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**The Day the World Actually Exploded**

We’ve grown up knowing that there was a hurricane somewhere and destroyed that area or that a volcano erupted and encased people bodies in ash piles. If you think about it, we don’t know what, or when, was the first world experience with a disaster. Simon Winchester proposes that the explosion of a volcano, named Krakatoa, was that event.

Winchester explains why he thinks that this explosion was “the day the world exploded.” He does this successfully by providing different accounts that describe this explosion all around the world. One of these accounts is from a man named Mr. Schuit. He owned an inn, near the island which Krakatoa is located, and had a perfect view of the island, which means he had a perfect view if there was something to happen to the volcano. This man was the one to send a message to London about the first explosion of Krakatoa in the year of 1883. When the telegram was sent, it was published in a London newspaper called *The Times* on May 24th, 1883:

“**Volcanic Eruption.** Lloyd’s Agent in Batavia, under date of May 23rd, telegraphs: ‘Strong Volcanic Eruption, Krakatowa Island, Sunda Straits.’” 🡪pg. 178

At the same time, a new agency, named Reuters, did the same exact thing, but their information wasn’t published until the day after London. This news spread throughout the world and ended up being published in the United States, South Africa, India, France, and Germany. Mr. Schuit was the first to spark a major global exchange of news of an event. Another account that supports Winchester’s theory that this was a global event was through the use of underwater cables. These cables were covered in wild rubber, which helped them in being water proof. These cables were put at the bottom of the ocean and allowed for telegrams to be either transmitted by land or by sea. Because these cables were strung everywhere, the message had to be sent from all different places in the world so that it could finally reach its destination. This contributed to the event being a global matter because there were different places in the world that helped to transmit this message across the world, to get officially published so that everyone were to be able to read about it.