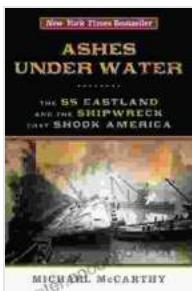


# The S.S. Eastland and the Shipwreck That Shook America

By [Author's Name]



## Ashes Under Water: The SS Eastland and the Shipwreck That Shook America by Michael McCarthy

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3957 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 333 pages



On July 24, 1915, the S.S. Eastland capsized in the Chicago River, killing 844 people. It was the deadliest maritime disaster in the Great Lakes' history and one of the worst in American history.

The Eastland was a passenger ship that was chartered by the Western Electric Company to take its employees on a company picnic. On the morning of July 24, more than 2,500 people boarded the ship at the Clark Street Bridge. As the ship began to pull away from the dock, it suddenly listed to the side and capsized.

Hundreds of people were trapped inside the ship as it filled with water. Many of the victims were women and children who were unable to escape. The disaster shocked the nation and led to a public outcry for stricter safety regulations for passenger ships.

In the aftermath of the disaster, the U.S. Congress passed the Seamen's Act of 1915, which required passenger ships to have enough lifeboats for all passengers and crew members. The act also established the U.S. Coast Guard, which is responsible for enforcing maritime safety regulations.

The S.S. Eastland disaster remains one of the deadliest maritime disasters in American history. It is a reminder of the importance of safety regulations and the need to be prepared for emergencies.

## **The Causes of the Disaster**

There were a number of factors that contributed to the Eastland disaster. One factor was the ship's design. The Eastland was a top-heavy ship with a

high center of gravity. This made it unstable and prone to capsizing.

Another factor was the overloading of the ship. On the morning of the disaster, the Eastland was carrying more than 2,500 people, which was well over its capacity. The weight of the passengers and crew caused the ship to list to the side.

Finally, the weather conditions on the day of the disaster were also a factor. The wind was blowing hard and the water was choppy. This made it difficult for the ship to maintain its balance.

### **The Aftermath of the Disaster**

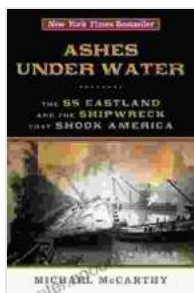
The Eastland disaster had a profound impact on the city of Chicago and the nation as a whole. The disaster led to a public outcry for stricter safety regulations for passenger ships. In the aftermath of the disaster, the U.S. Congress passed the Seamen's Act of 1915, which required passenger ships to have enough lifeboats for all passengers and crew members. The act also established the U.S. Coast Guard, which is responsible for enforcing maritime safety regulations.

The Eastland disaster remains one of the deadliest maritime disasters in American history. It is a reminder of the importance of safety regulations and the need to be prepared for emergencies.

The S.S. Eastland disaster was a tragedy that could have been avoided. The ship's design, the overloading of the ship, and the weather conditions all contributed to the disaster. In the aftermath of the disaster, the U.S. Congress passed the Seamen's Act of 1915, which required passenger ships to have enough lifeboats for all passengers and crew members. The

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