

# Acts of God



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As the waters of the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain began to pour into New Orleans, people began asking the big question--could any of this have been avoided? How much of the damage from Hurricane Katrina was bad luck, and how much was poor city planning? Steinberg's *Acts of God* is a provocative history of natural disasters in the United States. This revised edition features a new chapter analyzing the failed response to Hurricane Katrina, a disaster Steinberg warned could happen when the book first was published. Focusing on America's worst natural disasters, Steinberg argues that it is wrong to see these tragedies as random outbursts of nature's violence or expressions of divine judgment. He reveals how the decisions of business leaders and government officials have paved the way for the greater losses of life and property, especially among those least able to withstand such blows--America's poor, elderly, and minorities. Seeing nature or God as the primary culprit, Steinberg explains, has helped to hide the fact that some Americans are simply better able to protect themselves from the violence of nature than others. In the face of revelations about how the federal government mishandled the Katrina calamity, this book is a must-read before further wind and water sweep away more lives. *Acts of God* is a call to action that needs desperately to be heard.

作者介绍:

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评论

自然灾害在美国主流话语中从acts of god到被否认到又被重新使用的过程，是acts of god这个概念本身的道德指示被涂抹去，自然变成可以被科学完全理解和掌控的，而当科技内部勾连的社会经济问题使得科学在人们心目中的domination被打败时，acts of god重新被拉出来使用，但是其内涵已经完全变成了可以帮助federal逃避责任的对与自然本身的妖魔化与狂暴化，与是否是人类做的不好才使得神灵降灾完全无关。所以，自然与社会之间有明确的界限吗？在美国社会中“神的意志”究竟还在被如何使用呢？神究竟是自然的还是社会的呢？而对于社会制度本身的改良如何才能灾难来临前完成呢？而对于我的研究里尖端科技被认为是play god又可以如何和这一文本形成互文呢？

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书评

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