Overview

Post-Apocalyptic depicts the time following a global catastrophic event. Most often associated with the science fiction or horror genres, the apocalypse event determines the theme of the post-apocalyptic time period.

Post-apocalyptic Themes

There are six major post-apocalyptic themes. Each one has its own unique dynamic and focus. For this article, I have chosen to focus on the Wasteland theme.

- Alien Invasion
- Environmental Disaster
- Fantasy World Birth
- Religious Apocalypse
- Wasteland
- Zombie Apocalypse

For this Cyclopaedia, we will focus on the Wasteland theme often associated with Nuclear, Biological or Chemical warfare.

Memories of the devastation of Word War 1 and 2 struck fear in to the hearts of the world, especially the fear of Nuclear War. H.G. Wells was writing about war-torn post-apocalyptic wastelands in 1933, and the fear carried on strongly in the 1970s and 1980s as the Cold War progressed.

Survivors of the wasteland apocalypse will have to manage empty or devastated landscapes, hot zones, scarce resources, mutations, scavengers, and gangs.

Following are sources of information pertaining to Post-apocalyptic Wastelands to assist prospective game masters, game designers, writers, and storytellers to know where to start their research.

Articles

Between Dystopia and Utopia: The Post-Apocalyptic Discourse of Cormac McCarthy's The Road
By Safting, Inger-Anne
Source: English Studies, v94 n6 (October 2013): 704-713

Beyond "Mad Max III:" Race, Empire, and Heroism on Post-Apocalyptic Terrain
By Williams, Paul
Source: Science Fiction Studies, v32 n2 (20050701): 301-315

Climatic effects of nuclear war
By Pittock, Barrie
Source: Eos, Transactions American Geophysical Union, v67 n15 (15 April 1986): 193-194

Imagining the Nightmare: Empathy and Awareness in Post-Apocalyptic Young Adult Fiction
By Jorgenso, Thomas

Narrating the End: Fables of Survival in the Nuclear Age
By Porter, Jeffrey
Post-apocalypse now: Australia as cinema’s dystopia
By Dunks, Glenn
Source: Metro Magazine: Media & Education Magazine, n184 (Apr 2015): 90-95

Speculative visions and imaginary meals:
Food and the environment in (post-apocalyptic) science fiction films
By Retzinger, J.P.
Source: Cultural Studies, v22 n3-4 (2008 05 01): 369-390

World population, human disaster, and nuclear holocaust.
By Giddings, JC
Source: The Bulletin of the atomic scientists, 1973 Sep; 29(7): 45-50

Books

2000 AD – comic series
By various

Be Ready When the Sh*t Goes Down: A Survival Guide to the Apocalypse
By Griffin, Forrest

A Boy and His Dog
By Ellison, Harlan

Brighter Than a Thousand Suns: A Personal History of the Atomic Scientists
By Jungk, Robert

A Canticle for Leibowitz
By Miller, Jr., Walter M.

Alas, Babylon
By Frank, Pat

Children of the Dust
By Lawrence, Louise

The City of Ember
By DuPrau, Jeanne

Deathlands: Pilgrimage to Hell
By Lowder, Christopher

Earth Abides
By Steward, George R.

Endworld: The Fox Run
By Robbins, David.

Go-Go Girls of the Apocalypse
By Gischler, Victor

The Hunger Games
By Collins, Suzanne

The Last Man
By Shelley, Mary

Le Transperceneige/The Snow-Piercer
By Lob, Jacques and Rochette, Jean-Marc

Lucifer’s Hammer
By Niven, Larry and Pournelle, Jerry

The Maze Runner
By Dashner, James

Mortal Engines
By Reeve, Philip

Out of the Ashes
By Johnstone, William

The Postman
By Brin, David
**Ravagers**  
By Alter, Robert

**The Road**  
By McCarthy, Cormac

**The Scarlet Plague**  
By London, Jack

**The Shape of Things to Come**  
By Wells, H.G.

**The Stand**  
By King, Stephen

**Tank Girl – comic series**  
By Hewlett, Jamie and Martin, Alan

**The Uncanny X-Men: Days of Future Past – comic series**  
By Claremont, Chris and Byrne, John

**Wasteland – comic series**  
By Johnson, Antony

**Wastelands: Stories of the Apocalypse**  
Anthology edited by John Joseph Adams

**CINEMA**

9  
12 Monkeys  
Akira  
Battle for the Planet of the Apes  
A Boy and His Dog  
The Book of Eli  
The Blood of Heroes/Salute to the Jugger  
Children of Men  
The City of Ember  
Damnation Alley  
Dark City  
Dawn of the Planet of the Apes  
The Day After  
Deathsport  
Def-con 4  
Dredd  
Equilibrium  
Escape from N.Y.  
Escape from L.A.  
Exterminators of the Year 3000  
Fist of the North Star – TV  
The Hunger Games

**GAMES**

51st State – Tabletop Game  
After the Bomb - RPG  
Aftermath! - RPG  
After the Holocaust – Tabletop Game  
Borderlands – Computer Game  
Car Wars – Tabletop Game  
Darwin’s World – RPG  
Fallen Earth – Computer Game  
Exodus - RPG  
Fallout – Computer Game  
Gamma World - RPG  
GURPS Autoduel - RPG  
Judge Dredd: The Roleplaying-Game – RPG  
The Last Of Us – Computer Game  
Mad Max – Computer Game  
Minion Hunter – Tabletop Game  
The Morrow Project – RPG  
Necromunda – Tabletop Game  
Neuroshima – RPG  
Neuroshima: Convoy – Tabletop Game  
Neuroshima Hex – Tabletop Game  
Outlander – Computer Game  
S.T.A.L.K.E.R. – Computer Game  
Thunder Road – Tabletop Game  
Twilight: 2000 – RPG  
Wasteland – Computer Game  
Wreckage – Tabletop Game
Jericho – TV
Jeremiah - TV
Judge Dredd
The Last Man on Earth
Logan’s Run
Mad Max series (Mad Max, The Road Warrior, Beyond Thunderdome, Fury Road)
The Matrix Trilogy
The Maze Runner
The Postman
The Quiet Earth
Ravagers
Revolution - TV
The Road
Six-String Samurai
Snowpiercer
Solarbabies
The Stand - TV
Steel Dawn
Tank Girl
Terminator Salvation
Things to Come
Threads – TV
The Ultimate Warrior
Warriors of the Wasteland
Waterworld

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum - Enola Gay Display
http://airandspace.si.edu/

Fukushima
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fukushima_Daiichi_nuclear_disaster

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum
http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/top_e.htm!

Hunger Games: The Exhibition
http://www.thehungergamesexhibition.com/#home

Mad Max Museum

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum
http://nagasakipeace.jp/english.html

National Museum of the US Air Force - Bockscar Display
http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/

Locations

Atomic Tourism

Bradbury Science Museum – Los Alamos
http://www.lanl.gov/museum/

Chernobyl National Museum
http://chornobylmuseum.kiev.ua/en/mainpage/

People

Niels Bohr
Albert Einstein
Enrico Fermi
Richard Feynman
Leslie R. Groves
Otto Hahn
Werner Heisenberg
J. Robert Oppenheimer
Fritz Strassmann
H.G. Wells