

Contention One: Inherency

- a) Hurricane Katrina stretched 90,000 square miles.**
- b) Katrina was the greatest natural disaster in America's history.**
- c) Hundreds of thousands of Gulf Coast residents died in Hurricane Katrina.**
- d) Duct tape is like the force: it has a light side, a dark side, and it holds the world together.**

Forgette, 08 University of Mississippi, Dept of Political Science,
[Richard, Race, Hurricane Katrina, and Government Satisfaction: Examining the Role of Race in Assessing Blame, Publius, 2008 vol 38 p. 672]

By most measures, Hurricane Katrina was the greatest natural disaster in American history. The disaster stretched 90,000 square miles, roughly the size of Great Britain. In human terms, at least 1,836 people lost their lives, and hundreds of thousands of Gulf Coast residents lost their homes and jobs. One authoritative source estimates economic losses at \$81.2 billion (and growing), nearly double the costs associated with the next most costly disaster, Hurricane Andrew.

- a) It still is a disaster- Obama's Katrina agenda is the same as Bush's**
- b) Post-Katrina New Orleans is the "urban model" for the future.**
- c) Obama's agenda is for change – especially for the victims of Katrina.**
- d) "Katrina cottages" are adorable little apartments. I love mine.**

Ford, 09 Black Agenda Radio, May
[Glen, Obama Shows His True Katrina Colors, 5.13.2009, Black Agenda Report,
<http://www.blackagendareport.com/?q=content/obama-shows-his-true-katrina-colors>]

And who is to blame? Not George Bush, not anymore. President Obama has effectively adopted the Bush policy on New Orleans, in whole. Not a single one of 500 planned "Katrina cottages" has been made ready for occupancy. Elderly people squat in abandoned buildings. There are no credible plans to repair or create an infrastructure that could accommodate the poor who still remain, much less the New Orleans diaspora, scattered to the four winds three and a half years ago. President Obama's economic stimulus plan, of which he is so proud, revealed his administration's general attitude regarding Katrina. Rather than putting people to work rebuilding New Orleans for the benefit of its original population, the administration and Congress allocated the city less money than any other congressional district. And it was under Obama that the latest federal actions to demolish public housing in the city have occurred. The line between Bush and Obama has not simply blurred in New Orleans: it has disappeared. The ominous ramifications reverberate far beyond the Gulf Coast. If post-Katrina New Orleans is the "urban model" for the future, then Black America has a great deal to fear from the Obama White House.

Contention Two: Harms

A. Politics of Disposability

- a) Bodies are repeatedly showing up all over New Orleans.**
- b) The schools for black and brown youth are improving steadily.**
- c) The aftermath of Katrina demonstrates the politics of disposability.**
- d) After twelve years of therapy my psychiatrist said something that brought tears to my eyes. He said, "No hablo ingles."**

Giroux, professor cultural studies, McMaster University, 2007

[Henry, Violence, Katrina and the Biopolitics of Disposability, Theory, Culture & Society December 2007 p. 307]

The bodies that repeatedly appeared all over New Orleans days and weeks after it was struck by Hurricane Katrina laid bare the racial and class fault lines that mark an increasingly damaged and withering democracy and revealed the emergence of a new kind of politics, one in which entire populations are now considered disposable, an unnecessary burden on state coffers, and consigned to fend for themselves. The deeply existential and material questions regarding who is going to die and who is going to live in this society are now centrally determined by race and class. Katrina lays bare what many people in the United States do not want to see: large numbers of poor black and brown people struggling to make ends meet, benefiting very little from a social system that makes it difficult to obtain health insurance, child care, social assistance, cars, savings, and minimum-wage jobs if lucky, and instead offers to black and brown youth bad schools, poor public services, and no future, except a possible stint in the penitentiary.

