

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	page vii
<i>List of Tables</i>	viii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
1 Introduction: Disasters and History	1
1.1 The Key Themes of the Book	1
1.2 Disaster Studies and Disaster History: Connected Fields?	10
1.3 Interpretative Frameworks in Historical Research	15
2 Classifications and Concepts	22
2.1 A Taxonomy of Disasters	22
2.2 Scale and Scope of Disasters	25
2.3 Concepts	29
2.3.1 Disaster and Hazard	29
2.3.2 The Disaster Management Cycle	31
2.3.3 Vulnerability	33
2.3.4 Resilience	35
2.3.5 Adaptation, Transformation, and Transition	37
2.3.6 Risk	39
3 History as a Laboratory: Materials and Methods	43
3.1 Historical Sources	44
3.1.1 Types of Historical Sources	44
3.1.2 Combining Historical Data with Sources from the Natural Sciences	53
3.1.3 History and the Digital Age: Opportunities and Pitfalls for Historical Disaster Research	57
3.2 Methodologies	61
3.2.1 Hazard and Disaster Reconstruction from Historical Sources	61
3.2.2 Vulnerability Assessment	65
3.2.3 Comparative Methodologies	68
4 Disaster Preconditions and Pressures	74
4.1 Environmental and Climatic Pressures	74
4.2 Technological, Infrastructural, and Economic Preconditions	77
4.2.1 Technological and Infrastructural Preconditions and Pressures	77
4.2.2 Economic Pressures and Crises	81

4.3	Coordination Systems and Institutional Preconditions	85
4.3.1	Coordination Systems: The Family, the Market, and the State	86
4.3.2	Institutions for Collective Action and the Commons	91
4.4	Social Pressures: Poverty, Inequality, and Social Distress	96
4.5	Cultural Preconditions	100
5	Disaster Responses	105
5.1	Top-Down and Bottom-Up Responses	105
5.2	Experience, Memory, Knowledge, and Experts	110
5.2.1	Memory and Learning from Experience	110
5.2.2	The ‘Rule of Experts’	113
5.3	Constraints on Disaster Responses	116
5.3.1	Inequalities in Power and Property	116
5.3.2	Institutional Rigidity and Path Dependency	120
6	Effects of Disasters	123
6.1	Short-Term Effects	123
6.1.1	Victims, Selective Mortality, and Population Recovery	123
6.1.2	Land Loss and Capital Destruction	132
6.1.3	Economic Crisis	135
6.1.4	Scapegoating, Blame, and Social Unrest	137
6.2	Societal Collapse	141
6.3	Long-Term Effects	145
6.3.1	Disasters as a Force for Good? Economic Effects	145
6.3.2	Long-Term Demographic Changes	148
6.3.3	Reconstruction, Reform, and Societal Change	150
6.3.4	Economic Redistribution	154
7	Past and Present	159
7.1	Disaster History and/in the Anthropocene	159
7.1.1	Climate Change	161
7.1.2	Capitalism	164
7.1.3	The Risk Society	167
7.2	The Potential of History for Better Understanding Disasters	169
7.2.1	The Historical Roots of Present-Day Disasters	171
7.2.2	The Past as an Empirical Laboratory: Institutions and Social Context	173
7.2.3	The Great Escape: Can History Teach Us How to Escape from Disaster?	175
7.3	The Potential of Disasters for Historical Research	177
7.3.1	Disasters as Historical Protagonists	178
7.3.2	Disasters as Tests at the Extreme Margin	179
7.4	Future Pathways	181
7.5	A Final Word on Disaster Victims	185
	<i>References</i>	188
	<i>Index</i>	225