

March 11, 2011: Fukushima: A Nuclear War without a War: The Unspoken Crisis of Worldwide Nuclear Radiation

ONLINE READER

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

Global Research, April 15, 2021

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Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Environment](#), [I-BOOKS SERIES](#),
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In-depth Report: [Nuclear War](#)

The Fukushima-Daiichi Disaster, Ten Years ago, March 11, 2011.

While commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Fukushima tragedy, the evidence amply confirms that this disaster has by no means been resolved.

“Unimaginable” levels of radiation still prevail. In the words of Dr. Helen Caldicott, “one millionth of a gram of plutonium, if inhaled can cause cancer”.

The Fukushima disaster in March 2011 resulted in 16,000 deaths, causing some 165,000 people to flee their homes in the Fukushima area.

Both the Japanese and Western media tend to downplay the impacts of nuclear radiation which has spread to vast areas in Northern Japan, not to mention the contamination of the food chain.

The continued dumping of highly radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean constitutes a potential trigger to a process of global radioactive contamination.

Amply documented the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) was involved in a coverup. And so was the Japanese government.

The Abe government casually pointed to “harmful rumors”. The present government’s stance remains ambiguous.

TEPCO has acknowledged that the decommissioning of the Fukushima facility could last until 2051.

In recent developments, the Japan government of Prime Minister Yoshihide has confirmed that

“it will release treated radioactive water [tritium] from Fukushima nuclear plant into sea”. The PM met with his Cabinet to formalise this decision on April 13, 2021.” (SCMP).

The Worldwide public health impacts which includes the contamination of the Pacific Ocean extending to the Western Hemisphere are incalculable.

Originally published in January 2012, this study by Michel Chossudovsky confirms what is now unfolding: a Worldwide process of nuclear radiation.

Note to Readers: Remember to bookmark this page for future reference.

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[scroll down for I-BOOK Table of Contents]

Originally published in January 2012. The introduction of the I-Book is contained as a chapter in Michel Chossudovsky's 2015 bestseller: [The Globalization of War, America's Long War against Humanity](#), Global Research, Montreal 2015

* * *

GLOBAL RESEARCH ONLINE INTERACTIVE READER SERIES

Fukushima: A Nuclear War without a War

The Unspoken Crisis of Worldwide Nuclear Radiation

Michel Chossudovsky (Editor)

I-Book No. 3, January 25 2012

Global Research's Online Interactive I-Book Reader brings together, in the form of chapters, a collection of Global Research feature articles and videos, including debate and analysis, on a broad theme or subject matter.

In this Interactive Online I-Book we bring to the attention of our readers an important collection of articles, reports and video material on the Fukushima nuclear catastrophe and its impacts (scroll down for the Table of Contents).

[To consult our Online Interactive I-Book Reader Series, click here.](#)

INTRODUCTION

The World is at a critical crossroads. The Fukushima disaster in Japan has brought to the forefront the dangers of Worldwide nuclear radiation.

The crisis in Japan has been described as "a nuclear war without a war". In the words of renowned novelist Haruki Murakami:

"This time no one dropped a bomb on us ... We set the stage, we committed the crime with our own hands, we are destroying our own lands, and we are destroying our own lives."

Nuclear radiation -which threatens life on planet earth- is not front page news in comparison to the most insignificant issues of public concern, including the local level crime scene or the tabloid gossip reports on Hollywood celebrities.

While the long-term repercussions of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster are yet to be fully assessed, they are far more serious than those pertaining to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in the Ukraine, which resulted in almost one million deaths ([New Book Concludes – Chernobyl death toll: 985,000, mostly from cancer](#) Global Research, September 10, 2010, See also Matthew Penney and Mark Selden [The Severity of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster: Comparing Chernobyl and Fukushima](#), Global Research, May 25, 2011)

Moreover, while all eyes were riveted on the Fukushima Daiichi plant, news coverage both in Japan and internationally failed to fully acknowledge the impacts of a second catastrophe at TEPCO's (Tokyo Electric Power Co Inc) Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The shaky political consensus both in Japan, the U.S. and Western Europe is that the crisis at Fukushima has been contained.

The realities, however, are otherwise. Fukushima 3 was leaking unconfirmed amounts of plutonium. According to Dr. Helen Caldicott, *"one millionth of a gram of plutonium, if inhaled can cause cancer"*.