- a) Biopolitics is a question of existentialism and materiality; it is an issue of who lives and who dies and has to do with the “sanctity of human life.”**
- b) Some people are redundant, an unnecessary burden on state coffers and should have to fend for themselves.**
- c) Helping the people of New Orleans can be an important symbolic first step for government recognition that people are not disposable**
- d) Energizer Bunny arrested, charged with battery.**

Giroux, 06 professor cultural studies, McMaster University,
[Henry, Reading Hurricane Katrina: Race, Class and the Biopolitics of Disposability, College Literature, Summer 2006 vol 33.3, journal summary]

The tragedy and suffering in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is symptomatic of a crisis in the United States that extends far beyond matters of governance and the incompetence of the Bush administration. Rather than simply represent a crisis of leadership, Katrina is analyzed as part of a biopolitics of disposability—in which entire populations marginalized by race and class are now considered redundant, an unnecessary burden on state coffers and consigned to fend for themselves. This new biopolitics is marked by deeply existential and material questions regarding who is going to die and who is going to live, and represents an insidious set of forces that have given up on the sanctity of human life for those populations rendered "at risk" by global neoliberal economies, and as Katrina makes clear works in diverse ways to render some groups as disposable and privileges others. Giroux argues that to confront the biopolitics of disposability, of which the political disaster of Katrina offers an exemplary case, we need to recognize the new confluence of anti-democratic forces that are now shaping American society. But more is needed than understanding and critique, such dark times also demand a new understanding of a cultural politics in which pedagogy becomes central to a renewed struggle for a politics in which the crisis of meaning, agency, and resistance can be addressed through a language of critique and possibility in order to create the conditions for multiple collective and global struggles that refuse to use politics as an act of war and markets as the measure of democracy. Making human beings superfluous is the essence of slavery, colonialism, and totalitarianism, and the ongoing struggle for an inclusive and substantive global democracy is the antidote in urgent need of being reclaimed. Katrina should keep the hope of such a struggle alive for quite some time because for many of us the images of those floating bodies serve as an desperate reminder of what it means when justice and politics, as the lifeblood of democracy, become cold and indifferent in the face human suffering and death.

- a) Toleration of this form of racism results is what allows genocide to happen**
- b) Racism normalizes and medicalizes war, which helps America protect its citizens.**
- c) Killing the other is, by necessity, an everyday occurrence because we must protect our society.**
- d) I told the doctor I broke my leg in two places. He told me to quit going to those places. -**

Mendieta, 02 (Eduardo, Professor of Philosophy at SUNY-Stony Brook, April 25,) <http://www.stonybrook.edu/philosophy/faculty/emendieta/articles/foucault.pdf>,

And with the inscription of racism within the state of biopower, the long history of war that Foucault has been telling in these dazzling lectures has made a new turn: the war of peoples, a war against invaders, imperial colonizers, which turned into a war of races, to then turn into a war of classes, has now turned into the war of a race, a biological unit, against its polluters and threats. Racism is the means by which bourgeois political power, biopower, re-kindles the fires of war within civil society. Racism normalizes and medicalizes war. Racism makes war the permanent condition of society, while at the same time masking its weapons of death and torture. As I wrote somewhere else, racism banalizes genocide by making quotidian the lynching of suspect threats to the health of the social body. Racism makes the killing of the other, of others, an everyday occurrence by internalizing and normalizing the war of society against its enemies. To protect society entails we be ready to kill its threats, its foes, and if we understand society as a unity of life, as a continuum of the living, then these threat and foes are biological in nature.

B. U.S. Leadership

a) Our response to Katrina devastated our U.S. credibility. If we want to be a leader- we must show the world we care about the poor in New Orleans.

b) Everybody around the world saw the pictures coming out of New Orleans; everybody around the world saw how devastating it was for the Gulf Coast.

c) Americans need to be willing to act patriotically. They need to forego the health of Katrina victims for the sake of the greater good – the health of America.

d) A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.

