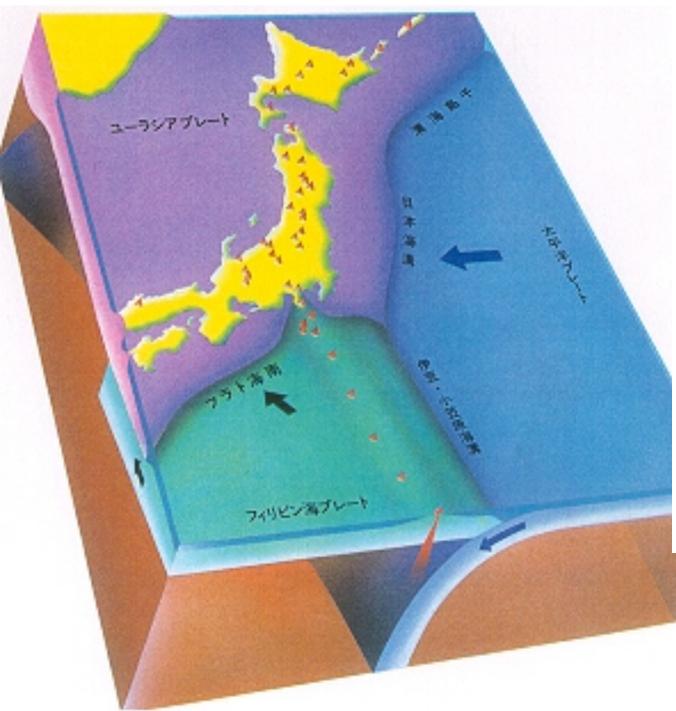
# March 11, 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami

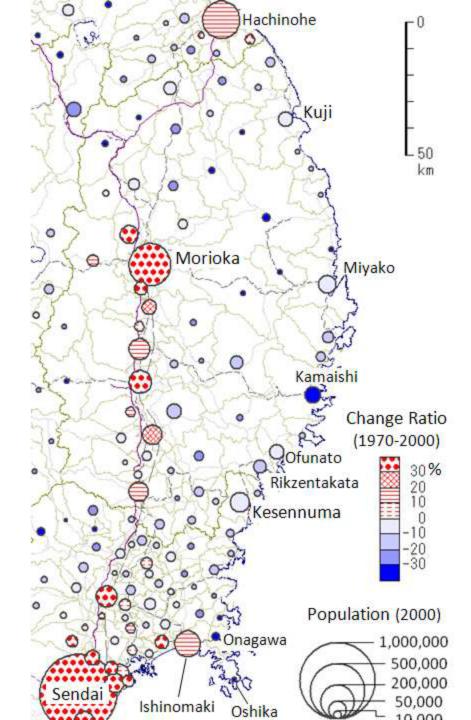
Sanriku Tsunami

#### Earth's Energy Unleashed As Tectonic Plates Shift

- Fifth largest recorded since 1900 and the biggest to hit Japan in 3 centuries
- Pacific plate moving at a speed of about 3 inches a year, slides under the Eurasian plate
- Motion of Pacific plate moving under the Eurasian plate caused massive uplift of the seafloor displacing water and causing 40-foottall tsunami.



