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Sommario/riassunto	Natural disasters do not only mean momentary destruction, which is forgotten after reconstruction. Disasters often have a lasting impact on politics and society and thus on human history. They sometimes lead to regulations, institution building, policy changes and social rethinking, but can also give rise to optimism and optimism about progress. The current discussion on global climate change has increased public awareness of the social relevance of natural disasters. The central questions of the anthology form what role extreme events have played in history and which strategies have been effective in coping with them

in different times. In addition to classic natural disasters, the authors also examine epidemics and pest disasters from a historical perspective and address theoretical questions about their genesis and effects. This volume is the result of a workshop held by the editors on May 6 and 7, 2009 in Göttingen as part of the DFG Research Training Group "Interdisciplinary Environmental History" entitled "Disasters make history - environmental history processes in the area of conflict between the use of resources and extreme events" was held.
