# Source of the great A.D. 1257 mystery eruption unveiled, Samalas volcano, Rinjani Volcanic Complex, Indonesia

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Polar ice core records attest to a colossal volcanic eruption that took place ca. A.D. 1257 or 1258, most probably in the tropics. Estimates based on sulfate deposition in these records suggest that it yielded the largest volcanic sulfur release to the stratosphere of the past 7,000 y. Tree rings, medieval chronicles, and computational models corroborate the expected worldwide atmospheric and climatic effects of this eruption. However, until now there has been no convincing candidate for the mid-13th century "mystery eruption." Drawing upon compelling evidence from stratigraphic and geomorphic data, physical volcanology, radiocarbon dating, tephra geochemistry, and chronicles, we argue the source of this long-sought eruption is the Samalas volcano, adjacent to Mount Rinjani on Lombok Island, Indonesia. At least 40 km<sup>3</sup> (dense-rock equivalent) of tephra were deposited and the eruption column reached an altitude of up to 43 km. Three principal pumice fallout deposits mantle the region and thick pyroclastic flow deposits are found at the coast, 25 km from source. With an estimated magnitude of 7, this event ranks among the largest Holocene explosive eruptions. Radiocarbon dates on charcoal are consistent with a mid-13th century eruption. In addition, glass geochemistry of the associated pumice deposits matches that of shards found in both Arctic and Antarctic ice cores, providing compelling evidence to link the prominent A.D. 1258/1259 ice core sulfate spike to Samalas. We further constrain the timing of the mystery eruption based on tephra dispersal and historical records, suggesting it occurred between May and October A.D. 1257.

volcanism | climate | ultraplinian | caldera | archaeology

Over the last three decades, ice core records have offered a unique opportunity to study past volcanism and its environmental impacts. Glaciochemical records have yielded estimates of volcanic sulfate aerosol loadings in the stratosphere associated with large volcanic eruptions, and have also been used to gauge the Earth system response of volcanism (1, 2). These high-resolution records have also revealed many significant eruptions that remain otherwise unknown (3, 4). One of the largest of these "mystery eruptions" has an ice core sulfate deposit dated to A.D. 1258/1259, pointing to an eruption in A.D. 1257 or 1258 (5). Estimates of its stratospheric sulfate load are around eight- and two-times greater than those of Krakatau in A.D. 1883 and Tambora in A.D. 1815, respectively (6), ranking it among the most significant volcanic events of the Holocene (7).

Tree-ring, historical, and archeological records attest to substantial climatic impacts, which were most pronounced in the northern hemisphere in A.D. 1258 (8–11). Medieval chronicles highlight an unseasonable cold summer with incessant rains, associated with devastating floods and poor harvests (10). The interhemispheric transport of tephra and sulfate suggests a low-latitude eruption (12, 13). Until now, however, identification of the volcano responsible for the medieval "year without summer" has remained uncertain, despite more than 30 y of investigations. Various candidates have been implicated, including Okataina (New Zealand), El Chichón (Mexico), and Quilotoa (Ecuador), but none of these presents a strong case with respect to eruption magnitude, geochemistry, and timing (14–17).

Here, we present a unique and compelling candidate for the source of the mid-13th century mystery eruption, based—among others things—on historical records from Indonesia. The records we use are known as *Babad Lombok* and written on palm leaves in Old Javanese. These documents describe a catastrophic caldera-forming eruption of Mount Samalas, a volcano adjacent to Mount Rinjani (Lombok Island) (Fig. 1), and the formation of

### Significance

Based on ice core archives of sulfate and tephra deposition, one of the largest volcanic eruptions of the historic period and of the past 7,000 y occurred in A.D. 1257. However the source of this "mystery eruption" remained unknown. Drawing on a robust body of new evidence from radiocarbon dates, tephra geochemistry, stratigraphic data, a medieval chronicle, this study argues that the source of this eruption is Samalas volcano, part of the Mount Rinjani Volcanic Complex on Lombok Island, Indonesia. These results solve a conundrum that has puzzled glaciologists, volcanologists, and climatologists for more than three decades. In addition, the identification of this volcano gives rise to the existence of a forgotten Pompeii in the Far East.

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Fig. 1. Distribution of PDCs from the Samalas eruption and location of charcoal samples used for radiocarbon dating.

the 6 × 8.5-km-wide and 800-m-deep Segara Anak caldera (Fig. 24) and the horseshoe-shaped collapse structure that deeply incises the western flank of Rinjani volcano (Fig. 2*B*). The source also describes a sequence of volcanic phenomena (i.e., voluminous ashfall and pyroclastic flows) that would have devastated the lands and villages around the volcano, as well as the Kingdom's capital, Pamatan, thereby killing thousands of people (18) (see the written sources provided in *SI Materials and Methods*). According to the *Babad Lombok*, this cataclysmic event took place before the Selaparang period (i.e., before the end of the 13th century). The age of the caldera was considered Holocene or older in the global databases and in the geological map of Lombok, whereas Nasution et al. (19) suggested that a caldera eruption had occurred between A.D. 1210 and A.D. 1260.

Drawing on physical volcanology, stratigraphic, and geomorphic data, high-precision radiocarbon dating, tephra geochemistry, and on an exegesis of historical texts, we present fresh evidence that corroborate the events described in the *Babad Lombok*. We suggest that the caldera-forming eruption of Samalas is one the largest events of the past 7,000 y (Table S1), and the likely source of the A.D. 1258/1259 sulfate spike identified in polar ice cores. We reconstruct the nature and dynamics of the caldera-forming eruption of Samalas based on a study of associated deposits, and discuss the dating and geochemical evidence that link the volcano to the mid-13th century mystery eruption.

### **Results: The Caldera-Forming Eruption of Mount Samalas**

Detailed stratigraphic and sedimentological analyses of deposits, based on 130 outcrops, reveal a complex stratigraphy marked by a series of at least two major Plinian (F1 and F3) units intercalated with a phreatoplinian (F2) fallout unit (Figs. S1 and S2), subsequently overlain by a sequence of voluminous pumice-rich pyroclastic density current (PDC) deposits formed as a result of wholesale collapse of the eruption column, associated with caldera formation.