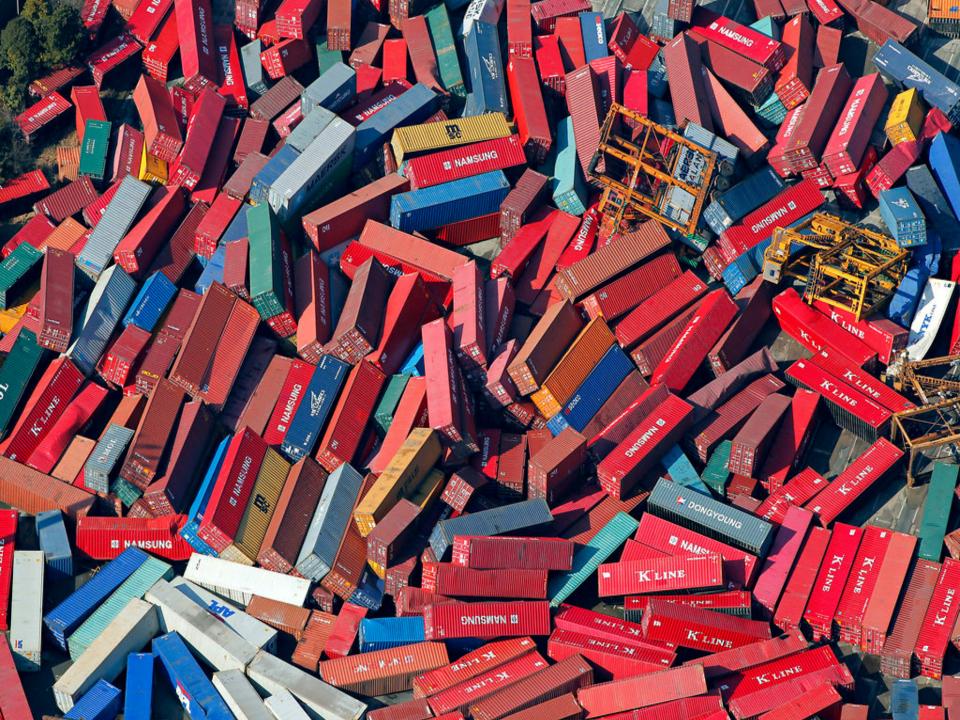
On March 11 tsunami spilled over some sea walls and embankments washing cars, houses, farm, factories before reversing directions and carrying them out to sea.



