

Scenario-Based Strategic Survival

**An Adventurer's Guide to Preparation for
Long-term Post-Apocalyptic Living**

by David E. Jones

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Edited by Nathan A. Jones

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Preface

About this Book

This book started as a list of books and other resources I maintained for my own use, and an outline of topics I had researched and others that I wanted to learn more about. Eventually I decided that it would be worthwhile to share this information.

The result is a book about the strategy of surviving many scenarios people in our modern world may face, with a focus on sufficient preparation for a wide variety of extreme but plausible situations.

Through reading this book you should gain a general understanding of major threats to your survival in this modern age, some idea of what you can do to improve your odds, and some resources to help you learn and do more.

There are many good books on “tactical” and wilderness survival, i.e. what you can do to survive when you find yourself in a life-threatening situation without adequate supplies and equipment. This book is about “strategic” survival including planning and preparation so that when extreme life-threatening scenarios flare up you will have the necessary knowledge, supplies, and equipment to get through it.

There are also many good books about general preparedness that go into great detail and that are well worth using in conjunction with this book. Many of the best are listed in Appendix A, and grace the shelves and bins of books in my own retreat. The focus of the preparedness part of this book is to understand potential scenarios, their personal impact, and specific priorities and solutions to prepare for them.

The scenarios included cover a wide range from things that happen fast but cause long-term problems (like a nuclear EMP or near-ground burst), to things that happen slowly but feature

various dangerous turning points (like political or economic instability and collapse).

This book doesn't shy away from scenarios that are considered "radical" or "unlikely" by some. For example, some people think that a nuclear war is impossible now that the Cold War is "over." Fortunately, many people are also aware that world politics are not as stable as they often seem, and because nuclear weapons exist there is potential for their use.

This book will avoid discussing conspiracy theories (some of which are unfounded, and some of which are supported by solid evidence even if unpopular) and in general will not cover how or why these scenarios may occur, just that they may, and with references to document their potential.

To put this colloquially: I don't wear a tinfoil hat, but I do keep a high quality gas mask around, and I do keep my more important electronic gadgets in metal boxes, including an aluminum briefcase for my laptop, cell phone, etc.

Legal Advice and Issues

The author is not a lawyer and nothing in this book is intended to be legal advice for any jurisdiction in any part of the world. The author is not an investment advisor and nothing in this book is intended to be advice on any particular investment. This book is intended to be for informational purposes only and does not constitute a recommendation to do anything described herein.

Because this book is intended to be an overview, if you choose to do anything described in it you should do research to get further information and consult with those who are more experienced for areas you are not familiar with, especially construction, mechanical maintenance, weapon acquisition and operation (firearms, knives, etc), asset management and investment, and anything else that might involve risk or any property with potential value (real or personal).

National and local laws vary a great deal around the world, and a surprising amount sometimes even within countries, states, or provinces. Be sure to research the legal issues and liabilities related to various things, and perhaps consult a lawyer (since governments typically bear no responsibility to inform or educate about the law or legal issues), especially related to construction and possession of weapons and substances.

Within the USA a good resource for gun and knife laws in different places is [The Traveler's Gun & Knife Law Book](#) by David Wong, Esq.

The very fact that I chose to include these disclaimers and warnings should indicate to you the level of corruption and lack of personal responsibility that exists in societies around the world, and demonstrate some of the great risks that we face as human beings within the existing societies throughout this planet, and should the current social order break apart.

About the Author

What qualifies me to write a book like this? Honestly, not much. I have no military experience, and no law enforcement experience. I'm not an expert in wilderness survival or medicine. Chances are I am a lot like you. Professionally I work a desk job pushing buttons all day, and that doesn't do much to prepare me for disaster situations. It does, however, give me an awareness of modern supply chains and infrastructure, how easily it can break, and how dire the consequences are when it does.

This is a book about survival for civilians, for the everyday man and woman. It is for people who are interested in and willing to work hard and sacrifice a bit now for a much more comfortable life and better chance of survival later.

I may have some less common experiences like working as a lumberjack in the Rocky Mountains, playing at archeology in the jungles of Central America, living for a year in Mexico, and over two hundred weeks on the road for business in North America, Asia, and Europe. Chances are you've done things

like these, as so many have these days. You have probably already survived various life-threatening situations.

While I have had a few close calls, I haven't lived through most of the scenarios covered in this book. Some of the scenarios have been survived by people who have written about them, and I'll reference many such works, and some of the scenarios are technically and politically possible but have never happened and no one really knows exactly what they will be like.

By trade I am a business applications analyst and programmer. I spend most of my time thinking about business processes and supply chains, and how to quickly build easy-to-change applications to help track information and automate business operations. I've worked in a variety of industries including retail, manufacturing, public utilities, telecommunications, media, finance and banking, and military logistics.

Preparedness and survival have been hobbies of mine and occupied my free time to some extent for many years. In the last few years I've stepped up my efforts from just learning and acquiring portable things, to changing my lifestyle for mobility and off-grid living.

The material for this book comes from resources I have researched and compiled for my own use. I have utilized a great deal of it to learn, acquire, organize, build and test a wide variety of equipment, techniques, structures, and even lifestyle changes. I'll mostly limit this book to actual things I have acquired and tried, and actual structures I have built.