Our fieldwork reveals a widespread and ubiquitous F1 fallout deposit on Lombok that was preserved on neighboring islands of Bali, Sumbawa, and most likely east Java, given the geometry of the 10-cm isopach (Fig. 3). Isopach and isopleth maps of the F1 fallout unit identify it as an ultraplinian deposit produced by one of the most powerful historic Plinian eruptions. From the isopach distribution (Fig. 3) we calculate a minimum bulk deposit volume of around 5.6 to 7.6 km<sup>3</sup>, depending on the slope of the distal segment S2, which can vary from 0.013 to 0.009 (Fig. S6). Assuming a deposit density of 900 kg·m<sup>-3</sup> and a dense-rock density of 2,470 kg·m<sup>-3</sup>, this amounts to a dense-rock equivalent (DRE) volume of 2 to 2.8 km<sup>3</sup>, approximately twice the magnitude estimated for the A.D. 1815 Tambora F4 climactic Plinian fallout deposits (1.2 km<sup>3</sup>) (20, 21). This amount is equivalent to a total mass of 5 to  $6.9 \times 10^{12}$  kg and corresponds to a magnitude of 5.7 to 5.8 for the fallout phase only, calculated from the expression (22): log<sub>10</sub>(total mass of deposit in kilograms) – 7.

The height of the eruption plume was calculated from contour maps of the measured values of the largest axis of the five largest lithic and pumice clasts at any site (Fig. S3), using the method of Carey and Sparks (23) and Biass and Bonadonna (24). This finding suggests that the F1 eruption plume reached a maximum altitude of 43 km above sea level (Fig. S4), with a minimum of 34 km and a maximum of 52 km, given the uncertainties of empirically determined clast size measurements (25, 26).

Mass and volumetric eruption rates (MER and VER) were estimated from column height and eruption temperature (Fig. S4). Considering a maximum column height of 43  $\pm$  8.6 km and an estimated magma temperature of 1,000 °C (determined from rehomogenization of glass inclusions in plagioclase crystals), the F1 ultraplinian phase would have had an MER of 4 × 10<sup>8</sup> kg·s<sup>-1</sup> (2–6 × 10<sup>8</sup> kg·s<sup>-1</sup>) based on the model of Sparks (27) (Fig. S5). The model of Carey and Sigurdsson (28) yields an MER of 8 × 10<sup>8</sup> kg·s<sup>-1</sup> (3 × 10<sup>8</sup> to 3 × 10<sup>9</sup> kg·s<sup>-1</sup>), and the one of Wilson and Walker (29) an upper value of 1 × 10<sup>9</sup> kg·s<sup>-1</sup> (4.5 × 10<sup>8</sup> to 2.3 × 10<sup>9</sup> kg·s<sup>-1</sup>). For this phase, we calculate an intensity of 11.3–12 from the expression (22): log<sub>10</sub>(total mass eruption rate in kg/s) + 3. These values infer a duration of about 4 ± 2.6 h for the F1 ultraplinian phase.



**Fig. 2.** Samalas caldera and Segara Anak. (A) Photograph of the present caldera viewed from the east (photo: Zulz, "Gunung Baru" June 26, 2006 via Flickr, Creative Commons License). (B) Present (shaded tones surface) and preexplosion reconstructed topography (black grid). We assume that a caldera was absent before the mid-13th century eruption, because no other large Plinian eruption has been identified.



Fig. 3. Isopach maps for Samalas plinian and phreatoplinian fall deposits. (A) Samalas F1 compared with the F4 Plinian fall unit of Tambora A.D. 1815 (20, 21). (B) Samalas F2 Phreatoplinian fall unit. (C) Samalas F3 Plinian fall unit. Isopachs were mapped for the F1, F2, and F3, from 44, 22, and 18 thickness measurements in the field, respectively. Interpolation of the data using a multiquadratic radial model was the first step in constructing the final isopach maps. Although much less widespread than the F1 unit, the distributions of the F2 and F3 units are both broader than the main Plinian fall unit of Tambora 1815.

Analysis of the F3 unit indicates an event of similar magnitude to F1 with a minimum bulk volume of 4.7–5.6 km<sup>3</sup> (1.7–2 km<sup>3</sup> DRE), corresponding to a total mass of 4.2–5.1 × 10<sup>12</sup> kg, a magnitude of 5.6 to 5.7, and an intensity of 10.7–11 for this fallout phase. The plume of the F3 Plinian phase reached an estimated maximum altitude of 23–24 km. Hence, given that the MER was lower, on the order of 9 × 10<sup>7</sup> to 1 × 10<sup>8</sup> kg·s<sup>-1</sup> using the model of Wilson and Walker (29) and 5 × 10<sup>7</sup> kg·s<sup>-1</sup> using the model Carey and Sigurdsson (28), this phase of the eruption lasted for an estimated mean duration of 18.8 ± 7.7 h. Improved distal thickness data would likely increase this volume, which currently is based on a one-segment exponential thinning law with a slope of 0.014 (Fig. S6). Using a distal segment for F3 with a slope <0.012, as would be expected for such widespread fallout deposits, would add a volume of at least 20% (Fig. S6).

Clear evidence thus exists that the MER for the Plinian F1 and F3 fallout phases of the Samalas caldera eruption was significantly greater than that of the A.D. 1815 Tambora eruption (20, 21).

The Plinian phases were followed by the formation of the caldera and the generation of voluminous PDCs, producing immense umbrella clouds and intense tephra fallout in the region. Although highly eroded over the past 750 y, PDC deposits reaching 35-m thick can still be observed 25 km from the caldera (Fig. 1 and Fig. S7). Comparing thicknesses at equivalent distances, the volume of onshore PDC deposits associated with Samalas (14.5  $\pm$  0.7 km<sup>3</sup>, equivalent to 8.0  $\pm$  0.4 km<sup>3</sup> dense magma based on a measured deposit density of 1,370 kg·m<sup>3</sup>, and a bubble-free rock density of 2,480 kg·m<sup>-3</sup>) exceeds that of the Tambora 1815 deposits (2.8 km<sup>3</sup>) (20, 21).

Based on a model of the precaldera topography of Mount Samalas, we calculate that it originally rose to  $4,200 \pm 100$  m above sea level (Fig. 2B and SI Material and Methods), similar to the estimated pre-1815 height of Tambora (30). The precaldera Samalas cone above the height of the present-day rim of the caldera therefore had a volume of approximately 14.5–15.4 km<sup>3</sup>. Given that field evidence is missing for the occurrence of lithicrich PDC deposits or debris avalanche deposits, and that Plinian fallout deposits contain less than 10% by weight of lithic fragments that originated from the older edifice, we hypothesize that the Samalas caldera formed primarily as a result of collapse associated with the withdrawal of large volumes of volatile-saturated magma. As a consequence, most of the volume of the original upper part of the edifice must have collapsed within the caldera. The total size of the Samalas eruption can be approximated by the sum of (*SI Materials and Methods*): (*i*) the volume of the current caldera and of the missing upper cone ( $33.8 \pm 2.7 \text{ km}^3$ ), (*ii*) the volume of the debris avalanche deposit from nearby Rinjani volcano ( $2.5 \pm 0.4 \text{ km}^3$ ) that partly in-filled the caldera during the Samalas eruption (based on the *Babad Lombok*), and (*iii*) the volume of postcaldera eruptive products within the caldera ( $3.7 \pm 2.4 \text{ km}^3$ ). This result yields an estimate of about  $40.2 \pm 3 \text{ km}^3$  DRE of magma. Because of the large uncertainties and limited exposures, a determination of the volume of erupted magma based on mapping of tephra only yields a volume of about 21 km<sup>3</sup> DRE.

