The Nepal Earthquake of 2015

This earthquake occurred at the convergent plate boundary between the Eurasian Plate and the Indian section of the Indo-Australian plate.

The earthquake relieved compressional pressure between the Eurasian tectonic plate and the Indian section of the Indo-Australian Plate (Rafferty, 2020). The Indian plate underthrusts the Eurasian plate and lift this plate which created the mountainous region.

The initial shock of the earthquake registered a 7.8 magnitude.

The earthquake had a Mercalli Intensity of VIII which is considered severe (Rafferty, 2020).

The earthquake sparked various types of damage. This includes landslides, faulting, and structural damage. “One United Nations (UN) report mentioned that more than eight million people (more than one-fourth of Nepal’s population) were affected by the event and its aftermath” (Rafferty, 2020). Many Himalayan climbers were also killed in this event. Financially this damaged Nepal and many humanitarian funds were allocated here to alleviated stress in the affected areas such as Katmandu, Nepal.

The relief of pressure between the generally convergent Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates caused this damage. This along with already weak infrastructure escalated the damage.

The death toll was approximately 9000 people being killed (Rafferty, 2020).

If the earthquake was earlier, I would expect the death toll to be even greater for a couple of reasons. In an earlier time, the infrastructure of the manly effected Nepal is would have been weaker and more catastrophic damage would have occurred. Also, the availably of humanitarian efforts could be affected given the time it might have occurred if earlier. Lastly, the medical services to help the crisis would be less effective in earlier years.

I think that the death toll would not change drastically if this earthquake occurred later in history. What this earthquake does signify is the increasingly dangerous conditions of Earth and how we as humans should respect our planet. With catastrophes such as climate change doing double time on our planet if this earthquake occurred later then the post effects such as landslides could be even worse.

If this earthquake occurred in a more populated area, the death toll would be even greater. Given the sparse population (as compared to places such as Los Angeles, California) of the mountainous regions of Nepal, there was a small death toll. But compared to the relative population of this area, this severe earthquake as detrimental. With building construction, other regions do have better infrastructure to withstand earthquakes, so that would make a massive difference.

Rafferty, J. (2020, May 08). Nepal earthquake of 2015. Retrieved July 06, 2020, from https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nepal-earthquake-of-2015