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Japan Could Be Wiped Out by Massive Volcano in the Next 100 Years, Says Study

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While the odds of such a devastating volcano putting at risk its 127 million population are very low, it cannot be ruled out for a nation that is home to nearly 100 active volcanoes.

The [study recounted how similar low estimates had preceded a 7.2-magnitude quake](#) that destroyed the Japanese port city of Kobe in 1995, killing 6,400 people and injuring nearly 4,400 others.

A disaster on Kyushu, which has been struck by seven massive eruptions over the past 120,000 years, would see seven million people buried by flowing lava and molten rock in just two hours, it said.

Volcanic ash from the devastating eruption could be carried by westerly winds toward the main island of Honshu, making almost all of the country "unliveable."

It would be "hopeless" trying to save about 120 million living in major cities and towns across Honshu, the study said.

Analysing the scale and frequency of volcanic eruptions over the past 120,000 years the team calculated that the chances of such a devastating volcano in the next hundred years was 1%, reports AFP.

"It is not an overstatement to say that a colossal volcanic eruption would leave Japan extinct as a country," Kobe University earth sciences professor Yoshiyuki Tatsumi and associate professor Keiko Suzuki said.

Recently, Japan's Mount [Ontake erupted](#) killing 57 people and leaving many missing in the country's deadliest volcanic eruption in almost 90 years.



Rescuers climb up Mount Ontake, which straddles Nagano and Gifu prefectures, for rescue operations, central Japan, in this October 2, 2014 photo taken and released by Kyodo. The search continues for missing people on Mount Ontake on Thursday, six days after it erupted. Japan which is home to 100 active volcanoes can face a devastating one within the next century which can wipe out the island, says a study.REUTERS

The latest rumblings are from Ioyama which lies in the volcanically active Kirishima mountain range and is roughly 64 km from the Sendai nuclear plant run by Kyushu Electric Power Co, reports Reuters.

The study called for new technology to understand the magma reservoirs beneath the earth's crust.

Japan lies on the 'Ring of Fire' - a horseshoe-shaped band of fault lines and volcanoes around the edges of the Pacific Ocean.