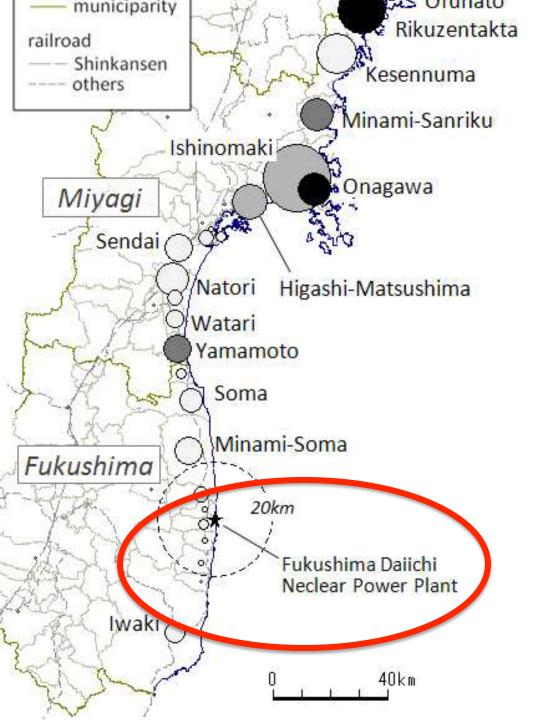


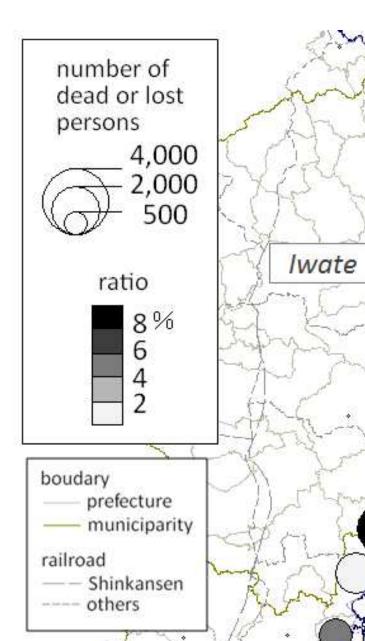






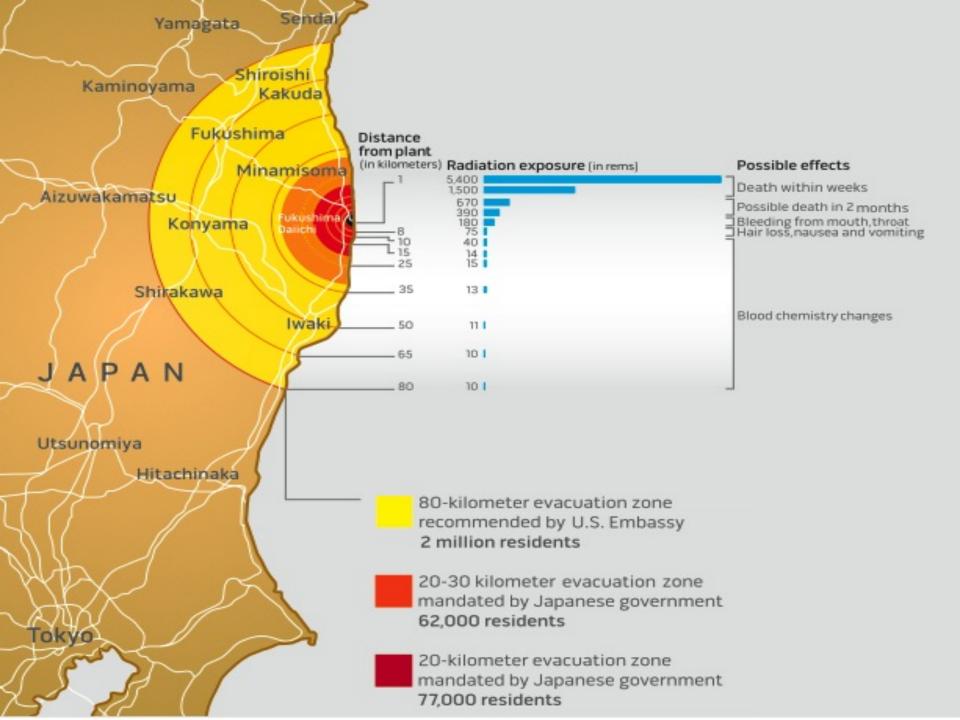






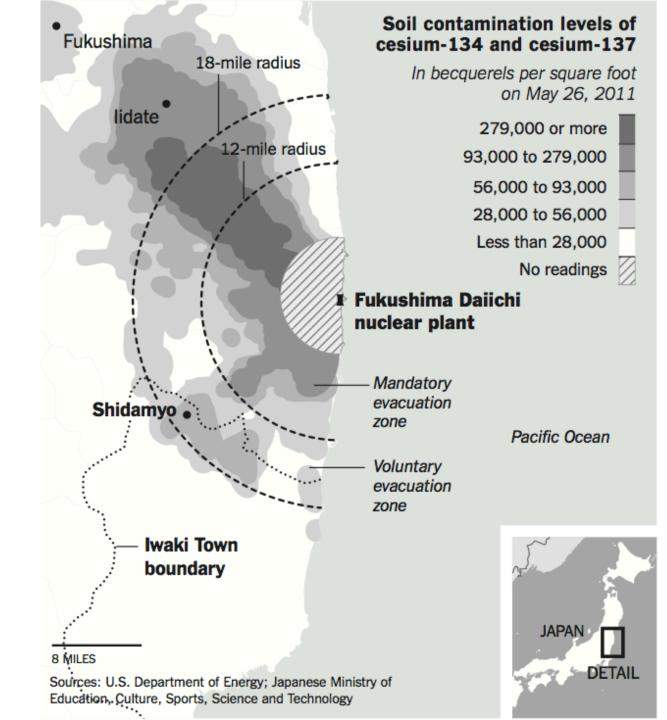
## Impacts of the Quake and Tsunami

- Quake and tsunami claimed some 20,000 lives, destroyed more than 200,000 homes
- Damaged nuclear reactors, factories, disrupted supply chains, caused crippling power shortage.
- Nearly 23,000 hectares of farmland were flooded with salt water; more than 21,000 fishing boats lost.
- Caused about \$210 billion in economic damage; world's costliest disaster.



## Radiation and Japan's Food Chain

- Radioactive cesium from damaged nuclear power plants contaminated beef, kicking off food scare.
- Some contaminated food including milk and spinach from Fukushima prefecture was caught before they reached store shelves
- Radioactive contamination in rice was found in Ibaraki prefecture, 90 miles south of Fukushima
- Tokyo's water supply contaminated with radiation



#### **Rice Contamination**

- Fukushima prefecture, showered with radiation in March, 4<sup>th</sup> largest rice-producing region in Japan
- Contamination has triggered sales ban of harvested rice ( above 500 bequerels per kilogram)
- Cultivation banned in fields with soils above 5,000 bequerels of cesium per kilogram of soil.



