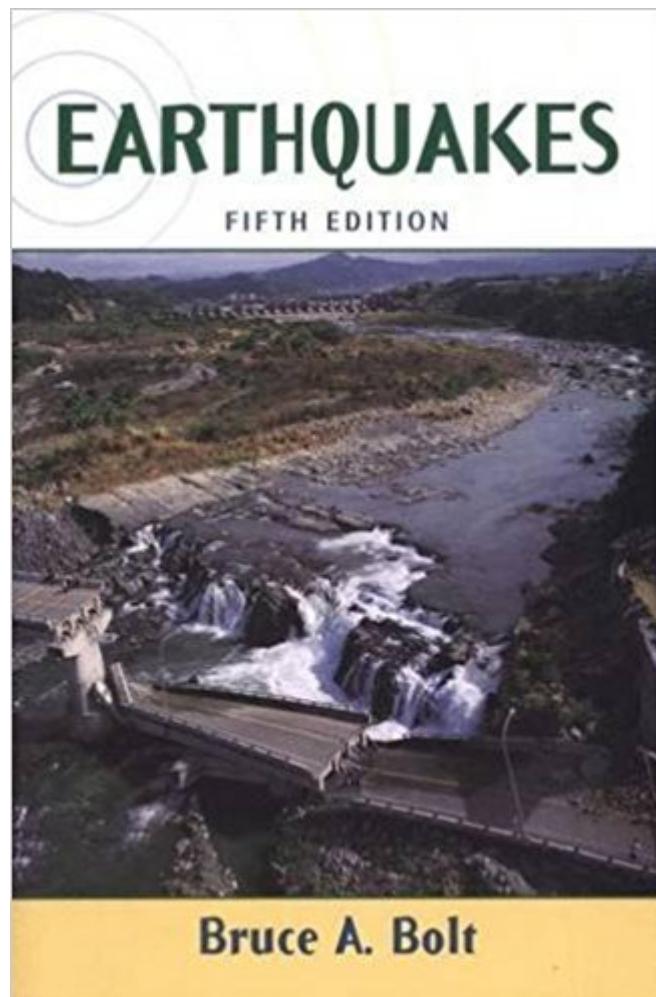


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# Earthquakes, Fifth Edition



## **Synopsis**

This is a concise overview of the history of earthquakes and seismology, including topics such as geologic faults, intensity patterns, plate tectonics, side effects of earthquakes (such as tsunamis), and protection of people and property. The book contains descriptions of the 1995 Sakhalin and 1997 Assisi earthquakes, and others such as Northridge, California (1994), Kobe, Japan (1995), Chi Chi, Taiwan (1999) and Denali, Alaska (2003). The sequence of chapters has been re-organized for the fifth edition to better facilitate learning the broad concepts before the detail. New exercises and web references have also been added to give students the opportunity to think and use data the way field seismologists do.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book provides a very good coverage on Earthquakes, from how and why they happen to their effects and safety concerns. You can learn about faults, plates, how earthquakes are sized, how much can be forecasted, how structures are affected, ground acceleration, soil conditions, etc. Though there are numerous examples from California, this is not one of those books which try to provide earthquake checklists to Californians. The level of technicality is one reason I recommend the book. You don't have to be a seismologist to understand the book, but you won't get bored if you are technically oriented. You will get a quantitative feel of concepts in addition to the clear explanations.

I spent a lot of time searching for a book explaining earthquakes that wasn't too simple or a text

book. Bolt's book is more toward the textbook end of the scale, but is still quite readable. This is not a simple "what to do" book but an explanation of how quakes happen, how they cause damage, what we can do, etc.

The new 4th edition has a new chapter on Plate Tectonics, recent earthquake descriptions, connections with Web pages, and colored illustrative plates. Fresh historical text has been included and more help with seismic safety.

This book is readily available used. "Earthquakes" by Bruce Bolt has been the classic textbook for many years for a non-technical discussion. The fifth edition properly orders the material, and tosses out some outdated material, on earthquake prediction and reservoir-induced seismicity, for example. It is fairly clear, contains colorful stories from Bruce's decades as Director of the Berkeley Seismological Station, and has a firm scientific grounding. Reading it is no walk in the park, as befits a subject of moderate complexity, but neither is it a dark and stormy night. The accompanying web notes are sketchy, and I just noted some stale links. This book is California-centric, Bob Yeats has a more Pacific Northwest-centric "Living with earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest", Brumbaugh's "Earthquakes - Science and Society" is more rudimentary in both graphics and prose, and Yanev's "Peace of mind in earthquake country" is more engineering oriented and has been out of print. Susan Hough's "Earthshaking Science" is better written but with far fewer graphics. Reading this book remains the easiest way to understand earthquakes. The more recent Centennial addition adds little but extra cost Earthquakes: 2006 Centennial Update.

I have not really gotten into the book. I did look through it and the book has a lot of marking and highlighting throughout the book. In some instances, the highlighting bleeds through. What little I read (because I am reading another earthquake book) seems good. Just as a thought to anyone who reads this and resells books, it is very distracting when you write or highlight all over a book. You end up just going to the highlighted area. I will keep the book, but not real pleased with it. The company that sold me the book was great, and performed their jobs as promised. .

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