

The 3.11 earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster are arguably some of the most important events in the early 21st century in Japan. Understanding these complex events presents a critical and formidable task for social science. Fortunately, Tsujinaka and Inatsugu have selected, edited and strengthened much of the best work by Japanese political scientists, economists and sociologists to produce this insightful volume.

Drawing from an eight-volume Japanese language series on 3.11 and its aftermath, the editors have chosen some of the most crucial chapters for international audiences. These include relatively understudied aspects such as local government, coalition dynamics and foreign relations. However, they also dive into cogent and data-rich topics that have already attracted interest in English-language scholarship, such as health and radiation, public opinion and its influence on nuclear policy, electoral politics and the torrent of volunteers to affected areas.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in local government, national government, civil society responses to the triple disasters and, of course, the long and complicated policy and political aftermath facing Japan. Readers will find top Japanese scholarship on these issues, backed up throughout with a rich variety of empirical data.

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