

N. N. Ambraseys and C. F. Finkel: The seismicity of Turkey and adjacent areas: A historical review, 1500–1800

The book »The seismicity of Turkey and adjacent areas: A historical review, 1500–1800« by N. N. Ambraseys and C. F. Finkel presents a catalogue of historical earthquakes that occurred in the greater region of today's Turkey during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

The introductory part of the book presents the reader with the concise history of the Ottoman Empire, and discusses the factors that influenced the recording and transmission of information related to earthquakes in the period considered. In the following chapter the authors review 50 earthquake catalogues they consulted in the course of their investigation, that contain records on historical events in the region. The seismologists interested in the seismicity of the Mediterranean and the Middle East will find this review and references cited of great value. The introductory chapters end with the guidelines for the quantification of historical earthquakes.

The catalogue itself lists a total of 377 earthquakes – 52 of them from the 16th century, 93 from the 17th century and the rest from the 18th century. For each of them the case-history is given, including all bibliographic references. The case-histories range from simple citations from almanacs that the earthquake was felt in certain area, to detailed studies containing damage analysis on historical monuments, contemporary reports on casualties, aftershocks, economic impact, etc. The authors did not quantify any of the earthquakes nor did they determine their epicentres – instead they provide the seismological community with all to them available *primary* data that may be used by those who wish to include historical earthquakes into the hazard analysis for Turkey. At the end of the book a set of location maps is given for 56 selected important events. The list of references as well as the index are exhaustive and complete.

The material presented in the book is a result of truly multidisciplinary research – the book will therefore be of great value not only to seismologists or engineers, but also to e.g. historians, geographers, archaeologists or even linguists interested in the area of Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

M. Herak