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## 3.11: Disaster and Change in Japan

By Richard J. Samuels

Cornell University Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 296 pages. Dimensions: 9.3in. x 6.2in. x 0.9in. On March 11, 2011, Japan was struck by the shockwaves of a 9.0 magnitude undersea earthquake originating less than 50 miles off its eastern coastline. The most powerful earthquake to have hit Japan in recorded history, it produced a devastating tsunami with waves reaching heights of over 130 feet that in turn caused an unprecedented multireactor meltdown at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. This triple catastrophe claimed almost 20,000 lives, destroyed whole towns, and will ultimately cost hundreds of billions of dollars for reconstruction. In 3.11, Richard Samuels offers the first broad scholarly assessment of the disasters impact on Japans government and society. The events of March 2011 occurred after two decades of social and economic malaise as well as considerable political and administrative dysfunction at both the national and local levels and resulted in national soul-searching. Political reformers saw in the tragedy cause for hope: an opportunity for Japan to remake itself. Samuels explores Japans post-earthquake actions in three key sectors: national security, energy policy, and local governance. For some reformers, 3.11 was a warning for Japan to overhaul its priorities and...



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