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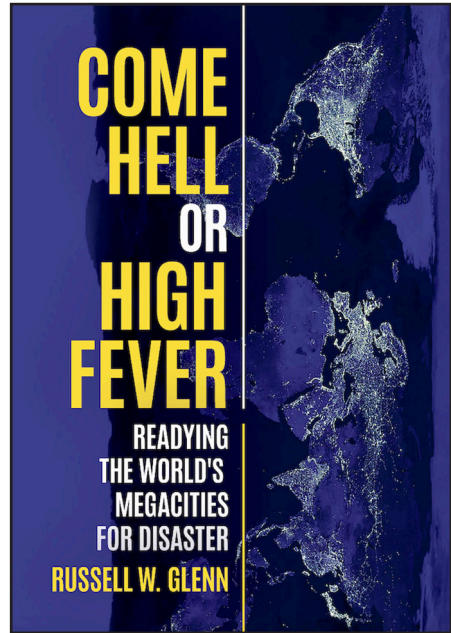
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Noted: Planning for the survival of megacities

Come Hell or High Fever: Ready for the World’s Megacities for Disaster,
by Russell W. Glen. Canberra: ANU Press.
2023. 482 pages. ISBN 9781760465537.

WITH a title straight out a Tom Clancy novel and a writing style that manages to combine facts, analyses and deep understanding of his topic with the pace of a thriller, Russell Glen’s book is as entertaining and it is thought provoking.



Russell predicts that the world’s largest urban agglomerations, like Tokyo, are at risk from a variety of disasters and that it is vital for local and national leaders to think seriously about how to deal with them.

He believes that megacities will last. He does not share the view that they will be abandoned, rather, that there is a need to strengthen them by planning for major contingencies well ahead of time. He cites cities that have been afflicted in the past, such as today’s Istanbul which was ravaged by earthquakes, or modern Tokyo, which he said escaped by a whisker the catastrophe of radioactive contamination from the destruction of the Fukushima reactors in the great earthquake of 2010.

Earlier reviewers have noted that urban populations occupy three percent of the planet’s land area, but use 41

percent of the world's ground surface water and use 60-80 percent of energy. Conversely, they also achieve 80 percent of the world's economic productivity.

Dr Glen served with the US Army Corps of Engineers and has a long-standing interest in large cities, both from a disaster and a military perspective. It is not surprising then that he considers how to fight effectively in large cities.

Lieutenant-General Sean MacFarland (2023) of United States Army noted: 'Understanding how to wage war in dense urban terrain is essential,

especially if a nation also seeks to hold the moral high ground. The fruits of any victory won among people that fails to consider the lessons in *Come Hell or High Fever* are likely to be very bitter.' —PHILIP CASS

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Bestselling journalist Antony Loewenstein uncovers the widespread commercialisation and brutal deployment globally of Israel's occupation-enforcing technologies.

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