Edwards, 07 – US Senator and director for the Center for Poverty, Work & Opportunity at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (John, “Restoring the American Dream: Fighting Poverty and Strengthening the Middle Class,”
The Journal of Gender, Race, and Justice. Iowa City: Spring 2007. Vol. 10, Iss. 3; pg. 383, 11 pgs, proquest

But there is another reason why it is important that we do something about poverty in America. That picture that you saw on your television screens, the picture coming out of New Orleans? You are not the only ones who saw it-the entire world saw it. I do a lot of traveling these days, and everybody knows what happened on the Gulf Coast all around the world. Here is their reaction: "How can it be, in the richest nation on the planet, the most powerful nation on the planet, that those conditions existed in New Orleans? What are you going to do about it?" If we actually want to be the model for the rest of the world, then we have to do something about poverty in America, because the world knows about it now. It is no secret. They know about it, and they want to know: "What are you going to do about it? Are you actually going to do something about it?" I saw a publication overseas right after the hurricane hit, and it had pictures of victims of the hurricane from the Lower Ninth Ward. The headline read "The Shaming of America." If we want to be the country that represents the model for the rest of the world-and we used to be-if we want to be the light-and we used to be the light-then we have to demonstrate what we care about, what our priorities are, and that we patriotically about something other than war. We need to be willing to act patriotically about what is good for our country and not just out of self-interest. America is better than this-and you know it.

- a) With meaningful and sustained international cooperation, we will defeat terrorism.**
- b) Only a very few nations have committed to the Proliferation Security Initiative.**
- c) U.S. leadership is vital to preventing terrorism, even nuclear terrorism.**
- d) Remember: Don't Insult the Alligator till after you cross the river.**

PAN and TERKEL, 04 Center for American Progress,
[Michael Pan and Amanda Terkel, "Why Credibility Matters", August 24, 2004,
<<http://www.americanprogress.org/site/pp.asp?c=biJRJ8OVF&b=165288>>.]

Why is credibility so important? The conventional wisdom focuses on credibility for credibility's sake, but misses the real point: the war on terrorism cannot be won if the rest of the world mistrusts the United States. At the start of the war on terrorism, the Bush administration sent a clear message to the world's nations: "You're either with us, or against us." After three years, it appears that far too few are with us. While America must always stand up for itself, we can neither protect nor defend ourselves if we continue to go it alone. Without meaningful and sustained international cooperation, we can neither fight terrorism effectively nor win. Here's why:

-Securing the world's ports. The Container Security Initiative (CSI) is designed to place customs inspectors in ports worldwide in order to pre-screen 70 percent of U.S.-bound cargo. Only a few of the 20 planned ports worldwide have entered the program. The current list of CSI participants is heavy on ports in Europe and Asia, but lacks any ports in the Middle East and includes only one in Africa. The United States needs to work with the entire international community to quickly expand this program to reduce the huge vulnerability of the world's ports.

-Controlling proliferation. The Aspen Strategy Group recently concluded that the threat of a nuclear attack is much greater than the public realizes. Only eleven nations have committed to a version of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), aimed at stopping shipments of weapons of mass destruction worldwide. The 9/11 Commission called for participation in PSI to be extended to non-NATO countries, specifically Russia and China. To interdict a ship, the United States must secure permission from the flag state of the vessel in question or the state whose coastal waters are being used for navigation. Otherwise, a United Nations Security Council resolution is needed. U.S. credibility is key to convincing more nations, particularly those in Africa and the Middle East, to participate in the PSI or to gain support within the Security Council.

-Rooting out terrorists. The war on terrorism involves not only preventing terrorist attacks before they occur, but also rooting out terrorist sanctuaries around the world. The 9/11 Commission Report writes that the United States must "reach out, listen to, and work with other countries that can help." While the administration has formed a relationship with Pakistan, it must also work with other weak states that are havens for terrorists, such as Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.

