

# NATURAL HAZARDS

LOCAL, NATIONAL, GLOBAL

edited by  
GILBERT F. WHITE

This book brings together a set of comparative examinations of experience in dealing with natural hazards in selected areas around the world. Detailed studies in 23 countries were initiated under a program of the International Geographical Union. They include analysis of problems arising from avalanche, drought, earthquake, flood, frost, snow, tropical cyclone, and wind. Certain of the hazards are created by people through their alteration of land and water or by their invasion of risky areas; others are exacerbated by human attempts to reduce the risk.

Brief reviews of national response to natural hazards are provided for Japan and the Soviet Union, and the situations in Canada and the United States are compared. Experience in coping with the risks of earthquakes, floods, and tropical cyclones on the global scale is reviewed.

Special attention is given to decision-making affecting natural hazards from the standpoint of economics, geography, and psychology. That review brings together for the first time an examination of empirical experience in relation to theory as to choice in the face of risk in the natural environment.

## About the editor

Gilbert F. White, Professor of Geography and Director of the Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado, has taught at the Universities of Chicago and Oxford, and was President of Haverford College from 1946 to 1955. Chairman of the International Geographical Union Commission on Man and Environment, he has served on a number of international, national, and local committees on natural resources, among them groups sponsored by UNESCO, the United Nations, the National Science Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences, and the International Council of Scientific Unions. In addition to numerous papers and governmental reports, his publications include *Strategies of American Water Management*, *Drawers of Water: Domestic Water Use in East Africa*, and *Choice of Adjustment to Floods*.

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