The total magnitude estimate for the Salamas eruption amounts to 7.0, which represents a minimum because: (*i*) the bulk fallout deposit density used for converting to deposit mass applies to proximal regions; medial and distal deposits have higher, but as yet undetermined bulk densities that will convert to higher deposit mass; (*ii*) we were unable to determine reliably the volumetric contributions from the F2 Phreatoplinian phase ( $\geq 0.39$ km<sup>3</sup>) and F4 fallout deposits (Fig. S1); (*iii*) the volume of fallout and PDC deposits filling the caldera could not be determined; (*iv*) we could not estimate the volume of the submarine PDC deposits; and (*v*) we lack data to determine the volume of distal ash deposited from Plinian and co-PDC plumes. Indeed, Self et al. (20) have determined that the volume of the distal co-PDC ashfall of the Tambora A.D. 1815 eruption was about 26.6 km<sup>3</sup> DRE of the eruption total of approximately 33 km<sup>3</sup> DRE.

The exceptional eruption's intensity of 12 is confirmed by the high dispersal index D in excess of 49,000 km<sup>2</sup>, defined by Walker (31) as the area enclosed by the 0.01  $T_{max}$  isopach, which for Samalas is the 1.91-cm isopach (part of the distal exponential thinning segment 2 of Fig. S6). The Samalas F1 deposit is notably fine-grained, consistent with a very high fragmentation index F of about 80%, based on the correlation established by Pyle (22) between the half-distance ratio  $B_C/B_T$  and F defined by Walker (31).

To confirm the eruption date suggested by the *Babad Lombok*, carbonized tree trunks and branches were sampled within or at the base of the PDC deposits on the flanks of Samalas and Rinjani volcanoes. The age model and <sup>14</sup>C chronology for the eruption was determined by adopting a Bayesian modeling approach using OxCal v.4.2.2 (32). Calibration of <sup>14</sup>C dates was done with the IntCal09 calibration curve (33) for a total of 21 accelerator mass spectrometry and 1 conventional <sup>14</sup>C samples, with an analytical precision up to 25 <sup>14</sup>C years (Fig. 4). Radiocarbon dates are all consistent with a mid-13th century eruption and the age model shows an absence of samples younger than A.D. 1257.

The present forest of Rinjani is composed of *Podocarpus* and *Engelhardia* (1,200–2,100 m above sea level) and *Casuarina jun-ghuhniana* (<2,700 m above sea level), which have been demonstrated to live for hundreds of years (34). Because of the fact that various fragments of charred tree trunk were sampled (in the sense of "older" wood from inner rings and "younger" wood from outer rings), we observe a "tail" toward older ages in the age distribution. Passive long-term soil degassing or atmospheric (pre)eruptive degassing are known to cause additional offsets toward older radiocarbon ages and cannot be excluded, but this seems unlikely in the present case. The younger eruption age boundary therefore remains at A.D. 1257.

Sequence									
Boundary Start 1									
Boundary Start 1 -		-							
Phase 1					AD 1257				
R_Date E1H-47659									
R_Date ETH-47660									
R_Date ETH-47661									
R_Date ETH-47662					-				
R_Date ETH-47663			_						
R_Date ETH-47664				-	_				
R_Date ETH-47665					-				
R_Date ETH-47666									
R_Date ETH-47667				_					
R_Date ETH-47668				-	_				
R_Date ETH-45413									
R_Date ETH-45414									
R_Date ETH-45415		_	_						
R_Date ETH-45416									
R Date ETH-45417									
R Date ETH-45419									
R Date ETH-45420				-	_				
R Date ETH-45421									
R Date ETH-45422				~					
R Date BETA306486	_	-			_				
R Date BETA306487				-					
R Date BETA306488					-				
Boundary End 1					-				
600 700 800	900 1	000 1	100 1	200	1300				
	Modeled date (AD)								

**Fig. 4.** Radiocarbon and calibrated ages of the charcoal samples from the Samalas pyroclastic density current deposits using OxCal 4.2.2 and IntCal 09 (32, 33). Although some ages are older, none is younger than A.D. 1257 (at 95% confidence level). Based on this model, the Samalas eruption cannot be correlated with ice-core sulfate anomalies at A.D. 1275 and A.D. 1284 (2), which are clearly too young for our A.D. 1257 age model. This interpretation is consistent with written sources as discussed in the text.

## Discussion

The Mount Samalas Caldera-Forming Eruption: One of the Largest Holocene Eruptions. With an estimated minimum magnitude of 7.0 and an intensity of up to 12, the Samalas eruption clearly ranks among the greatest volcanic episodes of the Holocene, together with the seventh Millennium B.C. Kuril lake (Kamchatka, Russia), the sixth Millennium B.C. Mount Mazama (Crater Lake, OR), the "Minoan" eruption of Santorini (Greece), or the Tierra Blanca Joven eruption of Ilopango (El Salvador), possibly in the sixth century A.D. (Table S1). A minimum of 40 km<sup>3</sup> of dense magma was expelled during the Samalas eruption. Keeping in mind that the volume estimates for large eruptions can be notably underestimated (25, 26), it is possible that the total volume of the Samalas eruption might have exceeded the minimum volume of 30-33 km<sup>3</sup> DRE of magma produced by the magnitude 6.9 Tambora A.D. 1815 eruption (21). The characteristics of the Samalas F1 deposit are comparable to those of the Taupo A.D. 180 ultraplinian eruption  $(35 \text{ km}^3 \text{ DRE})$ , identified as the most intense known historic eruption (22).

The Strongest Candidate for the Mid-13th Century Mystery Eruption. Of the previous suggestions for the identity of the mid-13th century mystery eruption, El Chichón and Okataina can be readily discarded because calibration of radiocarbon dates removes any hint of a good temporal match (1, 15-17). The other tentative identification refers to Quilotoa (Ecuador). Radiocarbon dates place its last major eruption to between A.D. 1147 and 1320 (34). Although in the appropriate time range, the remaining evidence is weak. The lower bulk deposit volume of 18.7 km<sup>3</sup> (35) corresponds to a lower estimated magnitude of 6.6 (Table S1), which would require the magma to have been exceptionally sulfur-rich to account for the sulfate deposition preserved in polar ice cores. Furthermore, the glass chemistry of the Quilotoa tephra does not correspond closely to the published composition of glass shards identified in the Greenland Ice Sheet Project 2 (Greenland) and Antarctic ice cores, especially with respect to contents of SiO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (1, 13, 36).

