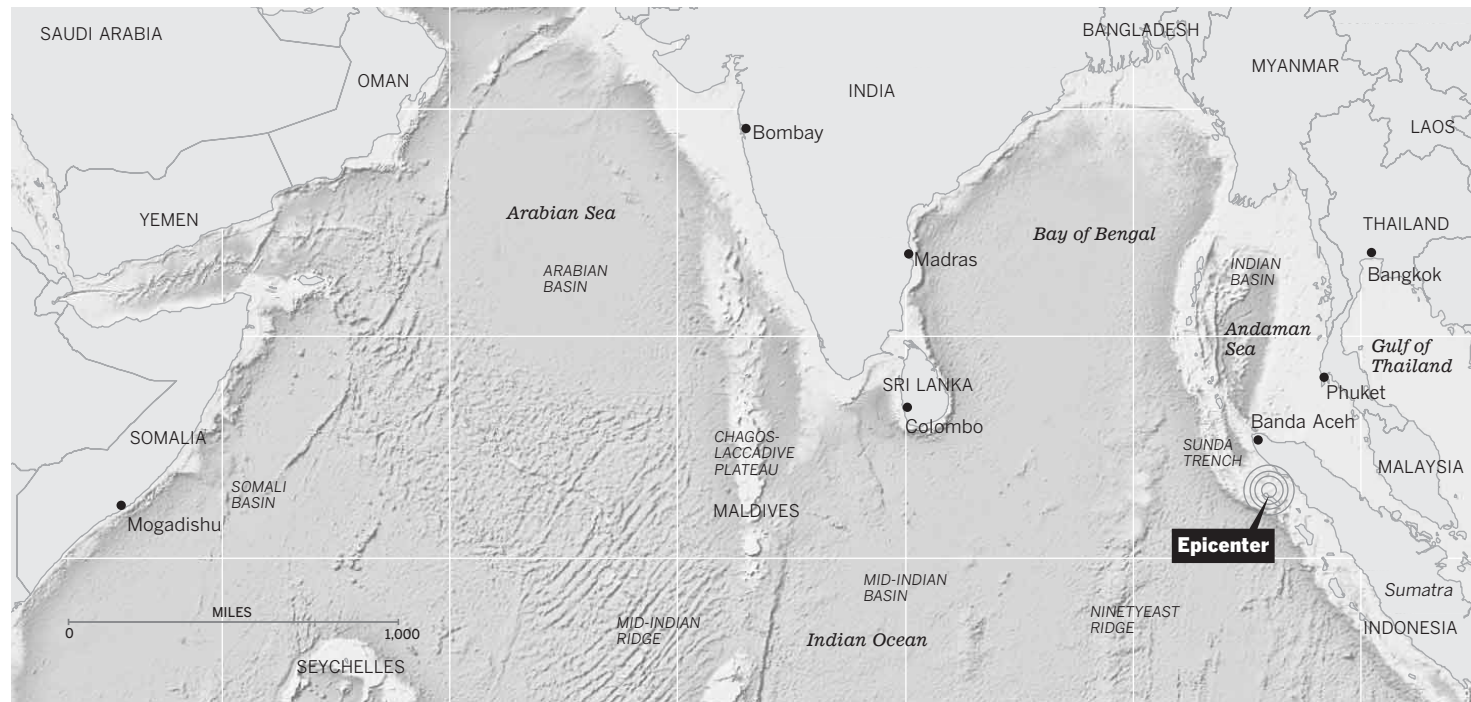


Topography of the tragedy

The death toll from Sunday's earthquake and tsunami continued to rise Tuesday, and the topography of the ocean floor may have played an important role in the disaster. Joseph Curray of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla said the devastation to the west in Sri Lanka, India and Somalia may have been increased because the tsunami spread across deep ocean without obstacles. To the north and east, however, the island of Sumatra and the rugged topography of the Andaman Sea might have absorbed some of the energy as the tsunami moved toward Myanmar and Thailand, he said. Curray said that he believed the deadly waves that flooded those countries were probably a result of aftershocks, not the initial earthquake, or were caused by the uplift of a fold where the tectonic plates converge north of the epicenter.

Death toll							Totals
Indonesia 32,000	India 7,000	Somalia 110	Malaysia 65	Tanzania 10	Seychelles 3	Kenya 2	Dead: More than 60,000
Sri Lanka 22,000	Thailand 1,500	Maldives 68	Myanmar 34	South Africa 4	Bangladesh 2		Displaced: Nearly 4 million

Note: Tallies based on estimates from various sources. Some countries not shown on map.

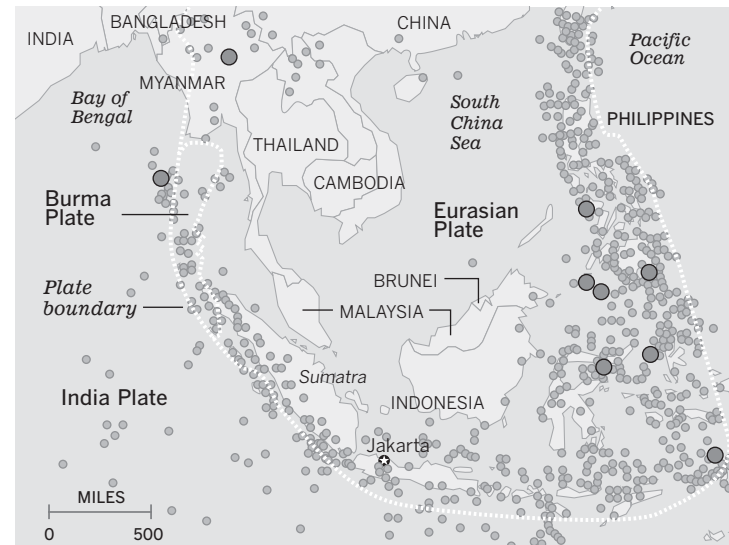


An area of numerous earthquakes

Indonesia is part of a seismically active region where major tectonic plates come together. Since 1900, there had been nine previous quakes of magnitude 8 or higher in the region, although all but two occurred to the east of the island nation, in the Pacific Ocean.

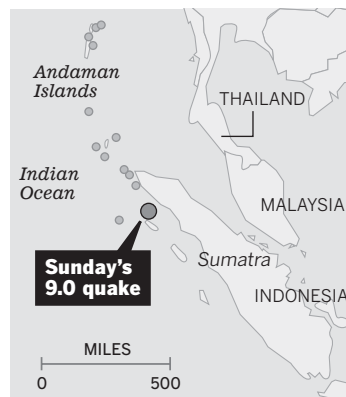
Regional quakes (1900-2003)

Magnitude: ● Above 8 ● 6-8



9.0 and its aftershocks

Since Sunday morning's magnitude 9 earthquake off Sumatra, there have been 12 aftershocks of magnitude 6 or greater in the primary area of slippage from the epicenter to the Andaman Islands.



Most deadly

Sunday's quake and subsequent tsunami rank among the world's 10 deadliest earthquakes in the last 100 years.

Date	Location	Deaths
1976	China	255,000
1920	China	200,000
1927	China	200,000
1923	Japan	143,000
1948	Turkmenistan	110,000
1908	Italy	70,000*
1932	China	70,000
1970	Peru	66,000
2004	Indonesia	60,000*
1990	Iran	40,000*

* Actual number killed may have been significantly higher.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, ESRI, Associated Press, Agence France Press, Wikipedia, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and individual countries. Graphics reporting by THOMAS SUH LAUDER, BRADY MACDONALD and JULIE SHEER