



# The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster

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In 1871, the city of Chicago was almost entirely destroyed by what became known as The Great Fire. Thirty-five years later, San Francisco lay in smoldering ruins after the catastrophic earthquake of 1906. Or consider the case of the Jerusalem, the greatest site of physical destruction and renewal in history, which, over three millennia, has suffered wars, earthquakes, fires, twenty sieges, eighteen reconstructions, and at least eleven transitions from one religious faith to another. Yet this ancient city has regenerated itself time and again, and still endures. Throughout history, cities have been sacked, burned, torched, bombed, flooded, besieged, and leveled. And yet they almost always rise from the ashes to rebuild. Viewing a wide array of urban disasters in global historical perspective, *The Resilient City* traces the aftermath of such cataclysms as: -the British invasion of Washington in 1814 -the devastation wrought on Berlin, Warsaw, and Tokyo during World War II -the late-20th century earthquakes that shattered Mexico City and the Chinese city of Tangshan -Los Angeles after the 1992 riots -the Oklahoma City bombing -the destruction of the World Trade Center. Revealing how traumatized city-dwellers consistently develop narratives of resilience and how the pragmatic process of urban recovery is always fueled by highly symbolic actions, *The Resilient City* offers a deeply informative and unsentimental tribute to the dogged persistence of the city, and indeed of the human spirit.

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