In contrast, the major element composition of glass shards identified in the ice cores (SiO<sub>2</sub>~69-70 wt% and Na<sub>2</sub>O+K<sub>2</sub>O~8-8.5 wt%) is a much closer match to the composition of glass shards values of the Samalas Plinian fall deposits (Fig. 5 and Table S2). Samalas glass has a trachytic-rhyolitic composition (Fig. 5A), with normalized SiO<sub>2</sub> and Na<sub>2</sub>O+K<sub>2</sub>O values ranging from 68.78  $\pm$  0.49–8.28  $\pm$  0.28 wt% for F1, to 69.95  $\pm$  0.54–  $8.41 \pm 0.32$  wt% for F3, respectively. Values of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, FeOt, and CaO of the Samalas Plinian fall deposits are also found within equivalent ranges in the glass shards from the ice-core tephra (Fig. 5 B and C). In fact, the difference in  $SiO_2$  content between Samalas glass and the average composition of glass shards from ice cores is 0.51 wt% for F1 and -0.65 wt% for F3; and 1.12 wt% and 0.64 wt% for Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, respectfully. For all other major elements, the difference varies from a minimum of 0.03–1.08 (Table S2). Pearce et al. (37, 38) have shown that positive matching of source with distal tephra requires the difference in composition to be  $\leq 1-2\%$  for SiO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and  $\leq 5-10\%$  for all other elements, therefore pointing to a very strong correlation between volcanic glass of the F1, F2, and F3 units of Samalas and the 1258/1259 ice-core tephra, with 1- $\sigma$  error bars crossing each other for the eight major oxides.

These results are compelling and suggest that both the tephra retrieved in ice cores and the associated A.D. 1258/1259 sulfate spike originated from Mount Samalas. However, despite the successes of ice core tephrochronology (39, 40), we recognize the limitations of geochemical correlations of tephra samples (41–43).

**Refining the Samalas Eruption Date.** Previous evaluation of the timing of the mystery eruption has suggested that it occurred in January A.D. 1258 (10). However, a study by Oppenheimer (5)



Fig. 5. Geochemistry of matrix glass [total alkalis vs. silica (TAS) diagram] sampled in pyroclastic fall deposits of the Samalas eruption, compared with the reported composition (13) of glass shards found in polar ice cores for the mid-13th century mystery eruption (mean  $\pm 1\sigma$ ).

and a more recently published glaciochemical record for the Law Dome ice core (Eastern Antarctica), which identifies sulfate deposition in A.D.  $1257 \pm 1$  y (44), suggest an eruption in A.D. 1257. Contemporary documents (10) and growth anomalies in tree-ring records indicate widespread summer cooling of the continental northern hemisphere, also consistent with an eruption in A.D. 1257. We have also found medieval records that point to a warm weather in the winter of A.D. 1257/1258 in western Europe. In Arras (northern France), for example, the winter was described as so mild "that frost barely lasted for more than two days. In January [1258], violets could be observed, and strawberries and apple trees were in blossom" (45) (*SI Material and Methods*). Winter warming of continental regions of the northern hemisphere is recognized as a dynamic response of the

atmosphere to high-sulfur eruptions in the tropics (46–48), providing further evidence for an A.D. 1257 eruption date. The distribution of tephra fall deposits from Mount Samalas (Fig. 3) reveals preferential tephra dispersal to the west, compatible with easterly trade winds that prevail during the dry season. These data would suggest an eruption between May and October 1257.

### Conclusions

Identification of the volcano responsible for the mid-13th century mystery eruption has eluded glaciologists, volcanologists, and climatologists for three decades. We now present a prima facie case to implicate Samalas as the origin of this great ultraplinian eruption. The tropical location, the size of its caldera (Segara Anak), the timing of the eruption, its magnitude, and the match between the geochemical composition of Mount Samalas ash with glass shards found in ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica that are associated with the largest sulfate spike in the past 7,000 y, all point to this volcano as the source of the great mid-13th century stratospheric dust veil. The identification of this exceptional eruption of Mount Samalas places another Indonesian volcano (along with Toba, Tambora, and Krakatau) in the spotlight of efforts to understand the abrupt environmental and societal changes associated with major episodes of volcanism and caldera genesis.

Archaeologists recently determined a date of A.D. 1258 for mass burial of thousands of medieval skeletons in London (11), which can thus be linked to the global impacts of the A.D. 1257 ultraplinian Samalas eruption. At the local and regional scales, the socio-economic and environmental consequences of this cataclysmic event must have been dramatic. Significant parts of Lombok, Bali, and the western part of Sumbawa were likely left sterile and uninhabitable for generations. This finding might provide insights as to the reasons why the Javanese King Kertanegara, who invaded Bali in A.D. 1284 (49), did not encounter any resistance by local population. The Babad Lombok indicates that the eruption of Mount Samalas destroyed Pamatan, the capital of the Lombok kingdom. We speculate that this ancient city lies buried beneath tephra deposits somewhere on the island. Should it be discovered, Pamatan might represent a "Pompeii of the Far East," and could provide important insights not only into Indonesian history but also into the vulnerability, adaptation, and resilience of past societies faced with volcanic hazards associated with large-magnitude explosive eruptions.

#### **Materials and Methods**

Isopleth maps show isocontours of equal maximal clast size that allow the derivation of eruption parameters, such as the total column height and the intensity of the eruption (mass eruption flux in kilograms per s<sup>-1</sup>). The average length of the longest axis of the five largest vesicular pumice clasts, as defined by Biass and Bonadonna (24), from the unit F1 were measured at 36 localities to construct the maximum pumice (M<sub>P</sub>) isopleth map (Fig. S3). Maximum lithic (M<sub>L</sub>) isopachs could not be determined with confidence as the dataset was limited to 14 sites given the lithic-poor characteristic of the deposit. The maximum height H<sub>T</sub> of the column was determined using the model of Carey and Sparks (23) and the data from the 2- and 3-cm isopleths for pumice clasts. Biass and Bonadonna (24) and Bonadonna et al. (26) have determined the uncertainty on the maximal clast size to be  $\leq 20\%$  across different measuring strategies.

