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FROM RISK SOCIETIES TO GLOBAL COMMUNITIES: THE UNEXPECTED CREATIONS OF NUCLEAR DISASTER

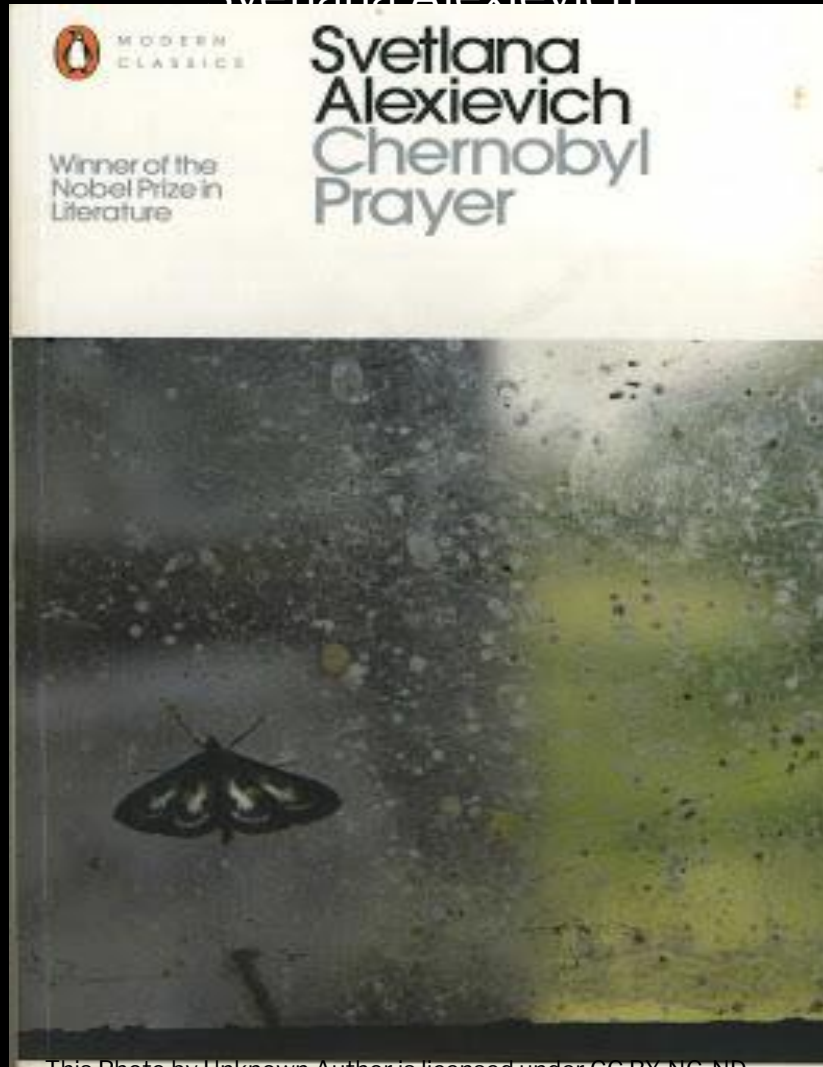
Svetlana Alexievich's *Chernobyl
Prayer*

And

Hitomi Kamanaka's *Little Voices
of Fukushima*

Чернобыльская Молитва (1997)

Svetlana Alexievich



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Little Voices from Fukushima (2015)

Hitomi Kamanaka



THESIS

Unprecedented ecological disasters reveal innate desires and expectations humans have for their lives, and it fosters unexpected communal creation despite context or creed.

- ❖ 3 Ecocritical Lenses
 - ❖ *Risk Societies*
 - ❖ *Political Ecology*
 - ❖ *Scale*

Other analyses of the two works have focused on the contrast in the two personal narratives by accentuating the literary nature of Alexievich's philosophical pessimism and its indebtedness to an antithetical paradigm. (Solovieva, 2018)

Risk Society

- Biproduct of industrialization and modern technologies
- Ulrich Beck
- Risk to reality
- Birth of a community

LOSS

Home
Health

Trust in Surroundings



Political Ecology

Soviet Union

System: Communist

Ideology: Communal based/ the state comes before the individual/ limited freedoms

Mentality: Soviet resiliency (endure continuous hardship for survival)

Religious appearance: Spiritual (likely Eastern Orthodox)

Outside Reaction: Fear/ ostracization

Japan

System: Capitalist

Ideology: Promotes individualism and freedom

Mentality: "Pick yourself up by the bootstraps"

Religious appearance: Secular

Outside Reaction: Supportive/ Accepting

Nature is a commodity

Governments failed to be transparent



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Scale

Around the world in 8 days

Nuclear disaster and its resulting environmental impacts made the world appear much smaller than the ordinary narrative depicts it to be.

Global Environment

LOCAL COMMUNITY TO GLOBAL COMMUNITY

A Global community: *Little Voices from Fukushima* captured interactions between Soviet peoples affected by Chernobyl and Japanese people affected by Daiichi; as well as, featuring foreigners who voluntarily offered their knowledge and abilities as aid. These interactions were between...

- Mothers
- Doctors
- Activists

Cooperation at a global scale is the solution to ending the implementation of risk societies.



CONCLUSION

Despite differing political contexts and reasonable time passed, nuclear disaster proved to foster global collaboration and new communities which could carry on the fight to prevent further environmental risks from becoming a reality.

REFERENCES

Olga V. Solovieva; Chernobyl, the Unheard Prayer: Svetlana Alexievich and the Little Voices of Fukushima. *boundary 2* 1 November 2018; 45 (4): 203–221.

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