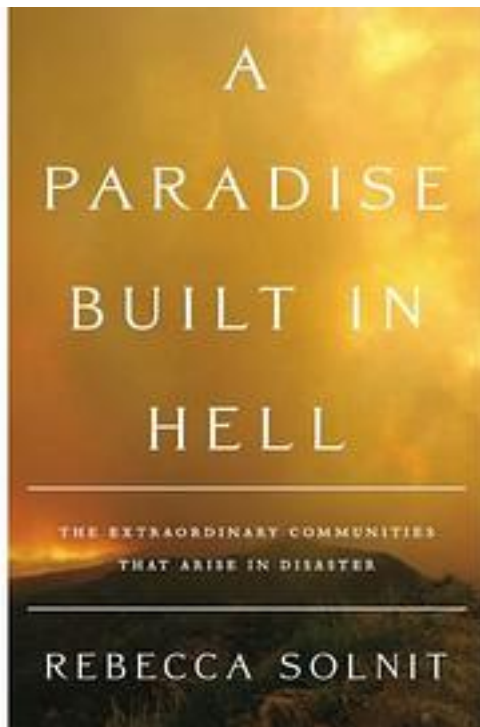


A Paradise Built in Hell



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著者:Rebecca Solnit

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Natural and man-made disasters can be "utopias" that showcase human solidarity and point the way to a freer society, according this stimulating contrarian study. Solnit (River of Shadows) reproves civil defense planners, media alarmists and Hollywood directors who insist that disasters produce terrified mobs prone to looting, murder and cannibalism unless controlled by armed force and government expertise. Surveying disasters from the 1906 San Francisco earthquake to 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, she shows that the typical response to calamity is spontaneous altruism, self-organization and mutual aid, with neighbors and strangers calmly rescuing, feeding and housing each other. Indeed, the main problem in such emergencies, she contends, is the "elite

panic" of officials who clamp down with National Guardsmen and stifling regulations. Solnit falters when she generalizes her populist brief into an anarchist critique of everyday society that lapses into fuzzy what-ifs and uplifting volunteer testimonials. Still, this vividly written, cogently argued book makes a compelling case for the ability of ordinary people to collectively surmount the direst of challenges. (Sept.)

作者介绍:

Rebecca Solnit (born 1961) is a writer/essayist from San Francisco. She has written on a variety of subjects including the environment, politics, place, and art. [1] Solnit has received many awards for her writing: a Guggenheim Fellowship, an NEA Fellowship for Literature and the 2004 Wired Rave Award for writing.[citation needed]

Her writing has appeared in numerous publications in print and online.

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标签

社会学

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评论

@3497609 还不赖，谢

Skim了一遍

intriguing

一本关于灾难的社会学研究。很意思的是灾难不一定会带来Social Disorder,而反而可能是相反。

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书评

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