-Disrupting terrorist financial networks. Small amounts of money can fund devastating attacks. Since 9/11, \$200 million in terrorist assets has been seized, mostly from abroad, but the seizure rate has dramatically slowed. A new multilateral initiative led by the United States is needed. According to the 9/11 Commission, "multilateral freezing mechanisms now require waiting periods before being put into effect, eliminating the element of surprise and thus virtually ensuring that little money is actually frozen." As a result, "worldwide asset freezes have not been adequately enforced and have been easily circumvented."

Contention Three: Solvency

- a) The government should rebuild roads and buildings**
- b) Social services are key to revitalizing New Orleans**
- c) After six months, the federal government can reduce spending for New Orleans.**
- d) I think animal testing is a terrible idea; they get all nervous and give the wrong answers.**

de Silva, 05 National Association of Social Workers, President,
[Evio Craig, NASW Press Release, 9.16.2005
<http://www.naswdc.org/pressroom/events/katrina05/news/091605EDesilva.asp>]

Right now, there is a loss of community, family, and a loss of the familiar. The mental health needs are enormous. Additional emphasis must be placed on services needed now by survivors of the hurricane: mental health services, income supports, school social work, health care for displaced persons and more. Funds must be spent carefully to reach those who need help the most. Investment in social service systems and other types of safety net services in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi is essential, as is support for service systems in the cities and communities that are hosting survivors. Ongoing funding for such services is critical not just for the first three weeks of emergency response. The needs will be as great, though less visible, in three months as individuals and communities come to understand the extent of their loss. It will not be sufficient to rebuild roads and buildings. It will not be sufficient to provide funds for shelters and first-aid and then scale back services in six months. Rebuilding the social services infrastructure is essential to the overall hurricane recovery effort. As a country, we must provide regular access to mental health services in schools and clinics; income supports such as food stamps and affordable health services; safe nursing home options, support services for the disabled, and job training and placement programs for young people and adults.

- a) Attribution of responsibility is fundamental for effective democracy.**
- b) We should not spend so much time talking about who to blame.**
- c) A complex attribution environment is “the problem of many hands.”**
- d) What do you get when you cross the Godfather with a lawyer? An offer you can't understand.**

Gomez, 08 Florida State University,
[Brad, Political Sophistication and Attributions of Blame in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina,
Publius: The Journal of Federalism, Fall 2008, vol. 38, no. 4 p. 635]

Attributions of responsibility are a fundamental component of democratic citizenship. For citizens to control government effectively they must not only be informed about the actions of government officials (Hutchins 2005), but also be able to ascribe credit or blame properly for those actions. Yet as Dennis Thompson (1980, 905) has argued, “because many different officials contribute in many different ways to decisions and policies of government, it is difficult even in principle to identify who is . . . responsible for political outcomes.” Thompson refers to this complex attribution environment as “the problem of many hands,” and the example of Hurricane Katrina and government’s role in providing disaster relief more generally would seem to be a case in point.

- a) Focusing on who to blame is fundamental for an effective democracy.**
- b) We shouldn't focus exclusively on blame, but also on the need for appropriate solutions.**
- c) Citizens and their representatives should demand an accounting for government failures.**
- d) How do you get a Kleenex to dance? Put a little boogy in it!**

Young, 06 University of Chicago, political philosophy teacher,
[Iris, Katrina: Too Much Blame, Not Enough Responsibility, DISSENT Winter 2006
<http://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/?article=158>]

When public discussion of suffering and injustice focuses on whom to blame, general distrust and cynicism often result, and this could be politically counterproductive when it is imperative that large numbers of private and public individuals and agencies cooperate to meet huge needs. Of course, citizens and their representatives should demand an account of the human and bureaucratic reasons for any massive failure of institutions to protect people. But the hearings begun by the U.S. Congress are too focused on separating blameworthy individuals from others, and will probably not ask whether private and public policies over a long time have rendered some Americans particularly vulnerable to harm.