I've consumed a substantial amount of media on this topic over the years by listening to audiobooks and podcasts while doing manual labor or driving or exercising, watching movies while doing more mundane computer work, and reading when I get the chance. The resources section contains materials I have enjoyed and that you might too. Not all of it is factual, but even what isn't is still good food for thought.

Am I an armchair survivalist? In a way, yes. I may pass some time doing training and practice, and I build most of my own

structures, but I am not a professional. If you're reading this book, chances are you are also an armchair survivalist. If you get out of that chair enough to get a few critical things prepared and learn a few key skills, there's nothing wrong with that.

Religion and Politics

For those readers who are curious or consider it important to know the beliefs of those they listen to, I am a Christian (raised in the LDS/Mormon church), and a Libertarian. Labels have limited value and mean different things to different people, so I'll clarify:

When I say I am Christian what I mean is that I believe in Christ and the teachings of Christ. I do not believe in violent expressions of religion or that religion should be spread, or even defended, with violence. I do believe that Christ himself taught peaceful solutions to problems and that religion and moral principles can only be truly followed voluntarily. I believe that most other religions around the world also teach peace and that it is corruptions of those religions and of Christianity that cause religious conflict and have resulted in so much war over the recorded history of man.

When I say I am a Libertarian, I mean a true believer that liberty and voluntary solutions to problems are always superior to those involving force. Government solves problems through violence and threat of violence, and it is my belief that violence should only be used to counter aggressive violence (and even then only when necessary). When violence is used to solve nonviolent problems it always creates more problems than it solves. This is true for all non-violent problems in societies from morality to economics. There are moral and economic problems faced by every society, and they need to be solved, but they should be solved through institutions that do not depend on force for funding or influencing behavior.

As a Christian I believe in the Bible and in prophecies from it, with the caveat that I don't believe that our various current Bibles are perfectly translated or that all original meanings have been preserved, and there are many incorrect things in

them. I also don't agree with many interpretations of the Bible, and prophecies in it. It is clear that ancient prophets including Isaiah and Daniel covered future political and natural catastrophes, and John's book of Revelations (or the Apocalypse of John) is the epitome of this in the Bible.

Many people have tried to predict how specific prophesied events will happen and who in our day will be involved, and even specific time frames for biblical events to occur. These have historically been problematic at best. While some details in the Bible may make such interpretations and predictions possible, it seems that the purpose and greatest value of many prophecies is that those who are aware of them will recognize them when they happen.

As certain prophecies are recognized and understood it may be possible to understand what will happen next based on how reality matches up with fulfilled prophecies and on what is prophesied to happen after. Otherwise predicting future details is difficult. Even knowing for sure if Revelations (the Apocalypse of John) describes the use of nuclear weapons is difficult to pin down, even if it does seem to fit according to various interpretations.

I often use the terms "apocalypse" and "apocalyptic" loosely, as do many these days. I don't believe that all catastrophes, even modern worldwide ones, are necessarily part of what is described in the Apocalypse of John that the colloquial use of the word is derived from. I do believe what is described there will happen eventually, and perhaps we are nearing the time when it will. However, even if they don't happen for another century or more there are plenty of clear and present dangers that are worth preparing for.

With that out of the way, I'll keep the discussion of religion and politics to a minimum as those are not the intended topics of this book.

The main place you'll see discussion of politics is in discussion of the legality of various preparations. Unfortunately, in the USA and many other countries around the world, the government at various levels and through various departments

restricts or prohibits nearly everything that is useful for strategic survival.

This requires various compromises to either work around or comply with certain currently enforced laws, and additional effort to mitigate the effect of future overreach of government. Various scenarios that threaten our survival involve just that: overreach, misuse, or corruption of government.

Worst-Case Planning and Optimism vs. Pessimism

Optimism has its place when you are in the middle of a catastrophe. It is valuable to keep you moving and solidify your reasons for trying.

When preparing for catastrophes there is no place for optimism. If you assume that the catastrophe will only last 3 days, that within 2 weeks a government agency (FEMA, National Guard, whatever) will come to your rescue, or that nuclear attacks are simply not going to happen, then should those assumptions prove false your preparations will not be adequate to keep you and the ones you love alive.

An old English proverb sums this up best: *Hope for the best and prepare for the worst*. In most cases with a little thought you can plan and prepare for worst-case scenarios with just a little more cost and effort than the less extreme and life-threatening ones. That is the goal of the ideas and plans in this book.

Specific Brands and Products

Throughout this book there are references to specific brands and products. Some survival and preparedness writers and commentators try to avoid doing this because companies and products change so much over time, and because there are so many good options for most types of things.

For my part I know of no better way to communicate and demonstrate effective designs and materials than to refer to specific products that I have found to be of value or that others have recommended. Hopefully this will also save you time and help you make good choices on equipment without the risk of overlooking some of the best products on the market today.

In general you should consider these to be examples of specific varieties of helpful things whether or not you buy the particular brand and model mentioned. While these are good starting points and should save you some time, it is always a good idea to consider your personal needs and circumstances and to research similar brands and models before making a purchase.

Many of the products referenced have a link that you can follow if you have an electronic copy of this book. Most of these are in Chapter 4 and Appendix A. If you have a paper copy of the book you can download PDFs with links from the web site at:

<http://www.strategicsurvival.com/>

Many of these links will send you to Amazon.com which is generally a good place to buy in terms of price and customer service. These links have an affiliate code for this book built into them so if you buy through them you'll also be supporting the author and future works on related topics.