

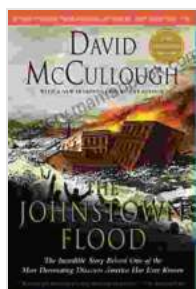
The Johnstown Flood: A Tragedy of Epic Proportions



On May 31, 1889, the South Fork Dam in Pennsylvania collapsed, unleashing a torrent of water that tore through the town of Johnstown, killing over 2,200 people. The Johnstown Flood was one of the deadliest natural disasters in American history, and its story is a haunting tale of hubris, negligence, and tragedy.

The South Fork Dam

The South Fork Dam was built in 1852 to create a reservoir for the Pennsylvania Canal. The dam was 72 feet tall and 900 feet long, and it held back over 14 billion gallons of water. The dam was considered to be an engineering marvel, but it was built on a faulty foundation. The bedrock beneath the dam was fractured, and the dam's builders failed to take this into account.



Johnstown Flood by David McCullough

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

- Language : English
- File size : 18764 KB
- Text-to-Speech : Enabled
- Screen Reader : Supported
- Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
- X-Ray : Enabled
- Word Wise : Enabled
- Print length : 432 pages



The Collapse

On May 31, 1889, heavy rains fell in the Conemaugh River Valley. The water level in the South Fork Dam rose rapidly, and by evening, it was clear that the dam was in danger of collapsing. The dam's owners tried to release water from the reservoir, but it was too late. At 4:07 p.m., the dam collapsed, sending a wall of water 30 feet high crashing down the Conemaugh River Valley.

The Flood

The floodwaters raced through the valley at speeds of up to 40 miles per hour. The town of Johnstown was caught in the flood's path, and it was

completely destroyed. The floodwaters swept away homes, businesses, and factories. Over 2,200 people were killed, and thousands more were left homeless.

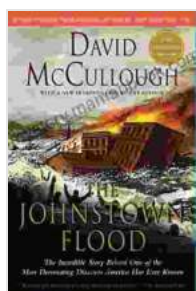
The Aftermath

The Johnstown Flood was a devastating tragedy. The town of Johnstown was completely destroyed, and over 2,200 people were killed. The flood also caused millions of dollars in damage. In the aftermath of the flood, the federal government provided aid to the survivors, and the town of Johnstown was rebuilt.

The Legacy

The Johnstown Flood is a reminder of the power of nature and the importance of being prepared for disasters. The flood also led to the creation of the National Weather Service, which provides weather forecasts and warnings to the public. Today, the Johnstown Flood National Memorial tells the story of the disaster and its victims.

The Johnstown Flood was one of the deadliest natural disasters in American history. The flood killed over 2,200 people and destroyed the town of Johnstown. The flood was a tragedy, but it also led to the creation of the National Weather Service, which has helped to save lives in the years since.



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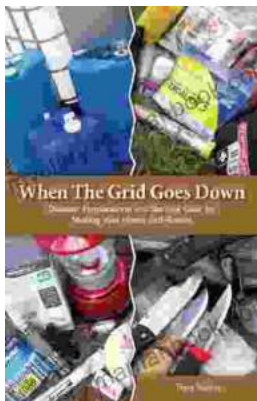
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