An opinion poll in May 2011 confirmed that more than 80 per cent of the Japanese population do not believe the government's information regarding the nuclear crisis. (quoted in Sherwood Ross, [Fukushima: Japan's Second Nuclear Disaster](#), Global Research, November 10, 2011)

The Impacts in Japan

The Japanese government has been obliged to acknowledge that "the severity rating of its nuclear crisis ... matches that of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster". In a bitter irony, however, this tacit admission by the Japanese authorities has proven to be part of the cover-up of a significantly larger catastrophe, resulting in a process of global nuclear radiation and contamination:

"While Chernobyl was an enormous unprecedented disaster, it only occurred at one reactor and rapidly melted down. Once cooled, it was able to be covered with a concrete sarcophagus that was constructed with 100,000 workers. There are a staggering 4400 tons of nuclear fuel rods at Fukushima, which greatly dwarfs the total size of radiation sources at Chernobyl." ([Extremely High Radiation Levels in Japan: University Researchers Challenge Official Data](#), Global Research, April 11, 2011)



Fukushima in the wake of the Tsunami, March 2011

Worldwide Contamination

The dumping of highly radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean constitutes a potential trigger to a process of global radioactive contamination. Radioactive elements have not only been detected in the food chain in Japan, radioactive rain water has been recorded in California:

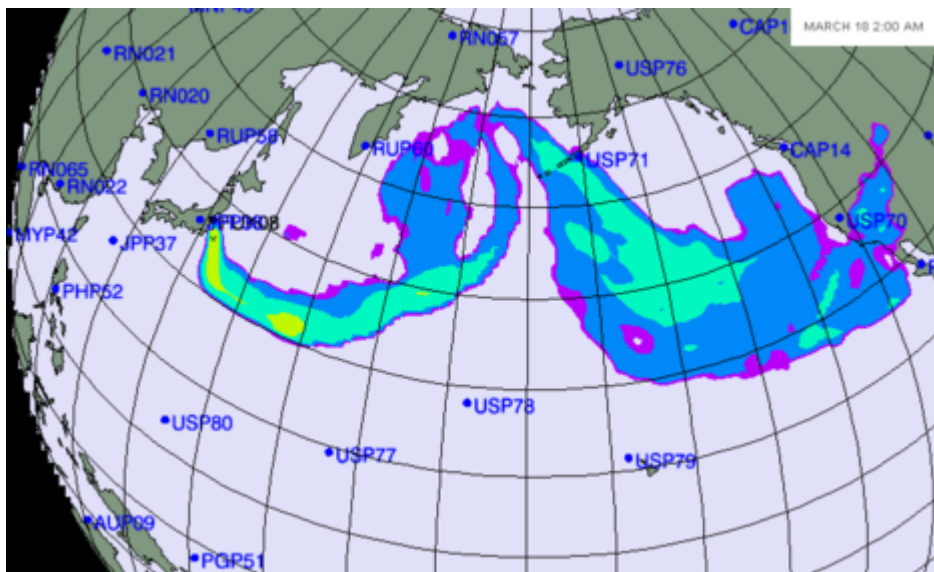
“Hazardous radioactive elements being released in the sea and air around Fukushima accumulate at each step of various food chains (for example, into algae, crustaceans, small fish, bigger fish, then humans; or soil, grass, cow’s meat and milk, then humans). Entering the body, these elements – called internal emitters – migrate to specific organs such as the thyroid, liver, bone, and brain, continuously irradiating small volumes of cells with high doses of alpha, beta and/or gamma radiation, and over many years often induce cancer”. (Helen Caldicott, [Fukushima: Nuclear Apologists Play Shoot the Messenger on Radiation](#), The Age, April 26, 2011)

While the spread of radiation to the West Coast of North America was casually acknowledged, the early press reports (AP and Reuters) “quoting diplomatic sources” stated that only “tiny amounts of radioactive particles have arrived in California but do not pose a threat to human health.”

“According to the news agencies, the unnamed sources have access to data from a network of measuring stations run by the United Nations’ Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization. ...

... Greg Jaczko, chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, told White House reporters on Thursday (March 17) that his experts “don’t see any concern from radiation levels that could be harmful here in the United States

or any of the U.S. territories”.





