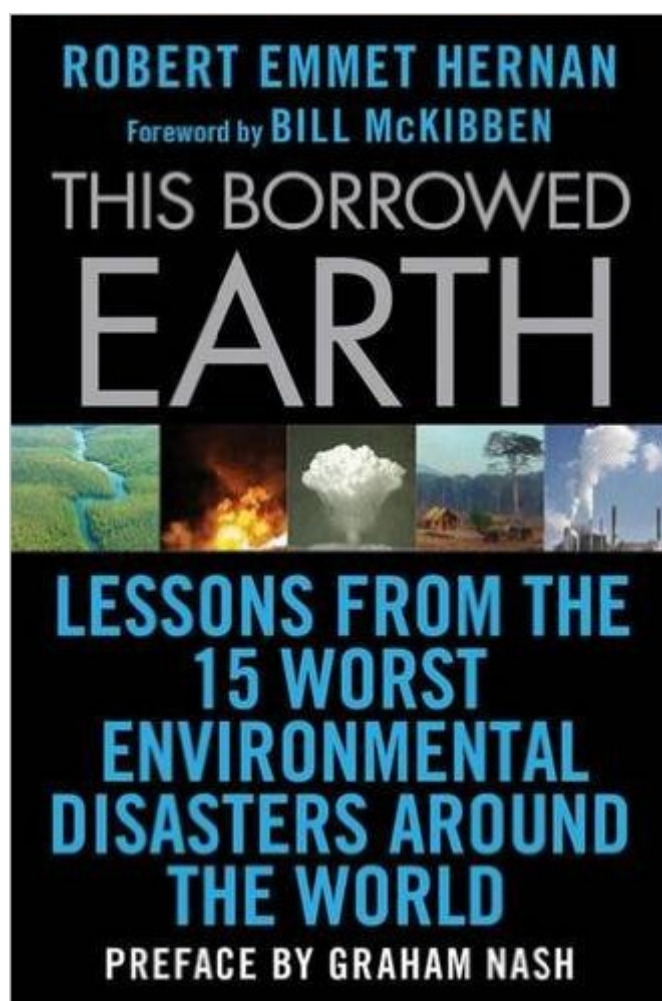


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# This Borrowed Earth: Lessons From The Fifteen Worst Environmental Disasters Around The World (MacSci)



## Synopsis

Over the last century mankind has irrevocably damaged the environment through the unscrupulous greed of big business and our own willful ignorance. Here are the strikingly poignant accounts of disasters whose names live in infamy: Chernobyl, Bhopal, Exxon Valdez, Three Mile Island, Love Canal, Minamata and others. And with these, the extraordinary and inspirational stories of the countless men and women who fought bravely to protect the communities and environments at risk.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Robert Hernan provides a deep service | May this book give heart and courage to many more such great souls, for there are assuredly many more such fights to come.” • from the foreword by Bill McKibben  
“A wake-up call to all concerned citizens of this earth.” • from the preface by Graham Nash  
“This Borrowed Earth: Lessons from Fifteen Environmental Disasters Around the World, powerfully depicts in simple, transparent prose, the lasting and wrenching impact of some of the major environmental disasters of the last century, which younger generations may only barely remember. But Mr. Hernan’s book does much more. It reveals a striking similarity in the genesis of these disasters that can shed light on ways to prevent them in the future” in particular, the profit-driven development of production technologies with no heed to their health and environmental effects or the environmental fate of their products. One is convinced, after reading Mr. Hernan’s book, that the only way to slow the rate of growth of devastating climate change is for governments around the world to assert control over our most basic technology “ the production of energy in

ways that can lift the world out of poverty without destroying it in the process. • • Barry Commoner • Lets the facts and the victims speak for themselves. Again and again, we see polluters hiding or denying information, threatening those impacted by pollution, and putting profits before people. Hernan's stories show that each of these disasters were avoidable; we can only hope that by reading of them we all learn and avoid future ones. • • Peter Lehner, Executive Director, Natural Resources Defense Council

Robert Emmet Hernan is a former senior counsel for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Assistant Attorney General for New York State. He was a trial lawyer for New York State in the infamous Love Canal Case. He lives in New York City.

I enjoyed this book. It was a fast read for me and kept me glued to some absolutely horrifying events that have happened or are continuing to happen today. Lessons have been learned by heroic people that took a stand against almost immovable government agencies and corporate power. We can only hope to have such people lead the way to the future of a more environmentally responsible society.

Robert Hernan's *This Borrowed Earth* is nothing if not timely. This survey of a number of the major environmental disasters of the last twenty years arrives at a time in which the global environmental situation has arguably become the major issue facing the world today. Hernan's book is a sobering and gripping narrative of a series of man-made environmental disasters, from Minimata to Chernobyl to Three Mile Island, the consequences of which were fatal to thousands of people. The record of evasions, self-excuses, and outright lying, practiced by the corporations and governments responsible for the disasters makes for disturbing reading, and a strong sense of the need for vigilance in the future. The book's subject matter is inherently dramatic, and is told in an appropriately minimalist style; the tragedies speak for themselves. A book that should receive wide readership, and a must read for anyone concerned about the state of the planet. -D. O'Connell

This book gives an over of 15 very interesting environmental disasters, each told in chronological order from around the globe. A good read for a inspiring environmental major of any kind. Very summarized and likable stories. The book include the Love Canal, Chernobyl, global warming, and rainforest destruction around other things.

Hernan is a brilliant story teller. His stories of environmental disasters are riveting, particularly in his focus on the resulting human suffering. As each story unfolds, the author conveys complex environmental principles in direct, easily-understood language. Hernan's stories are stark reminders of the environmental havoc that can be wrought all too easily in our highly-industrialized, ever-burgeoning world. Many of the disasters he recounts are in danger of being forgotten -- or worse, never known -- by newer generations. Kudos to the author for focusing the light of the current day on these critically-important events of the recent past -- lest we forget and such disasters begin to repeat themselves.

Worked out perfect for my son's reading assignment for over summer! Thanks!

If you want to know what's going on with our environment , read this book. It will break your heart. Some of these disasters are too close to home.

This well researched book documents environmental disasters and reflects on each dramatic situation over time. Very interesting reading, many facts that of which I was previously unaware.

I would recomend this book to those who are in science classes, esp. those in Environmental Science Classes. Also, it would be good for those who are just interested in what people have done to th Earth.

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