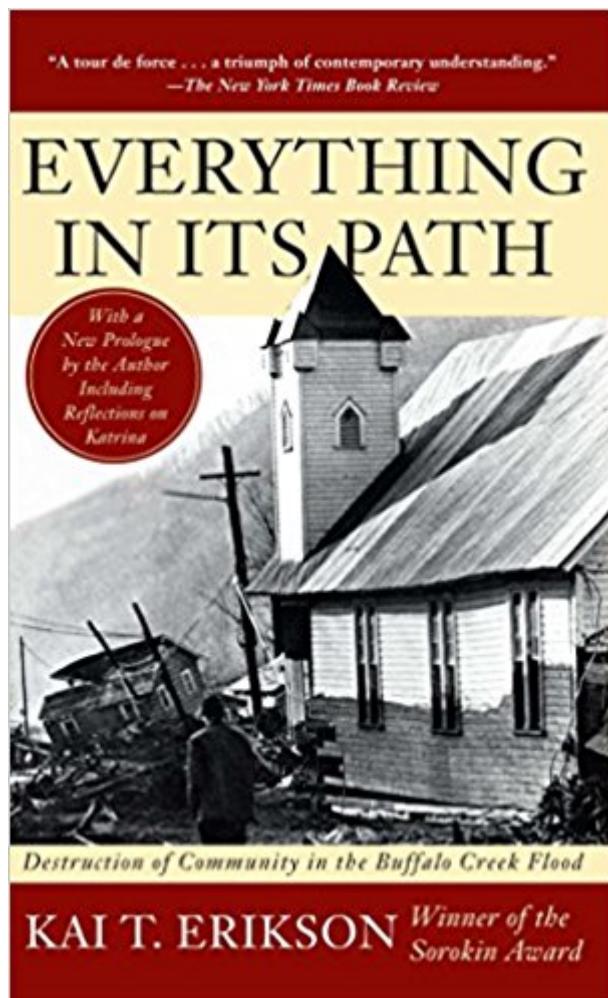


The book was found

# Everything In Its Path: Destruction Of Community In The Buffalo Creek Flood



## Synopsis

The 1977 Sorokin Awardâ “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 generalâ “the tensions between individualism and dependency, self-assertion and resignation, self-centeredness and group orientationâ ”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.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #51,683 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Natural Disasters #51 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Disaster Relief #171 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Conservation

## Customer Reviews

Kai 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*.

This 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.

A 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.

This was a very interesting book for me. I was looking for information on this flood & I found the information plus more. I didn't really realize it was going to deal so much with "how the person works" in tragedies. I came to understand the Appalachian people as a unique group. I also understand how & why the flood started. But I also learned a lot about how people's "mind" deals with events such as this type of tragedy. And I also can understand how people in general, including myself, react to events in much smaller every-day problems. I can now understand many of my "reactions" & how they are normal & very unique to each individual. It helped me a lot. Plus I learned a lot about the needless tragedy. It made me think a little. Good Read.

OK

Just what I ordered and shipped quickly. It is on the shelf and ready to be checked out to anyone wanting to read it. Thanks

Perfect

First person accounts are always interesting.

ok

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