The spread of radiation. March 2011

Public Health Disaster. Economic Impacts

What prevails is a well organized camouflage. The public health disaster in Japan, the contamination of water, agricultural land and the food chain, not to mention the broader economic and social implications, have neither been fully acknowledged nor addressed in a comprehensive and meaningful fashion by the Japanese authorities.

Japan as a nation state has been destroyed. Its landmass and territorial waters are contaminated. Part of the country is uninhabitable. High levels of radiation have been recorded in the Tokyo metropolitan area, which has a population of 39 million (2010) (more than the population of Canada, circa 34 million (2010)) There are indications that the food chain is contaminated throughout Japan:

Radioactive cesium exceeding the legal limit was detected in tea made in a factory in Shizuoka City, more than 300 kilometers away from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Shizuoka Prefecture is one of the most famous tea producing areas in Japan.

A tea distributor in Tokyo reported to the prefecture that it detected high levels of radioactivity in the tea shipped from the city. The prefecture ordered the factory to refrain from shipping out the product. After the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, radioactive contamination of tea leaves and processed tea has been found over a wide area around Tokyo. (See [5 More Companies Detect Radiation In Their Tea Above Legal Limits Over 300 KM From Fukushima](#), June 15, 2011)

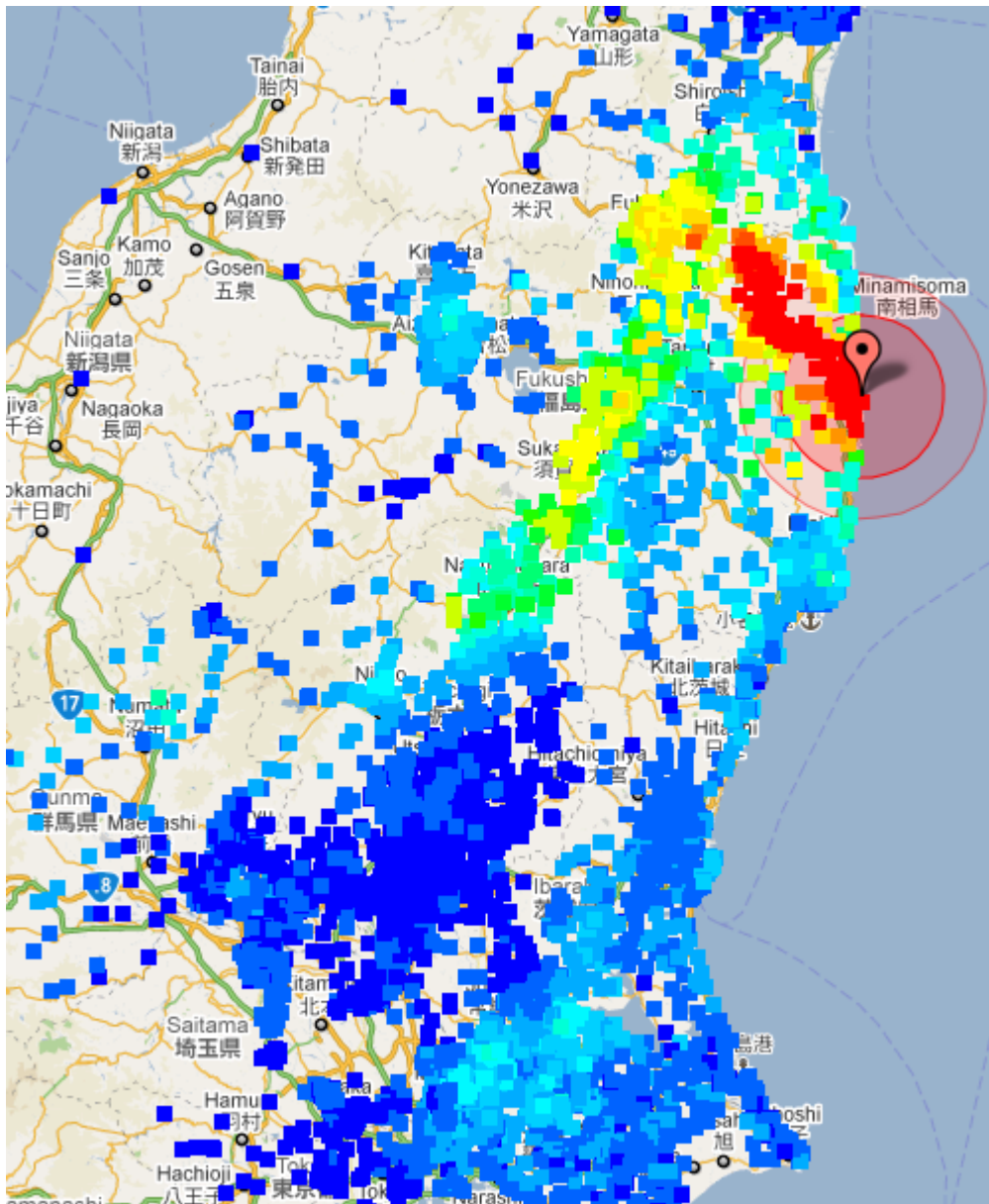
Japan's industrial and manufacturing base is prostrate. Japan is no longer a leading industrial power. The country's exports have plummeted. The Tokyo government has announced its first trade deficit since 1980.