The property of Plinian fallout deposits to show an exponential thinning behavior with distance allows calculation of deposit volume of the mapped deposit, as well as an estimation (by extrapolation to an arbitrary thickness) of the missing volume. Applying the methodology of Fierstein and Nathenson (50) and Pyle (51), we show on a plot of log (isopach thickness) vs. (isopach area)<sup>0.5</sup> that the Samalas F1 unit is characterized by a two-segment thinning law (proximal and distal segment), whereas the F3 unit is characterized by a single segment law (Fig. S6). We calculated a minimum bulk deposit volume of 5.6–7.6 km<sup>3</sup> for the F1 unit and of 4.7–5.6 km<sup>3</sup> for the F3 unit. Given a deposit density of 900 kg·m<sup>-3</sup> and a dense-rock powder density of 2,470 kg·m<sup>-3</sup> for the magma measured by pycnometry of ground pumice, we derived a total DRE volume of 2–2.8 km<sup>3</sup> for the F1 unit and of 1.7–2 km<sup>3</sup> for the

F3 unit, summing to a minimum DRE volume of 3.7–4.3 km<sup>3</sup> for the two main Plinian fallout phases (F1 and F3) of the Samalas eruption, excluding associated Plinian column collapse PDC deposits for the F1 and the F3 phase.

Analyses of nine major elements (Na, K, Si, Al, Mg, Ca, Fe, Ti, and Mn) and four volatile species (F, Cl, S, and P) were obtained from the matrix glass of the pumice from Plinian falls F1 to F3, using a Cameca SX100 electronic microprobe. Measurements used a 15-kV acceleration voltage and a 4-nA beam current. A defocused 4-µm beam was used because of the high vesicularity of the Samalas pumice, which made it difficult to locate larger areas of polished glass.

We verified with the EDX probe that measurement points avoided feldspar microlites, which are more abundant in the F2 and F3 pumice. Counting times were set at 5 s for Na, Si, and K elements, and 10 s for the other elements. Volatile elements were measured using a 15-kV, 30-nA beam current, and a defocused 4- $\mu$ m beam. Counting times were set at 30 s for all elements. To compare the chemical composition of the matrix glass from the Samalas Plinian fall deposits with glass shards found in polar ice cores (from the mid-13th century mystery eruption), we normalized compositions to 100% for eight oxides (SiO<sub>2</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, FeO, MgO, CaO, Na<sub>2</sub>O, and K<sub>2</sub>O). The chemical composition of the ice core tephra was previously measured by electron microprobe analysis (13). We recalculated and renormalized to

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100% this composition after converting  $Fe_2O_3$  to FeO based on molar masses. Comparison of the volcanic glass major element geochemical composition was made for 165 analyses of Samalas pyroclastic fall deposits (matrix glass) and 25 analyses for the ice core tephra (13).

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

# **Supporting Information**

## Lavigne et al. 10.1073/pnas.1307520110

## **SI Materials and Methods**

Radiocarbon Dating. Samples of charcoal were prepared at the <sup>14</sup>C laboratory, Eidgenössiche Technische Hochschule Zurich, before accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) analyses. Contamination by extraneous carbon was removed using the standard Acid Alkali Acid treatment (1). Charcoal was immersed in a weak acid bath (0.5 M HCl) at 60 °C for 12 h, removing carbonates. Following multiple washes in distilled water, the samples were treated with a weak base (0.1 M NaOH) at 60 °C for 12 h. This process removes humic acids that might also contaminate the sample. The samples were next washed at neutral pH. A final acid wash was applied to remove any atmospheric carbon that might have bonded to the charcoal during base treatment. The dried samples (1 mg of C) were converted to graphite, pressed into the targets and analyzed using AMS along with a set of blank and standards. Blanks made of <sup>14</sup>C-free coal were prepared to monitor contamination during the preparation process. Conventional <sup>14</sup>C ages (Fig. 4) were calculated following Stuiver and Polach (2). These ages include correction for fractionation based on on-line measurements of  $\delta^{13}C$  on graphite. The 1- $\sigma$  error includes counting uncertainty as well as the scatter of standards and blanks. <sup>14</sup>C ages were calibrated using the OxCal 4.1 program and INTCAL09 calibration dataset. We also applied the Bayesian model of OxCal 4.1 that puts constraints on the ages (prior) (3) to obtain a more precise chronology.

**Modeling the Caldera Size.** We modeled the size of the Samalas eruption based on pre- and posteruption topography of the Rinjani Volcanic Complex (hereafter RVC). This process of course required reconstruction of the preeruptive topography as follows (4):

- *i*) We located cells in the digital elevation model (DEM) likely to represent the pre-eruptive surface. They include planezes, sectors of volcano preserved from erosion, and crests that are the uppermost interfluves remaining after a significant amount of erosion. These sites provide the best approximation of paleotopography.
- *ii*) The preeruption RVC topography is first modeled from these located points by defining a first-order radial surface. It is a kind of surface of revolution defined by: (i) an exponential-like function (the generatrix) fitting the average concave-upwards volcano profile; and (ii) the volcano's summit location, around which the generatrix is rotated to form the surface. To obtain the best-fitting first-order surface, we introduce the following sophistication. A conventional surface of revolution with axial symmetry generates circular contour lines. Instead, as the generatrix rotates around the summit location, we stretch and contract it to obtain, in planar section, an elliptically shaped surface defined by elliptical contour lines. The optimal set of parameters that define the first-order primary volcanic surface is obtained by a least-squares method using the simplex algorithm (5). Parameters solved for include the location and elevation of the volcano summit, the eccentricity and long-axis azimuth of the contour lines, and the coefficients of the generatrix.
- iii) The first-order geometric surface is then modified according to second-order elevation variations because of local distributions of volcanic products. Residuals between elevations of the input points selected as representative of the preeruption surface and those obtained by the first-order modeled surface are calculated. Residuals are interpolated by kriging and next summed to the first-order surface elevations to obtain the

definitive preeruption surface elevation. Two independent surfaces are modeled for each of the two RVC volcanoes. The preeruption surface elevation of RVC is finally obtained by retaining for each of the two volcanoes, the area and elevations where the modeled paleo preexplosion surface lies above the postexplosion lower surface. Kriging adjustments also yield SEs for elevations of both basal and upper surfaces that provide a measure of the uncertainty in the calculated volume of material removed by the Samalas eruption.

In addition to the preeruption surface, modeled as described above, calculation of the missing volume requires knowing the elevation of the caldera base everywhere immediately after the eruption. The present caldera walls provide some constraints on this but within the crater, the floor has been mantled in products of the Samalas eruption and subsequent activity of Gunung Barujari (in the past two centuries). The basal surface is interpolated by kriging from the DEM cells located on the caldera walls but the lack of constraints on the thicknesses of accumulated material in the caldera limits its reliability.

Finally, for every DEM cell, the height difference between elevations of the preeruptive surface and caldera basal surface is multiplied by the cell area. We estimate uncertainty by similarly calculating the product of height difference SEs and cell area. The final calculation of the volume of removed material requires summation of each cell volume, and summation of errors.

