

BOOK REVIEW

**The Big One -
The Next California Earthquake**

George Pararas-Carayannis

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Don't be turned off by the popularized style of the title or book. Pararas-Caryannis leads the reader - professional or layman - through a detailed background covering earthquakes, tsunamis, California geography and history, seismology, then finally summarizing factually the odds of major earthquakes in likely localities. And he does so in terms that all of us can understand and appreciate.

The author notes that he "will provide answers to reasonable questions by people concerned about their safety" and accomplishes that factually and in fact without sensationalism. Using a brief question and long answer format, this is actually a treatise on earthquakes and related natural hazards worldwide, with realistic scenarios of probable disasters in California.

There are several useful appendices and an extensive glossary (I learned a couple new terms) which are helpful and enlightening. I recommend this book.

**Reviewed by George D. Curtis
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