While the business media has narrowly centered on the impacts of power outages and energy shortages on the pace of productive activity, the broader issue pertaining to the outright radioactive contamination of the country's infrastructure and industrial base is a

“scientific taboo” (i.e the radiation of industrial plants, machinery and equipment, buildings, roads, etc). A report released in January 2012 points to the nuclear contamination of building materials used in the construction industry, including roads and residential buildings throughout Japan.(See [FUKUSHIMA: Radioactive Houses and Roads in Japan. Radioactive Building Materials Sold to over 200 Construction Companies, January 2012](#))

A “coverup report” by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (May 2011), entitled [“Economic Impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Current Status of Recovery”](#) presents “Economic Recovery” as a *fait accompli*. It also brushes aside the issue of radiation. The impacts of nuclear radiation on the work force and the country’s industrial base are not mentioned. The report states that the distance between Tokyo -Fukushima Dai-ichi is of the order of 230 km (about 144 miles) and that the levels of radiation in Tokyo are lower than in Hong Kong and New York City.(Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, [Impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Current Status of Recovery](#), p.15). This statement is made without corroborating evidence and in overt contradiction with independent radiation readings in Tokyo (see map below). In recent developments, Sohgo Security Services Co. is launching a lucrative “radiation measurement service targeting households in Tokyo and four surrounding prefectures”.

[“A map of citizens’ measured radiation levels shows radioactivity](#) is distributed in a complex pattern reflecting the mountainous terrain and the shifting winds across a broad area of Japan north of Tokyo which is in the center of the of bottom of the map.”



SOURCE: [Science Magazine](#)

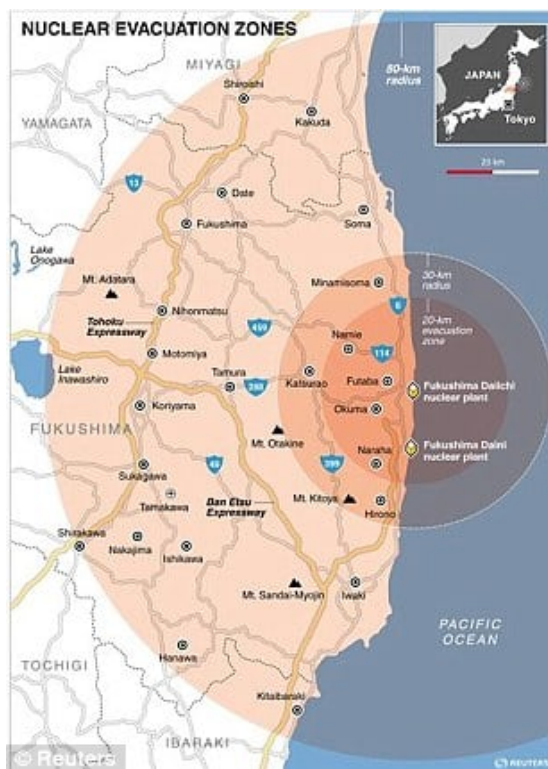
“Radiation limits begin to be exceeded at just above 0.1 microsieverts/ hour blue. Red is about fifty times the civilian radiation limit at 5.0 microsieverts/hour. Because children are much more sensitive than adults, these results are a great concern for parents of young children in potentially affected areas.”

