



Rethinking American Disasters

Edited by **CYNTHIA A. KIERNER, MATTHEW MULCAHY,**
and **LIZ SKILTON**

PRAISE FOR *RETHINKING AMERICAN DISASTERS*

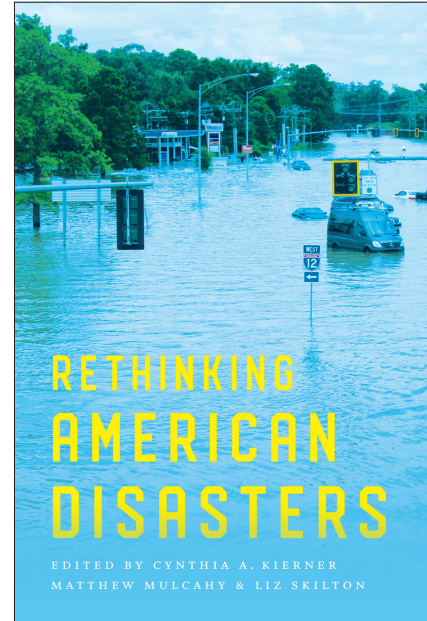
“Examining the role of disasters in American history from the colonial period to the present, these well-conceived essays offer unique perspectives on a whole range of calamities. Above all, the authors provide a wise and sobering reminder that history often unfolds in unexpected ways.”—Ted Steinberg, author of *Acts of God: The Unnatural History of Natural Disaster in America*

Rethinking American Disasters is a pathbreaking collection of essays on hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, and other calamities in the United States and British colonial America over four centuries. Proceeding from the premise that there is no such thing as a “natural” disaster, the collection invites readers to consider disasters and their aftermaths as artifacts of and vantage points onto their historical contexts.

CYNTHIA A. KIERNER is the author of many books, including *Inventing Disaster: The Culture of Calamity from the Jamestown Colony to the Johnstown Flood*.

MATTHEW MULCAHY has written or cowritten several books and articles about natural disasters in colonial British America, including *Hurricanes and Society in the British Greater Caribbean, 1624–1783*.

LIZ SKILTON is the author of *Tempest: Hurricane Naming and American Culture* and head of the Recent Louisiana Disasters Oral History Project.



JUNE 2023

240 pages, 6 x 9, 218 halftones, 1 map

978-0-8071-7950-5

Paperback \$29.95

LSU Press Paperback Original
Environmental Studies

CONTENTS

A New World of Disaster:
Hazards, Environments,
and Experience in Colonial
British America
Matthew Mulcahy

An Incendiary War:
Conspiracies, Disasters,
and the American Revolution,
1775–1790
Benjamin L. Carp

An American Plague:
Yellow Fever in the United
States, 1793–1820
Sarah E. Naramore

Misinformation and the
Politics of Reporting on
Disasters in the Early
Republic
Jonathan Todd Hancock

The Great New York Fire
of 1835 and the Legal
Architecture of Disaster
Jane Manners

Brave Men and Mangled
Ladies: Spectacle, Sentiment,
and Exploding Steamboats
in Antebellum America
Cynthia A. Kierner

Spring Floods and Settler
Colonial Ambivalence:
A Microhistory of Freshets
on Wright’s Island in the
Mid-Nineteenth Century
Tom Wickman

Richmond’s Year of Disasters:
Relief, Reconciliation, and
the End of Reconstruction
Alyssa Toby Fahringer

The Slow Disaster of Jim
Crow and Lowcountry
Hurricanes, 1893–1940
Caroline Grego

Layers of Violence: Slow
Disaster in the Cancer Alley
Anthropocene
Scott Gabriel Knowles and
Ashley Rogers

A Collision of Disasters:
Covid-19 and Diabetes
Richard M. Mizelle, Jr.

The Myth of the 100-Year
Flood: The Language of Risk
and the 2016 Louisiana Floods
Liz Skilton

338 JOHNSTON HALL | BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70803

225-578-6294 | FAX 225-578-6461 | Orders/Customer Service 800-848-6224 | www.lsupress.org