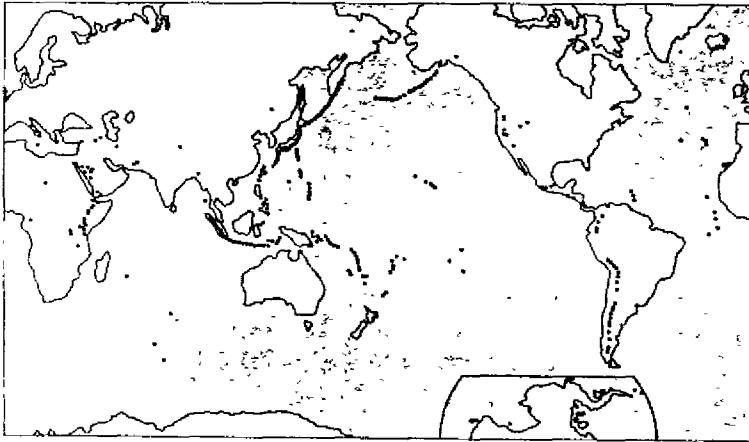


1. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN JAPAN SUBJECT TO OCCURRENCE OF NATURAL DISASTERS

1. Steep Mountains, Weak Ground, Severe Weather Conditions
2. The Japanese Islands apt to be Damaged by Earthquakes and Volcanic Eruptions

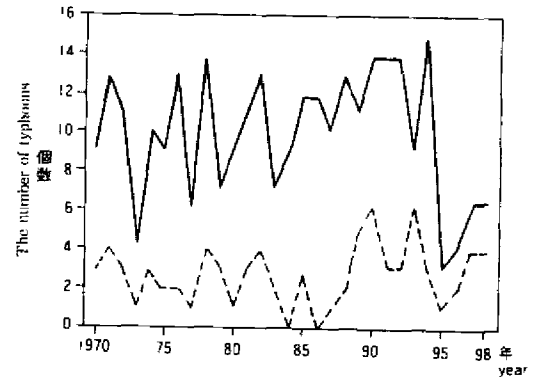
Volcanoes of the world



火山・Volcano

日本には全世界の約1割にあたる86の活火山が分布しています。
In Japan, there are 86 active volcanoes which is equivalent to about 10% of total volcanoes on the earth

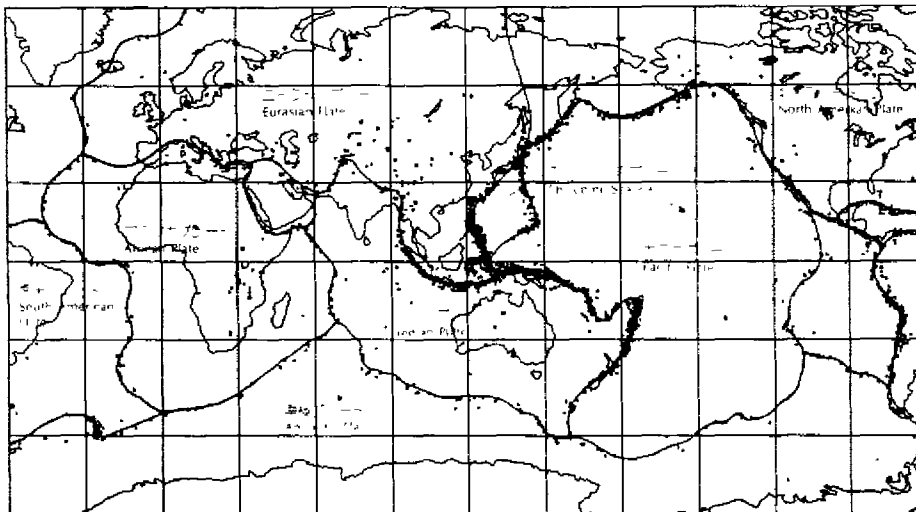
The number of typhoon approaches and the shore strikings



— 日本への接近数 (台風が中心が日本のいずれかの気象官署から300km以内に接近した数)
The number of typhoon approaches to Japan (The number of typhoons whose center has approached within 300 km of meteorological offices)

---- 台風の上陸数 (台風が中心が北海道・本州・四国・九州の海岸線に達した数)
The number of typhoon shore striking (The number of typhoons whose center has reached the coastal line of Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu)

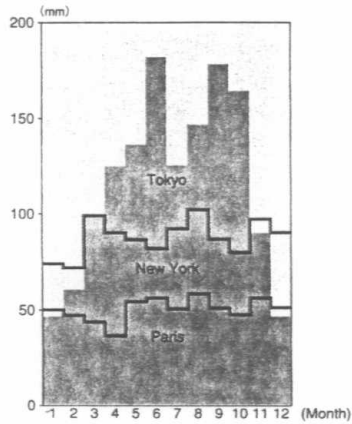
World Geographical Distribution of Hypocenters and Plates



(1988～1991年、マグニチュード5以上、100kmより浅い地質)
(1988～1991, Magnitude ≥ 5.0 , Depth ≤ 100 km)

3. Local Depopulation and Aging Developed on one hand with Urbanization on the other hand

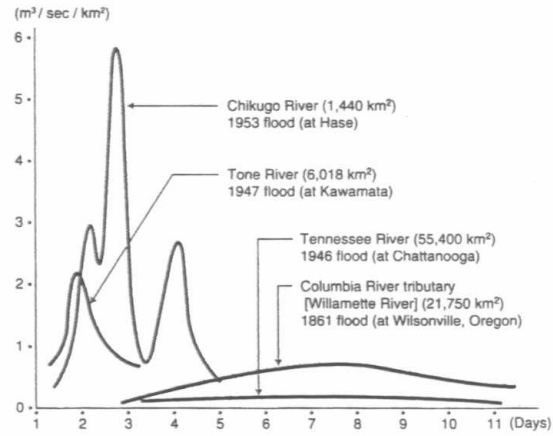
■ Japanese cities have more precipitation than large cities in other countries.



Source: Chronological Scientific Tables 1993.

■ Floods in Japan act like sprinters: short and quick.

Ratio of flood duration to flood discharge per unit area of catchment discharge. ($\text{m}^3/\text{sec}/\text{km}^2$)



■ Rivers in Japan flow directly from mountain to sea.

This comparison with selected rivers shows how precipitously they flow.