The fundamental question is whether the vast array of industrial goods and components “Made in Japan” — including hi tech components, machinery, electronics, motor vehicles, etc — and exported Worldwide are contaminated? Were this to be the case, the entire East and Southeast Asian industrial base -which depends heavily on Japanese components and industrial technology- would be affected. The potential impacts on international trade would be farreaching. In this regard, in January, Russian officials confiscated irradiated Japanese automobiles and autoparts in the port of Vladivostok for sale in the Russian Federation. Needless to say, incidents of this nature in a global competitive environment, could lead to the demise of the Japanese automobile industry which is already in crisis.

While most of the automotive industry is in central Japan, Nissan’s engine factory in Iwaki city is 42 km from the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Is the Nissan work force affected? Is the

engine plant contaminated? The plant is within about 10 to 20 km of the government's "evacuation zone" from which some 200,000 people were evacuated (see map below).

Nuclear Energy and Nuclear War



The crisis in Japan has also brought into the open the unspoken relationship between nuclear energy and nuclear war.

Nuclear energy is not a civilian economic activity. It is an appendage of the nuclear weapons industry which is controlled by the so-called defense contractors. The powerful corporate interests behind nuclear energy and nuclear weapons overlap.

In Japan at the height of the disaster, "the nuclear industry and government agencies [were] scrambling to prevent the discovery of atomic-bomb research facilities hidden inside Japan's civilian nuclear power plants".¹ (See Yoichi Shimatsu, [Secret Weapons Program Inside Fukushima Nuclear Plant?](#) Global Research, April 12, 2011)

It should be noted that the complacency of both the media and the governments to the hazards of nuclear radiation pertains to the nuclear energy industry as well as to the use of nuclear weapons. In both cases, the devastating health impacts of nuclear radiation are casually denied. Tactical nuclear weapons with an explosive capacity of up to six times a Hiroshima bomb are labelled by the Pentagon as "safe for the surrounding civilian population".

No concern has been expressed at the political level as to the likely consequences of a US-NATO-Israel attack on Iran, using "safe for civilians" tactical nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear state.

Such an action would result in "the unthinkable": a nuclear holocaust over a large part of the Middle East and Central Asia. A nuclear nightmare, however, would occur even if nuclear weapons were not used. The bombing of Iran's nuclear facilities using conventional weapons would contribute to unleashing another Fukushima type disaster with extensive radioactive fallout. (For further details See Michel Chossudovsky, [Towards a World War III Scenario, The](#)

[Dangers of Nuclear War](#), Global Research, Montreal, 2011)

The Online Interactive I-Book Reader on Fukushima: A Nuclear War without a War

In view of the official cover-up and media disinformation campaign, the contents of the articles and video reports in this Online Interactive Reader have not trickled down to the broader public. (See Table of contents below)

This Online Interactive Reader on Fukushima contains a combination of analytical and scientific articles, video reports as well as shorter news reports and corroborating data.

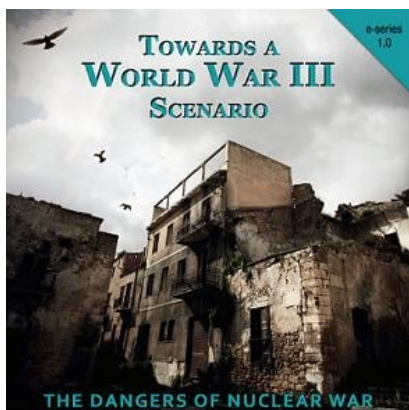
Part I focusses on The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster: How it Happened? Part II pertains to The Devastating Health and Social Impacts in Japan. Part III centers on the “Hidden Nuclear Catastrophe”, namely the cover-up by the Japanese government and the corporate media. Part IV focusses on the issue of Worldwide Nuclear Radiation and Part V reviews the Implications of the Fukushima disaster for the Global Nuclear Energy Industry.

In the face of ceaseless media disinformation, this Global Research Online I-Book on the dangers of global nuclear radiation is intended to break the media vacuum and raise public awareness, while also pointing to the complicity of the governments, the media and the nuclear industry.

We call upon our readers to spread the word.

We invite university, college and high school teachers to make this Interactive Reader on Fukushima available to their students.

