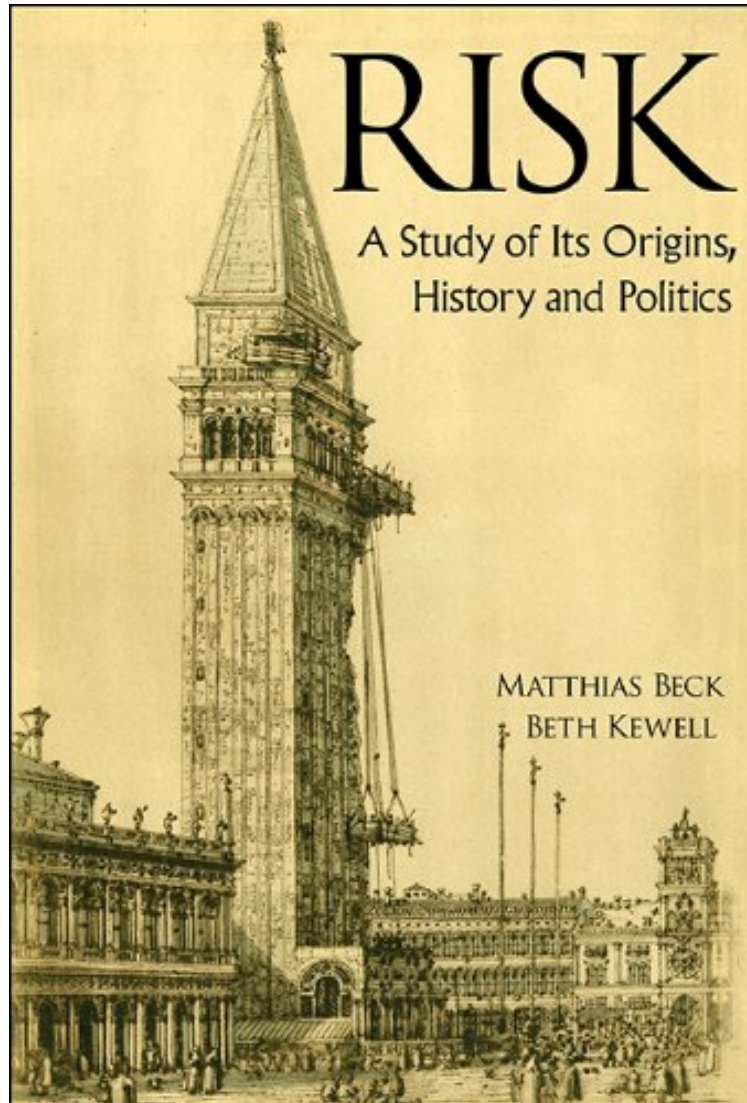


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Risk:A Study of Its Origins, History and Politics

Matthias Beck

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Matthias Beck : Risk:A Study of Its Origins, History and Politics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Risk:A Study of Its Origins, History and Politics:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recent Social History with a Risk BackdropBy John SchuylerI'm a practitioner and educator in risk and economic decision analysis. I was hoping to learn more about the history of tools and techniques in my field. Probability, statistics, modeling, and decision policy are given scant attention. Instead, this book is about social science, with a backdrop of risk.Nonetheless, it is a well-written book which I found illuminating in many respects. The European authors present an interesting historical perspective of (mostly) America's shifting mores and concerns. Concern about invasion morphed into concern about immigration. I especially enjoyed the

discussions of the Cuban Missile Crisis and global modeling. The book is well crafted. I noticed only one typo. The bookbinding is superb, and I appreciate the printed, quality cover. This appears thoroughly researched. There are copious footnotes and about 480 references. I found my Kindle dictionary and an Internet browser indispensable to understand some of the terms. Alternate or supplemental reading that I recommend: *Against the Gods: The Remarkable Story of Risk* by Peter L. Bernstein *Antifragile: Things That Gain from Disorder* by Nassim Nicholas Taleb

Over a period of several centuries, the academic study of risk has evolved as a distinct body of thought, which continues to influence conceptual developments in fields such as economics, management, politics and sociology. However, few scholarly works have given a chronological account of cultural and intellectual trends relating to the understanding and analysis of risks. *Risk: A Study of its Origins, History and Politics* aims to fill this gap by providing a detailed study of key turning points in the evolution of society's understanding of risk. Using a wide range of primary and secondary materials, Matthias Beck and Beth Kewell map the political origins and moral reach of some of the most influential ideas associated with risk and uncertainty at specific periods of time. The historical focus of the book makes it an excellent introduction for readers who wish to go beyond specific risk management techniques and their theoretical underpinnings, to gain an understanding of the history and politics of risk.

This opportune book provides a comprehensive interpretation of ideas and concepts of risk. While global risks transcend national boundaries and fail to fit neatly within disciplinary confines, most books remain rooted in these frames; giving this work a special place. *Risk: A Study of its Origins, History and Politics* provides illuminating and inspirational reading which will expand readers' horizons and further their understanding of the theoretical and practical complexities of the pervasive risk phenomenon. Darinka Asenova, Professor of Risk and Governance, Glasgow Caledonian University, UK

From the Inside Flap

Over a period of more than a century, the academic study of risk has evolved as a distinct body of thought, which continues to influence conceptual developments in fields such as economics, management, politics and sociology. However, there are, as yet, hardly any scholarly books providing a systematic, historically contextualised exposition of the development of risk as a key category within the social sciences. This book aims to fill this gap by providing an in-depth analysis of key turning points in the evolution of this important, influential and growing genre of modern thought.