

1906: The Fault Awakens

Date: April 18, 1906
Time: 5:13 a.m.
Magnitude: 7.8
Duration: 45 seconds
Damage: \$400 million
Up to 5,000 dead
Epicenter: Offshore, south of the Golden Gate

Memories of uncontrollable earthquakes are burned into our minds by the grief and uncertainty left in their wake. As the fault ruptures, violent shaking crumbles buildings, takes lives and rocks the foundations of society.

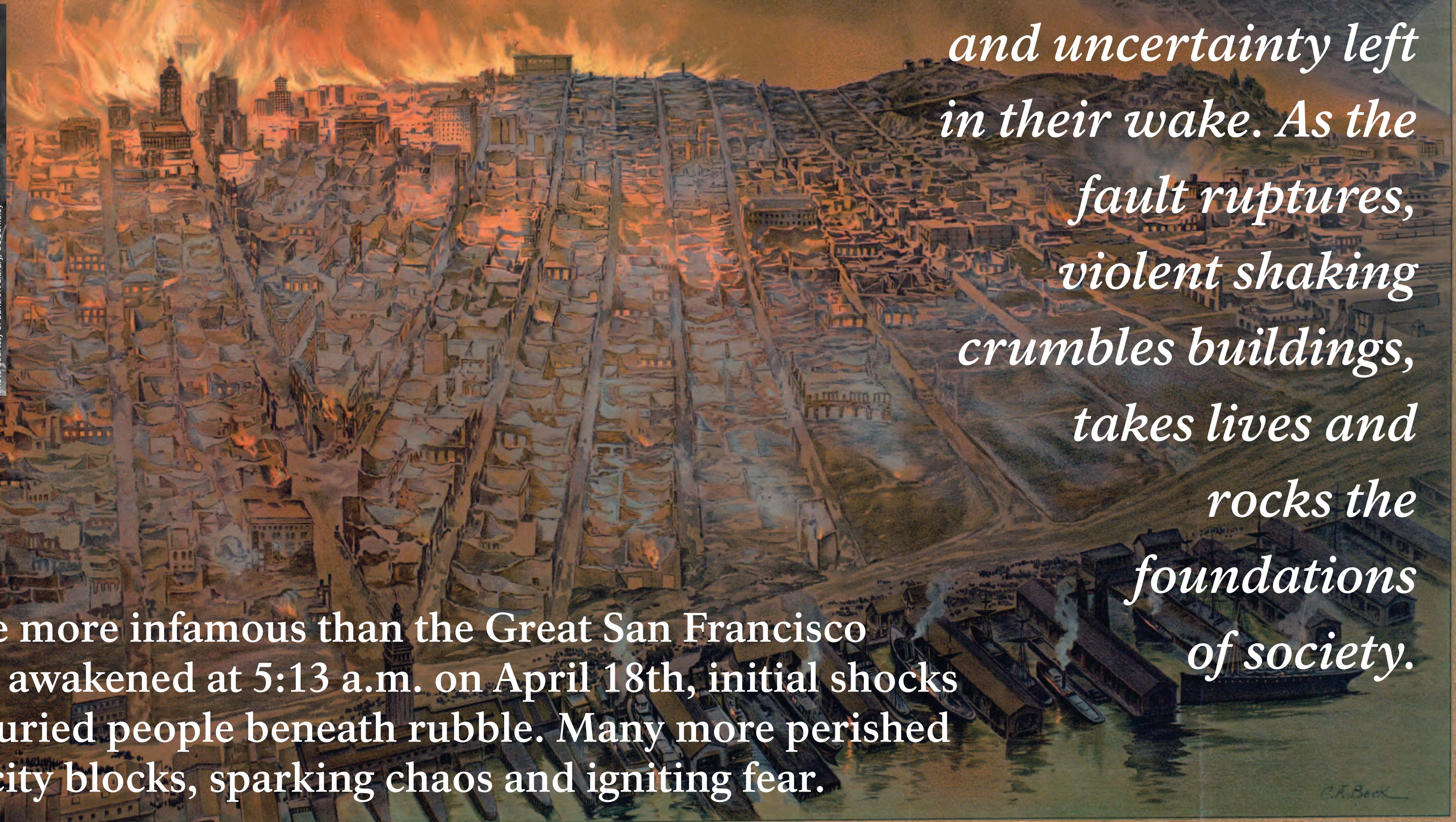


Corner of Larkin and Fulton, 1906

Photo Courtesy of Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley

Without the benefit of modern building codes, much of San Francisco was reduced to rubble and ash.

Perhaps there is no earthquake more infamous than the Great San Francisco Quake of 1906. When the fault awakened at 5:13 a.m. on April 18th, initial shocks tumbled some buildings and buried people beneath rubble. Many more perished as fires consumed almost 500 city blocks, sparking chaos and igniting fear.



THE GREATEST CONFLAGRATION IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

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“THE BURNING OF SAN FRANCISCO” APRIL 18, 19, 20, 1906.