Michel Chossudovsky, January 25, 2012



[Towards a World War III Scenario: The Dangers of Nuclear War](#)

Michel Chossudovsky

“In a world where engineered, pre-emptive, or more fashionably “humanitarian” wars of aggression have become the norm, this challenging book may be our final wake-up call.” –*Denis Halliday, Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I

The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster: How it Happened

[The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster: What Happened on “Day One”?](#)

– by Yoichi Shimatsu – 2011-04-16

[Fukushima is the greatest nuclear and environmental disaster in human history](#)

– by Steven C. Jones – 2011-06-20

[Nuclear Apocalypse in Japan](#)

Lifting the Veil of Nuclear Catastrophe and cover-up

– by Keith Harmon Snow – 2011-03-18

Humanity now faces a deadly serious challenge coming out of Japan — the epicenter of radiation.

[VIDEO: Full Meltdown? Japan Maximum Nuclear Alert](#)

Watch now on GRTV

-by Christopher Busby- 2011-03-30

[Fukushima: Japan’s Second Nuclear Disaster](#)

– by Sherwood Ross – 2011-11-10

[Secret Weapons Program Inside Fukushima Nuclear Plant?](#)

U.S.-Japan security treaty fatally delayed nuclear workers’ fight against meltdown

– by Yoichi Shimatsu – 2011-04-12

The specter of self-destruction can be ended only with the abrogation of the U.S.-Japan security treaty, the root cause of the secrecy that fatally delayed the nuclear workers’ fight against meltdown.

[Fukushima: “China Syndrome Is Inevitable” ... “Huge Steam Explosions”](#)

“Massive Hydrovolcanic Explosion” or a “Nuclear Bomb-Type Explosion” May Occur

– by Washington’s Blog – 2011-11-22

[Accident at Second Japanese Nuclear Complex: The Nuclear Accident You Never Heard About](#)

– by Washington’s Blog – 2012-01-12

[VIDEO: New TEPCO Photographs Substantiate Significant Damage to Fukushima Unit 3](#)

Latest report now on GRTV

- by Arnie Gundersen - 2011-10-20

PART II

The Devastating Health and Social Impacts in Japan

[VIDEO: Surviving Japan: A Critical Look at the Nuclear Crisis](#)

Learn more about this important new documentary on GRTV

- by Chris Noland - 2012-01-23

[Fukushima and the Battle for Truth](#)

Large sectors of the Japanese population are accumulating significant levels of internal contamination

- by Paul Zimmerman - 2011-09-27

[FUKUSHIMA: Public health Fallout from Japanese Quake](#)

"Culture of cover-up" and inadequate cleanup. Japanese people exposed to "unconscionable" health risks

- by Canadian Medical Association Journal - 2011-12-30

[FUKUSHIMA: Radioactive Houses and Roads in Japan. Radioactive Building Materials Sold to over 200 Construction Companies](#)

- 2012-01-16

[VIDEO: Cancer Risk To Young Children Near Fukushima Daiichi Underestimated](#)

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- by Arnie Gundersen - 2012-01-19

[VIDEO: The Results Are In: Japan Received Enormous Exposures of Radiation from Fukushima](#)

Important new video now on GRTV

- by Arnie Gundersen, Marco Kaltofen - 2011-11-07

[The Tears of Sanriku \(三陸\). The Death Toll for the Great East Japan Earthquake Nuclear Disaster](#)

- by Jim Bartel - 2011-10-31

[The Severity of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster: Comparing Chernobyl and Fukushima](#)

- by Prof. Matthew Penney, Prof. Mark Selden - 2011-05-24

Uncertainty about the long-term health effects of radiation

[Radioactivity in Food: "There is no safe level of radionuclide exposure, whether from food, water or other sources. Period."](#)

- by Physicians For Social Responsibility - 2011-03-23

[71,000 people in the city next to the Fukushima nuclear plant "We've Been Left to Die" - 2011-03-19](#)

PART III

Hidden Nuclear Catastrophe: Cover-up by the Japanese Government and the Corporate Media

[VIDEO: Japanese Government Insiders Reveal Fukushima Secrets](#)

GRTV Behind the Headlines now online

– by James Corbett – 2011-10-06

[Fukushima and the Mass Media Meltdown](#)

The Repercussions of a Pro-Nuclear Corporate Press

– by Keith Harmon Snow – 2011-06-20

[Scandal: Japan Forces Top Official To Retract Prime Minister's Revelation Fukushima Permanently Uninhabitable](#)

– by Alexander Higgins – 2011-04-18

[Emergency Special Report: Japan's Earthquake, Hidden Nuclear Catastrophe](#)

– by Yoichi Shimatsu – 2011-03-13

The tendency to deny systemic errors – “in order to avoid public panic” – is rooted in the determination of an entrenched Japanese bureaucracy to protect itself...

