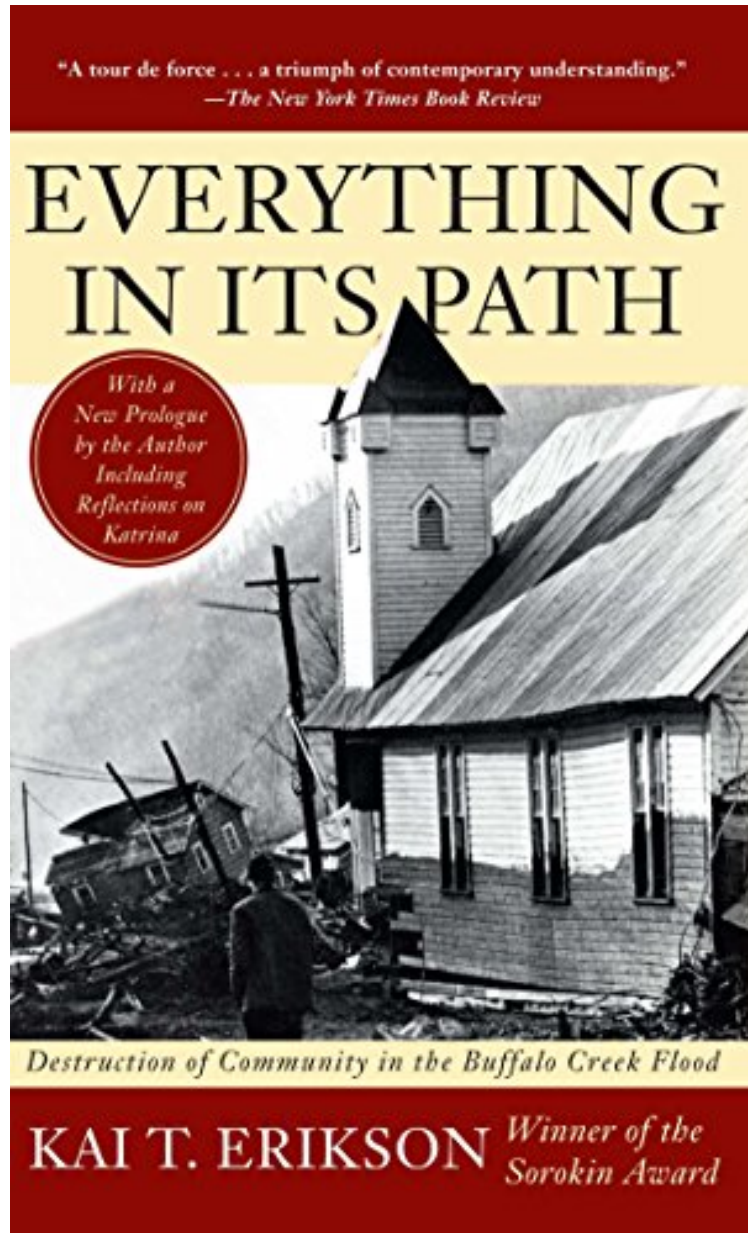


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Everything in Its Path: Destruction of Community in the Buffalo Creek Flood

Kai T. Erikson

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Destruction of Community in the Buffalo Creek Flood:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A yardstick for other disastersBy Book wormThis book was written about two years after the collapse of a containment pond that changed the landscape for a small town in rural Appalachia by a sociologist whose main job was to collect testimony of eye witnesses and survivors of the flood that scraped the valley bare for use in a law suit made on behalf of the victims against the mining company whose job it was to maintain the containment pond.the way it went about carefully reviewing the history of the area since settlement helped to understand the disaster in the context of the community, its cultural norms, its strengths and weaknesses.The story is often one of people finding it difficult to pick up the pieces. So much of their social fabric had been picked up and washed away. One question left unanswered is what has happened in the intervening decades.This man-made disaster has become a yardstick for comparison to judge other disasters.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I would recommend reading for understanding how Appalachia has been negatively portrayedBy MAGA classic text that should be taken with a bit of grain of salt in understanding communities. I would recommend reading for understanding how Appalachia has been negatively portrayed.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Dolores S.Great seller. Good book

The 1977 Sorokin Award–winning story of Buffalo Creek in the aftermath of a devastating flood.On February 26, 1972, 132-million gallons of debris-filled muddy water burst through a makeshift mining-company dam and roared through Buffalo Creek, a narrow mountain hollow in West Virginia. Following the flood, survivors from a previously tightly knit community were crowded into trailer homes with no concern for former neighborhoods. The result was a collective trauma that lasted longer than the individual traumas caused by the original disaster. Making extensive use of the words of the people themselves, Erikson details the conflicting tensions of mountain life in general—the tensions between individualism and dependency, self-assertion and resignation, self-centeredness and group orientation—and examines the loss of connection, disorientation, declining morality, rise in crime, rise in out-migration, etc., that resulted from the sudden loss of neighborhood.

About the AuthorKai T. Erikson is an American sociologist known for specializing in the social consequences of catastrophic events. He is the author of *Everything in its Path*, *Wayward Puritans*, *A New Species of Trouble*, *Catastrophe in the Making*, and *American Indian Environments*.