

# The 1908 Messina earthquake



Occurred on 28 December in Sicily and Calabria, southern Italy with a moment magnitude of 7.1 and a maximum **Mercalli** intensity of XI (Extreme).

The cities of **Messina** and Reggio Calabria were almost completely destroyed and between 75,000 and 82,000 lives were lost. Sicilians and Calabrians were immediately rescued, on Tuesday 29, by **Russian** and British ships. **Queen Elena** helped with the rescuers, as some photographs show. This helped to increase her popularity within the country.



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