[VIDEO: Fukushima: TEPCO Believes Mission Accomplished & Regulators Allow Radioactive Dumping in Tokyo Bay](#)

Learn more on GRTV

– by Arnie Gundersen – 2012-01-11

[The Dangers of Radiation: Deconstructing Nuclear Experts](#)

– by Chris Busby – 2011-03-31

“The nuclear industry is waging a war against humanity.” This war has now entered an endgame which will decide the survival of the human race.

[Engineers Knew Fukushima Might Be Unsafe, But Covered It Up ...](#)

And Now the Extreme Vulnerability of NEW U.S. Plants Is Being Covered Up

– by Washington's Blog – 2011-11-12

[COVERUP: Are Fukushima Reactors 5 and 6 In Trouble Also?](#)

– by Washington's Blog – 2011-11-14

[Fukushima's Owner Adds Insult to Injury – Claims Radioactive Fallout Isn't Theirs](#)

– by John LaForge – 2012-01-17

PART IV

The Process of Worldwide Nuclear Radiation

VIDEO: [Japan's Nuclear Crisis: The Dangers of Worldwide Radiation](#)

- by Dr. Helen Caldicott - 2012-01-25

[An Unexpected Mortality Increase in the US Follows Arrival of Radioactive Plume from Fukushima, Is there a Correlation?](#)

- by Dr. Joseph J. Mangano, Dr. Janette Sherman - 2011-12-20

In the US, Following the Fukushima fallout, samples of radioactivity in precipitation, air, water, and milk, taken by the U.S. government, showed levels hundreds of times above normal...

[Radioactive Dust From Japan Hit North America 3 Days After Meltdown](#)

But Governments "Lied" About Meltdowns and Radiation

- by Washington's Blog - 2011-06-24

VIDEO: [Fukushima Will Be Radiating Everyone for Centuries](#)

New report now on GRTV

- by Michio Kaku, Liz Hayes - 2011-08-23

[Fukushima: Diseased Seals in Alaska tested for Radiation](#)

- 2011-12-29

[Radiation Spreads to France](#)

- by Washington's Blog - 2011-11-15

[Radioactive rain causes 130 schools in Korea to close — Yet rain in California had 10 TIMES more radioactivity](#)

PART V

Implications for the Global Nuclear Energy Industry

[Science with a Skew: The Nuclear Power Industry After Chernobyl and Fukushima](#)

- by Gayle Greene - 2012-01-26

[After Fukushima: Enough Is Enough](#)

- by Helen Caldicott - 2011-12-05

VIDEO: [Radiation Coverups Confirmed: Los Alamos, Fort Calhoun, Fukushima, TSA](#)

New Sunday Report now on GRTV

- by James Corbett - 2011-07-04

VIDEO: [Why Fukushima Can Happen Here: What the NRC and Nuclear Industry Don't Want You to Know](#)

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- by Arnie Gundersen, David Lochbaum - 2011-07-12

[VIDEO: Safety Problems in all Reactors Designed Like Fukushima](#)

Learn more on GRTV

– by Arnie Gundersen – 2011-09-26

[VIDEO: Proper Regulation of Nuclear Power has been Coopted Worldwide](#)

Explore the issues on GRTV

– by Arnie Gundersen – 2011-10-05

[VIDEO: New Nuclear Reactors Do Not Consider Fukushima Design Flaws](#)

Find out more on GRTV

– by Arnie Gundersen – 2011-11-24

[Nuclear Energy: Profit Driven Industry](#)

“Nuclear Can Be Safe Or It Can Be Cheap ... But It Can’t Be Both”

– by Washington’s Blog – 2011-12-23

[VIDEO: Fukushima and the Fall of the Nuclear Priesthood](#)

Watch the new GRTV Feature Interview

– by Arnie Gundersen – 2011-10-22

[Why is there a Media Blackout on Nuclear Incident at Fort Calhoun in Nebraska?](#)

– by Patrick Henningsen – 2011-06-23

[Startling Revelations about Three Mile Island Disaster Raise Doubts Over Nuke Safety](#)

– by Sue Sturgis – 2011-07-24

[Radioactive Leak at Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station](#)

– by Rady Ananda – 2011-07-01

[VIDEO: US vs Japan: The Threat of Radiation Speculation](#)

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TEXT BOX

Nuclear Radiation: Categorization

At Fukushima, reports confirm that alpha, beta, gamma particles and neutrons have been released:

“While non-ionizing radiation and x-rays are a result of electron transitions in atoms or molecules, there are three forms of ionizing radiation that are a result of activity within the nucleus of an atom. These forms of nuclear radiation are alpha particles (α -particles), beta particles (β -particles) and gamma rays (γ -rays).