Written Sources. Translation to Indonesian and to English of the historic poem Babad Lombok, written in the Old Javanese language. The original text of the historic poem Babad Lombok in Old Javanese language, Wacana (6):

274. Gunung Renjani kularat, miwah gunung samalas rakrat, balabur watu gumuruh, tibeng desa Pamatan, yata kanyut bale haling parubuh, kurambangning sagara, wong ngipun halong kang mati.

275. Pitung dina lami nira, gentuh hiku hangebeki pretiwi, hing leneng hadampar, hanerus maring batu Dendeng kang nganyuk, wong ngipun kabeh hing paliya, saweneh munggah hing ngukir.

276. Hing jaringo hasingidan, saminya ngungsi salon darak sangaji, hakupul hana hing riku, weneh ngunsi samuliya, boroh Bandar papunba lawan pasalun, sarowok pili lan ranggiya, sambalun pajang lan sapit.

277. Yek nango lan pelameran, batu banda jejangkah tanah neki, duri hanare menyan batu, saher kalawan balas, batu lawang batu rentang batu cangku, samalih tiba hing tengah, brang bantun gennira ngungsi.

278. Hana ring pundung buwak bakang, tana' gadang lembak babidas hiki, saweneh hana halarut, hing bumi kembang kekrang, pangadangan lawan puka hatin lungguh, saweneh kalah kang tiba, mara hing langko pajanggih.

279. Warnanen kang munggeng palowan, sami larut lawan ratu hing nguni, hasangidan ya riku, hingLombok goku medah, genep pitung dina punang gentuh, nulih hangumah desa, hing preneha siji-siji.

The Indonesian translation of the historic poem *Babad Lombok*:

274. Gunung Rinjani Longsor, dan Gunung Samalas runtuh, banjir batu gemuruh, menghancurkan Desa Pamatan, rumah2 rubuh dan hanyut terbawa lumpur, terapung-apung di lautan, penduduknya banyak yang mati. 275. Tujuh hari lamanya, gempa dahsyat meruyak bumi, terdampar di Leneng (lenek), diseret oleh batu gunung yang hanyut, manusia berlari semua, sebahagian lagi naik ke bukit.

276. Bersembunyi di Jeringo, semua mengungsi sisa kerabat raja, berkumpul mereka di situ, ada yang mengungsi ke Samulia, Borok, Bandar, Pepumba, dan Pasalun, Serowok, Piling, dan Ranggi, Sembalun, Pajang, dan Sapit.

277. Di Nangan dan Palemoran, batu besar dan gelundungan tanah, duri, dan batu menyan, batu apung dan pasir, batu sedimen granit, dan batu cangku, jatuh di tengah daratan, mereka mengungsi ke Brang batun.

278. Ada ke Pundung, Buak, Bakang, Tana' Bea, Lembuak, Bebidas, sebagian ada mengungsi, ke bumi Kembang, Kekrang, Pengadangan dan Puka hate-hate lungguh, sebagian ada yang sampai, datang ke Langko, Pejanggik.

279. Semua mengungsi dengan ratunya, berlindung mereka di situ, di Lombok tempatnya diam, genap tujuh hari gempa itu, lalu membangun desa, di tempatnya masing-masing.

The English translation of the historic poem *Babad Lombok*:

274. Mount Rinjani avalanched and Mount Salamas collapsed, followed by large flows of debris accompanied by the noise coming from boulders. These flows destroyed (the seat of the kingdom) Pamatan. All houses were destroyed and swept away, floating on the sea, and many people died.

275. During seven days, big earthquakes shook the Earth, stranded in Leneng (Lenek), dragged by the boulder flows, People escaped and some of them climbed the hills.

276. Hiding in Jeringo (close to Mataram), all people moved with the rest of the king's family to several places: Samulia, Borok, Bandar, Pepumba Pasalun, Serowok, Piling, and Ranggi, Sembalun, Pajang, and Sapit.

277. At Nangan and Palemaron, big boulders rolled with soil, with pumices and sand, and granite sediments on the land, they evacuated to Brang Batun.

278. There were people moving to Pundung, Buak, Bakang, Tana Bea, Lembuak, Bebidas, some of them evacuated to Kembang Bumi, Kekrang, Pengadangan and Puka Puka hate-hate lungguh and also to Langko and Pejanggik.

279. Everybody took refuge together with the King, Lombok became very quiet, even seven days after the earthquakes occurred, and later they built their own houses.

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## Evidence for Northern Hemisphere Winter Warming in Western Europe in 1257/1258. Arras (France).

En cest an, fut le temps si doulz et si souef (chaud) que en tout l'hiver ne gela que deux jours : ou mois de janvier, trouvoit on des violettes et les fleurs de fraisiers, et estoient tous les pommiers tous blancs flouris. (7)

Translation: At that time the wheater was so mild and so hot that frost barely lasted for more than two days. In January [1258], violets could be observed, and strawberries and apple trees were in blossom.

#### Paris (France).

Et en l'autre année après, qui est en l'incarnation par M.CC. et LVI (1256) fist trop durement fort hyvier ou royaume de France et pluvieus ésté dusqu'à la Nativité saint Jehan Bauptiste (24 juin). Et en l'autre année après, fist merveilleusement chaut esté et chaut temps jusqu'à la Chandeleur ; et puis après, fist merveilleusement grant froit jusqu'à la saint Marc (25 avril). Et en cèle année meismes, ot par toute la France grant chierté de pain, de vin et de toutes viandes. (8)

Translation: And the following year, which is the year 1256 of the Incarnation, the winter was very harsh in the kingdom of France and the summer was very rainy until the Nativity of Saint Jean Baptist (June 24). And the following year (1257), the summer was excessively hot, and the weather was warm until Candlemass (2 February 1258), and then it was excessively cold until the St. Mark (25 April 1258). And this year also, there was throughout France a great shortage of bread, wine and any meat.

#### Saint Alban Abbey (England).

Annus quoque iste, cronicarum infirmitatum genitivus vix occupatum permisit aliquatenus respirare. Non enim frigus vel serenitas vel gelu saltem aliquantulum stagnorum superficiem, prout consuevit, glacialem induravit, vel stiriam a stillicidiis coegit dependere ; sed continuae inundationes pluviarum et nebularum usque ad Purificationem beatae Virginis aera inspissarunt. (8)

Translation: This year (1257), too, generated chronic complaints, which scarcely allowed free power of breathing to any one labouring under them. Not a single frosty or fine day occurred, nor was the surface of the lakes at all hardened by the frost, as was usual; neither did icicles hang from the ledges of houses; but uninterrupted heavy falls of rain and mist obscured the sky until the Purification of the Blessed Virgin (2 February 1258) (10)

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Fig. S1. Synthetic stratigraphic logs of the Samalas pyroclastic deposits (Lombok, Indonesia). The F1 Plinian fall layer is composed of pumiceous ash and lapilli with few lithics. The F2 phreatoplinian fall layer is constituted mainly by fine and coarse ash and minor small lapilli, associated in some areas with pyroclastic surge deposits. The F3 Plinian fall layer is composed of pumice and lithic ash and small lapilli, less coarse and less thick than the first Plinian fall.



