

Book Review

**Crisis Without End: The Medical and Ecological Consequences of
The Fukushima Nuclear Tragedy.**

Helen Caldicott
Arcturus Publishing, London

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The target audience of this book are those with an interest in the nuclear power industry as part of the proposed solution to global warming through more effective means of providing energy. The book is valuable because of the conciseness and yet breadth of coverage of amongst other projects, the Daisuke Fukushima nuclear incident, which is exposed through a series of twenty symposium papers authored by leading authorities who specialize in the field of nuclear medicine.

The principal author, Dr Helen Caldicott is the world leading spokesperson for the anti-nuclear-movement and the co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 was nominated by several other prestigious organizations for key awards. Dr. Caldicott has co-authored *New Nuclear Danger: War in Heaven*; and has authored *Nuclear Power is Not The Answer* and *Loving This Planet*. Other contributors are all well-known and respected specialists in their respective fields who make their cases clearly and dispassionately.

In 2011 a tsunami wrought havoc on the Daisuke Fukushima nuclear power plant and surrounding areas which required the evacuation of millions of residents and construction of temporary housing, in which most former residents live to this day. Subsequently the former power station area has undergone removal of irradiated topsoil which has been bagged and stored elsewhere.

A small number of residents are only now being permitted to return to their former residences. Mostly elderly citizens who believe that even if they will be re-irradiated from the residue of the damage, they will likely die of old age rather than cancer caused by the radiation. The same attitude to returning is not true however of younger former residents with young children.

Although the Japanese authorities have made tremendous efforts to retrieve the nuclear residue from the shell of the nuclear reactors and to contain nuclear leakage from the site, both efforts have been only partially successful and with no end in sight.

The symposium papers declare that there are 450 Nuclear power plants in the US alone, with details provided for nuclear power plants globally. Many of the US facilities are of advanced age and require decommissioning and safe storage of the spent nuclear fuels. Currently, there are no safe storage areas as the nuclear wastes degrade the storage vessels and sites and will continue to do so for 2,500 years and beyond.