

Diploma in Risk Management

Chapter 2.1

Assignment 1

If risk management is an extension of human nature, I should list the most notable political, economic, military, scientific, and technological events of the past 100 years. The major wars (from the Russo-Japanese, World Wars I and II, Korea, the Balkan, the first Gulf War and Iraq, to the numerous regional conflicts) and the advent of the automobile, radio, television, computer and Internet, the Great Depression, global warming, the atom bomb and nuclear power, the rise and fall of communism, housing, the dot-com, derivative, and lending bubbles, and the Major catastrophes did so more directly: the Titanic (the “unsinkable” ship sinks), the Triangle Shirtwaist fire (the failure to allow sufficient exits), Minimata Bay (mercury poisoning in Japan), Seveso (chemical poisoning of the community in Italy), Bhopal (chemical poisoning in India), Chernobyl (Russian nuclear meltdown), Three Mile Island (potential U.S. nuclear disaster that was contained), Challenger (U.S. space shuttle break up), Piper Alpha (North Sea oil production platform explosion and fire), Exxon Valdez (Alaskan ship grounding and oil contamination), to cite some of the more obvious. Earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, cyclones, and hurricanes continue to devastate populous regions, and their increasing frequency and severity stimulate new studies on causes, effects, and prediction, all part of the evolution of risk management.

1. Covering the past 100 years, in your opinion, what are the most significant milestones in the history of risk management? **30 Marks**