Fig. 52. Field observations on the distal pyroclastic fall layers from the Samalas (Lombok, Indonesia) (photos courtesy of J.-P.D., J.-C.K., and P.W.). Maximum thickness of the Plinian tephra fall F1 measured in the field exceeds 1 m, and cumulative fall deposit reaches up to 1.60 m (i.e., twice as much as at Tambora).



Fig. S3. Maximum pumice M<sub>P</sub> isopleths (mm) for the F1 Plinian pumice fallout unit of the Samalas eruption. The presence of pumice clasts of up to 50 mm at 46-km distance SE from the vent on Sumbawa attests to the large magnitude of the F1 ultraplinian phase of the Samalas eruption. This tendency is confirmed by the limited M<sub>L</sub> dataset that shows lithics of up to 35 mm at 27 km SE from the source on the eastern coastline of Lombok.

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**Fig. 54.** Dynamic parameters of the A.D.1257 eruption of Samalas. (*A*) Mass discharge rate (MDR) and volumetric eruption rate (VER). The maximum height H<sub>T</sub> of the column was estimated as ~43 km  $\pm$  8.6 km using the model of Carey and Sparks (1) and the data for the 2- and 3-cm isopleths for pumice clasts. Limited data from the maximum lithic clast 2.4-cm isopleth yield a minimum H<sub>T</sub> value of 43 km (no lithic clasts larger than 2.4 cm were found in distal parts of the deposit). The geometry of the pumice isopleths shows, according to theoretical relationships of Carey and Sparks (1), that the F1 convective column formed in a strong crosswind with estimated velocity >20 m·s<sup>-1</sup>, as determined using 0.8-cm-diameter clasts with a density of 2,500 kg·m<sup>-3</sup>, which are equivalent to the F1 pumice clasts of 4-cm-diameter and a clast density of 500 kg·m<sup>-3</sup> highe,r but compatible with the density of the Samalas F1 pumice of 380 kg·m<sup>-3</sup>. (*B*) Thickness half-distance *B*<sub>T</sub> versus clast-size half-distance – thickness half-distance ratio *B*<sub>C</sub>/*B*<sub>T</sub> for pumice or lithic clasts for the Samalas F1 Plinian phase. Following Pyle (2) and Bonadonna et al. (3), the Samalas F1 Plinian fall has a thickness half-distance *B*<sub>T</sub> of 16.4 km and a clast-size half-distance distance of 22.6 km for pumice clasts index. The Salamas F1 plinian field (4), with a column in excess of the theoretical limit of 55 km in still air.

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**Fig. 55.** Maximum height (Ht) of the column for the plinian F1 phase of the mid- $13_{th}$  century eruption of Samalas volcano. The maximum height H<sub>T</sub> of the column was estimated as ~43 km ± 8.6 km using the model of Carey and Sparks (1) and the data for the 2 and 3 cm isopleths for pumice clasts (A). Limited data from the maximum lithic clast 2.4 cm isopleth (*B*) yield a minimum H<sub>T</sub> value of 43 km (no lithic clasts larger than 2.4 cm were found in distal parts of the deposit). Column heights on the curves are shown in km as H<sub>T</sub> (H<sub>B</sub>), for example 25 (35.6), with H<sub>T</sub> the total column height and H<sub>B</sub> the height of neutral buoyancy of the column. These data correspond to a neutral buoyancy H<sub>B</sub> height of 30 km derived, respectively, from the pumice and lithic isopleths for the F1 fallout unit and based on empirical relationships from Sparks (2) and Pyle (3). The geometry of the pumice isopleths shows, according to theoretical relationships of Carey and Sparks (1), that the F1 convective column formed in a strong crosswind with estimated velocity > 20 m.s<sup>-1</sup> as determined using 0.8-cm diameter clasts with a density of 2500 kg.m<sup>-3</sup>, which are equivalent to the F1 pumice clasts of 4 cm diameter and a clast density of 500 kg.m<sup>-3</sup> higher but compatible with the density of the Samalas F1 pumice of 380 kg.m<sup>-3</sup>.

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**Fig. S6.** Log isopach thickness versus isopach area<sup>0.5</sup>. The exponential thinning of pumice fallout deposits for the Samalas F1 and F3 Plinian pumice fallout units allows a determination of the total erupted volume and its uncertainty using methodologies developed by Pyle (1), Sulpizio (2), and Fierstein and Nathenson (3). The uncertainty in the distal volume of units F1 and F3 is largely controlled by the slope of the distal segment S2 (dotted lines) of the exponential thinning law (the lower the slope, the greater the distal volume) in the volume computation following the methodology of Fierstein and Nathenson (3). The volume data is compared to the Tambora F4 Plinian fallout unit and the F5 umbrella cloud ash fallout unit, modified after Sigurdsson and Carey (4) and Self et al. (5).

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**Fig. 57.** Pyroclastic density current (PDC) deposits emplaced during the 13th eruption of Samalas. (*A*) Sedau village, southwest flank, 22 km from the caldera rim. (*B* and *C*) North flank, 20 km from the caldera rim. (*D*) Pumice cliff on the northwest coast of Lombok (photos: *A*, *C*, and *D* courtesy of F.L.; *B* courtesy of J.-P.D.). Between 10 and 20 km from the caldera rim, ignimbrites are deeply downcut by rivers (A–C). Successions of PDC and pyroclastic-fall deposits from the 13th century eruption form the entire valley walls up to thicknesses of 30 m. The Samalas PDCs entirely modified the precaldera topography, filling former valleys, and resulting in relief inversion following subsequent erosion. On the northwest coast, a remnant of the ignimbrite at 23 km from the caldera rim forms a 35-m-high recessive cliff (*D*), suggesting that a substantial part of the PDCs entered the sea.

