Asia-Pacific Journal Articles Recommended for Further Reading

Japan's 3.11 Earthquake, Tsunami, Atomic Meltdown
The Asia-Pacific Journal
http://www.japanfocus.org/Japans-3.11-Earthquake-Tsunami-Atomic-Meltdown

The Asia-Pacific Journal has compiled a comprehensive list of articles related to the Fukushima disaster: readers can find here articles about the impact the catastrophe had on Japan's people and environment, many visuals, and accounts of the responses of governments, corporations, citizens, and artists to the disaster.

Global Historical Context

"Understanding the Ongoing Nuclear Disaster in Fukushima: A 'Two-Headed Dragon' Descends into the Earth's Biosphere"
Fujioka Atsushi, translated by Michael K. Bourdaghs
September 12, 2011
http://www.japanfocus.org/-Fujioka-Atsushi/3599

Fujioka Atsushi assesses the Fukushima nuclear disaster in light of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Hanford, Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, and the nexus between nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

Minamata

"Minamata at 50: The Tragedy Deepens"
Eric Johnston
May 7, 2006
http://www.japanfocus.org/-Eric-Johnston/1994

Johnston commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Minamata disaster in this brief article. He describes some of the ways the disaster has been memorialized, as well as the propaganda and negligence Chisso employed to avoid the financial burden of assisting the Minamata victims. He summarizes the major lawsuits that finally brought some aid to those harmed. Interestingly, at a May 1st anniversary ceremony (five years prior to the Great East Japan Earthquake), some Japanese already linked Minamata and nuclear power; in attendance were government officials from the village of Tokaimura, where a 1999 nuclear accident occurred which killed two people.

"Contamination: From Minamata to Fukushima"
Christine L. Marran
May 9, 2011
http://www.japanfocus.org/-Christine-Marran/3526

Marran compares the response to contamination from the Minamata pollution and the Fukushima radiation. Where efforts to prevent mercury poisoning after Minamata were by all means a failure, the response to Fukushima has received mixed reactions: some see efforts such as widespread food bans as an overreaction, but others think that the government has not gone far enough. Marran focuses mainly on food safety, but also discusses clean-up efforts, the importance of disseminating reliable information to the public, and the relationship between humanity and the environment.

Those interested in the relationship between humans and the environment in Japan—for the environment is often neglected or "abandoned" too—are encouraged to read the *Asia Pacific Journal* course reader no. 2, **"Environmental History."**

Health Risks of Radiation

"The Dangers of Low Dose Radiation"
Ian Goddard
May 6, 2012
http://www.japanfocus.org/events/view/146

Independent researcher Ian Goddard provides a brief survey of various studies on the dangers of exposure to low dosages of radiation, providing a short summary of each and links to the full studies.

Responses to the Fukushima Disaster

"Mismanaging Risk and the Fukushima Nuclear Crisis"
Jeff Kingston
March 19, 2012
http://www.japanfocus.org/-Jeff-Kingston/3724

Risk is inescapable with nuclear power plants. Kingston discusses how this risk can best be managed to minimize the damage from disasters, and analyzes where TEPCO and NISA went wrong in assessing risks and how their actions ultimately led to an environment where the Fukushima disaster could happen.

"The Fukushima Nuclear Crisis and the Fight for Compensation"
David McNeill
March 5, 2012
http://www.japanfocus.org/-David-McNeill/3707

McNeill discusses the compensation and aid residents of Fukushima have received since the disaster. McNeill argues that the aid granted is not enough; some people who deserve compensation for the disaster will receive nothing, and those who are compensated often do not receive enough to make up for what they lost. In other words, the victims are still "abandoned."

Recommended Articles from Other Sources

International Context

Sharon M. Friedman, Carole M. Gorney, and Brenda P. Egolf, "Chernobyl coverage: how the US media treated the nuclear industry," *Public Understanding of Science*, July 1992; vol. 1, 3: pp. 305-323.

This article examines the media coverage of the Chernobyl coverage in the United States. Readers can compare the information presented in this article with the media coverage of the Fukushima disaster.

Risk Perception

The following three articles examine risk perception and nuclear power, a topic Yoneyama alluded to in her article analyzing Ogata's concept of "life-world." Even in the best of circumstances, people living near a nuclear power plant face the danger of radiation exposure. Since the 1990s, there has been a growing body of research on the strategies such individuals employ to suppress these anxieties. Some might even suggest that the "abandoned people" are not entirely abandoned, having previously accepted the risks associated with living near a nuclear power plant. Is it fair to begin their story post-disaster? That is, do the "abandoned people" bear some responsibility for choosing to live, or continuing to live, near nuclear power plants? How else should we think about this issue? Understanding the factors that influence the decision to live near nuclear power plants can help determine how to better communicate the dangers of living in such areas and how to better respond to future disasters; the following three articles examine risk reception regarding nuclear power.

Visschers, V. H. M. and M. Siegrist, "How a Nuclear Power Plant Accident Influences Acceptance of Nuclear Power: Results of a Longitudinal Study Before and After the Fukushima Disaster." *Risk Analysis*. 2012.

Doble, John, "Public opinion about issues characterized by technological complexity and scientific uncertainty." *Public Understanding of Science*, April 1995; vol. 4, 2: pp. 95-118.

Hinman, G. W., Rosa, E. A., Kleinhesselink, R. R. and Lowinger, T. C., "Perceptions of Nuclear and Other Risks in Japan and the United States." *Risk Analysis*, 13: 449–455. 1993.

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