

"Earthquakes, Tsunamis, and What we can Learn from Them"

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The Earth is unique among the terrestrial bodies of our solar system, not just because it supports life, but also because it appears to be the only one to experience active plate tectonics. This is unlikely to be a coincidence - plate tectonics drives the recycling and renewal of surface water vital for life. While the existence of plate tectonics is vital for the development of complex life, it also has a deadlier side. Natural hazards from earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes occur due to the motion of tectonic plates above a fluidic mantle, and between 2 and 2.5 million people have died in earthquakes since 1900. We will be discussing earthquakes, tsunamis, what we can learn from recent history, and what can we do to mitigate the risks they pose?