Alpha particles are heavy positively charged particles made up of two protons and two neutrons. They are essentially a helium nucleus and are thus represented in a nuclear equation by either α or ${}^4_2\text{He}$. See the [Alpha Decay](#) page for more information on alpha particles.

Beta particles come in two forms: ${}^0_{-1}\text{e}$ and ${}^0_{+1}\text{e}$. ${}^0_{-1}\text{e}$ particles are just electrons that have been ejected from the nucleus. This is a result of sub-nuclear reactions that result in a neutron decaying to a proton. The electron is needed to conserve charge and comes from the nucleus. It is not an orbital electron. ${}^0_{+1}\text{e}$ particles are positrons ejected from the nucleus when a proton decays to a neutron. A positron is an anti-particle that is similar in nearly all respects to an electron, but has a positive charge. See the [Beta Decay](#) page for more information on beta particles.

Gamma rays are photons of high energy electromagnetic radiation (light). Gamma rays generally have the highest frequency and shortest wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum. There is some overlap in the frequencies of gamma rays and x-rays; however, x-rays are formed from electron transitions while gamma rays are formed from nuclear transitions. See the [Gamma Rays](#) for more" (SOURCE: [Canadian Nuclear Association](#))

"A neutron is a particle that is found in the nucleus, or center, of atoms. It has a mass very close to protons, which also reside in the nucleus of atoms. Together, they make up almost all of the mass of individual atoms. Each has a mass of about 1 amu, which is roughly 1.6×10^{-27} kg. Protons have a positive charge and neutrons have no charge, which is why they were more difficult to discover." (SOURCE: [Neutron Radiation](#))

"Many different radioactive isotopes are used in or are produced by nuclear reactors. The most important of these are described below:

1. Uranium 235 (U-235) is the active component of most nuclear reactor fuel.
2. Plutonium (Pu-239) is a key nuclear material used in modern nuclear weapons and is also present as a by-product in certain reprocessed fuels used in some nuclear reactors. Pu-239 is also produced in uranium reactors as a byproduct of fission of U-235.
3. Cesium (Cs-137) is a fission product of U-235. It emits beta and gamma radiation and can cause radiation sickness and death if exposures are high enough. ...
4. Iodine 131 (I-131), also a fission product of U-235, emits beta and gamma radiation. After inhalation or ingestion, it is absorbed by and concentrated in the thyroid gland, where its beta radiation damages nearby thyroid tissue (SOURCE: Amesh A. Adalja, MD, Eric S. Toner, MD, Anita Cicero, JD, Joseph Fitzgerald, MS, MPH, and Thomas V. Inglesby MD, [Radiation at Fukushima: Basic Issues and Concepts](#), March 31, 2011)

*Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (Emeritus) at the University of Ottawa. He is the Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal and Editor of the [globalresearch.ca](#) website. He is the author of *The Globalization of Poverty and The New World Order* (2003) and *America's "War on Terrorism"* (2005). His most recent book is entitled [Towards a World War III Scenario: The](#)*

[Dangers of Nuclear War \(2011\)](#). He has taught as Visiting Professor at universities in Western Europe, South East Asia, Latin America and The Pacific, acted as adviser to governments of developing countries and as a consultant to several international organizations.

Prof. Chossudovsky is a signatory of the Kuala Lumpur declaration to criminalize war and recipient of the Human Rights Prize of the Society for the Protection of Civil Rights and Human Dignity (GBM), Berlin, Germany. He is also a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages.

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About the author:

Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has taught as visiting professor in Western Europe, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. He has served as economic adviser to governments of developing countries and has acted as a consultant for several international organizations. He is the author of 13 books. He is a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic

of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at crgeditor@yahoo.com

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