## Table S1. The largest well-documented volcanic eruptions (M > 5) during the Holocene

Volcano	Country	Deposit name	deposit volume (km <sup>3</sup> )	DRE volume (km³)	Adjusted mass (kg)	Mass eruption rate (kg/s)	Maximum magnitude*	Intensity <sup>†</sup>	Age	Source
Kurile Lake	Kamchatka, Russia	КО	170	80	1.92 × 10 <sup>14</sup>		7.3		6460–6414 cal B.C.	(1)
Santorini	Greece	Minoan <sup>‡</sup>		60	1.48 × 10 <sup>14</sup>	2.50 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	7.2	11.4	1627–1600 cal B.C.	(2, 3)
Mazama (Crater Lake)	Oregon, United States	Lower pumice <sup>‡</sup>		52	1.28 × 10 <sup>14</sup>		7.1		5677 cal B.C.	(4, 5)
Samalas	Indonesia	1257 A.D. <sup>‡§</sup>		>40	$9.90\times10^{13\P}$	$1.10  imes 10^9$	7.0	12.0	Cal A.D. 1257	Present work
llopango	El Salvador	Tierra Blanca Joven	84	39	8.15 × 10 <sup>13</sup>		6.9		Cal A.D. 536	(6. 7)
Tambora	Indonesia	A.D. 1815 <sup>‡</sup>		>33	$8.15 \times 10^{13}$	2.8 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	6.9	11.4	A.D. 1815	(8, 9)
Taupo	New Zealand	A.D. 180	105	35	$8.00  imes 10^{13}$	1.10 × 10 <sup>9</sup>	6.9	12.0	A.D. 232 ± 5	(8, 10, 11)
Aniakchak	Alaska, United States	3430 B.P.		27	6.21 × 10 <sup>13</sup>		6.8		1645 B.C.	(12–14)
Changbaishan/ Baitoushan	China/North Korea	Millenium eruption	96	24.5	5.64 × 10 <sup>13</sup>		6.8		Cal A.D. 946	(15, 16)
Quilotoa	Ecuador	800 B.P.	21.3	18.7	$4.22  imes 10^{13}$	$2.00  imes 10^8$	6.6	11.3	Cal A.D. 1275	(17, 18)
Katmai - Novarupta	Alaska, United States	Valley of 10 000 Smokes	17	6.8	3.00 × 10 <sup>13</sup>	1.00 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	6.5	11.0	A.D.1912	(8, 19)
Krakatau	Indonesia	A.D. 1883	18–21	12.5	$3.00 \times 10^{13}$	$5.00 \times 10^{7}$	6.5	10.7	A.D. 1883	(8, 20)
Santa Maria	Guatemala	A.D. 1902	20.2	8.6	$2.00 \times 10^{13}$	1.70 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	6.3	11.2	A.D. 1902	(8, 21)
Quizapu	Chile	A.D. 1932 plinian	9.5	4	9.72 × 10 <sup>12</sup>	1.50 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	6.0	11.2	A.D. 1932	(22)
Pinatubo	Philippines	A.D. 1991		5	1.10 × 10 <sup>13</sup>	$4.00 \times 10^{8}$	6.0	11.6	A.D. 1991	(8)
Vesuvius	Italy	A.D. 79		3.25	6.00 × 10 <sup>12</sup>	1.50 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	5.8	11.2	A.D. 79	(8, 23)
Rungwe	Tanzania	Rungwe pumice	3.2–5.8	1.4	2.00 × 10 <sup>12</sup>	4.80 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	5.3	11.7	ca. 4000 B.P.	(24)
Huaynaputina	Peru	A.D. 1600 Stage l	7	2.6	1.30 × 10 <sup>12</sup>	2.40 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	5.1	1.4	A.D. 1600	(25)
Chichon	Mexico	Unit B 550 BP	2.8	1.1	1.05 × 10 <sup>12</sup>	1.00 × 10 <sup>8</sup>	5.0	11.0	Cal A.D. 1320–1433	(26)

\*M =  $\log_{10}(\text{erupted mass kg}) - 7$ .

 $^{\dagger}I = \log_{10}(\text{mass eruption rate kg/s}) + 3.$ 

 $^{+}$ Erupted mass is taken assuming an average of 2,470 kg m $^{3}$  for the dense-rock equivalent (DRE) density like for Samalas and Tambora.

<sup>§</sup>Minimum magnitude as uncertainty on distal to very distal ash bulk volume is significant.

<sup>¶</sup>Minimum value, that of the calculated missing caldera.

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## Table S2. Geochemical composition of matrix glass from the Samalas pyroclastic fall deposits (electron microprobe analysis)

	F1 matr	F2 matrix glass		F3 matrix glass		
Oxide/element	Mean	$\pm 1 \sigma_{SD}$	Mean	$\pm 1 \sigma_{SD}$	Mean	$\pm 1 \sigma_{SD}$
SiO <sub>2</sub> (wt.%)	66.66	1.6	67.11	1.35	67.47	1.39
TiO <sub>2</sub> (wt.%)	0.47	0.11	0.45	0.1	0.43	0.1
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (wt.%)	16.04	0.37	15.87	0.28	15.5	0.49
FeO (wt.%)	2.77	0.19	2.57	0.21	2.56	0.2
MnO (wt.%)	0.14	0.06	0.14	0.07	0.14	0.06
MgO (wt.%)	0.74	0.07	0.67	0.05	0.61	0.09
CaO (wt.%)	2.22	0.16	2.08	0.14	1.78	0.19
Na <sub>2</sub> O (wt.%)	3.99	0.33	3.84	0.37	3.74	0.3
K <sub>2</sub> O (wt.%)	4.04	0.15	4.14	0.2	4.38	0.19
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (wt.%)	0.29	0.06	0.3	0.01	0.26	0.08
S (ppm)	94	63	58	29	57	45
Cl (ppm)	1,881	477	2,241	114	2,040	787
F (ppm)	359	110	307	85	272	134
Total (wt.%)	97.57		97.43		97.09	
Na <sub>2</sub> O/K <sub>2</sub> O	0.99		0.93		0.85	
N major	85		28		52	
N volatile	72		17		61	
Normalized to 100% for eight oxides						
SiO <sub>2</sub> (wt.%)	68.78	0.49	69.37	0.39	69.95	0.54
TiO <sub>2</sub> (wt.%)	0.48	0.11	0.46	0.1	0.44	0.1
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (wt.%)	16.55	0.26	16.41	0.29	16.07	0.38
FeO (wt.%)	2.86	0.18	2.66	0.2	2.65	0.2
MgO (wt.%)	0.76	0.07	0.7	0.05	0.63	0.09
CaO (wt.%)	2.3	0.18	2.15	0.13	1.84	0.19
Na <sub>2</sub> O (wt.%)	4.11	0.31	3.97	0.35	3.87	0.28
K <sub>2</sub> O (wt.%)	4.17	0.15	4.28	0.18	4.54	0.18

Compositions was normalized to 100% for eight oxides to compare them with the available composition of the glass shard from the A.D. 1257–1259 event evidenced in the polar ice cores (1). n = number of analysis.

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