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Contention One: Inherency

Katrina was the greatest natural disaster in America’s history

Forrette, 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.1

It still is a disaster- Obama’s Katrina agenda is the same as Bush’s

Ford, 09 Black Agenda Radio, May

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.
Katrina 1AC

Contention Two: Harms

A. Politics of Disposability

The aftermath of Katrina demonstrates the politics of disposability

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.
Katrina 1AC

**Helping the people of New Orleans can be an important symbolic first step for government recognition that people are not disposable**

**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.
Katrina 1AC

Toleration of this form of racism results is what allows genocide to happen

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, imperials 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.
Katrina 1AC

B. U.S. Leadership

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.


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.
Katrina 1AC

U.S. leadership is vital to preventing terrorism, even nuclear terrorism

PAN and TERKEL, 04 Center for American Progress,

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."
Katrina 1AC

Therefore we offer the following plan:

PLAN: The United States Federal Government should substantially increase social services for Gulf Coast victims of Hurricane Katrina.
Katrina 1AC

Contention Three: Solvency

Social services are key to revitalizing New Orleans

de Silva, 05 National Association of Social Workers, President,
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.
Katrina 1AC

Attribution of responsibility is fundamental for effective democracy

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.
Katrina 1AC

We shouldn’t focus exclusively on blame, but also on the need for appropriate solutions

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.
AT: Positive Developments in New Orleans

(____) Despite improving conditions, much work needs to be done- with a federal role necessary

Plyer, 09 (Deputy Director, Greater New Orleans Data Center,)

Still, the massive destruction from Hurricane Katrina remains widespread, dwarfing the rebuilding that is underway. Hundreds of streets are still in disrepair. Tens of thousands of residential, commercial, and institutional buildings remain damaged and unoccupied. Much work remains to secure a successful long-term recovery for greater New Orleans and other communities in the Gulf Coast. To that end, a federal partnership between the new Obama administration and Congress with the people of Louisiana remains critical.

(____) Focus On “Business Is Back” In New Orleans Turns A Blind Eye To The Real Unmet Needs That Remain

Parker, 08 (director, Institute for Psychosocial Health, Tulane Univ.,)
[Jane, Seattle Journal for Social Justice, Fall/Winter 2008 p. 37]

While television images of "business is back" in the Superdome and French Quarter are certainly applauded, the nation seems to have turned a blind eye, not only to the devastation of Katrina and the ongoing threats to the Gulf Coast regions, but also to the drastic social injustices they broadcasted as well. According to the Second Kaiser Post-Katrina Survey focusing on Orleans Parish, many New Orleans residents see a lack of opportunity, are disappointed in the pace of recovery, and feel forgotten by the nation and its leaders. The nation should not be oblivious or insensitive to New Orleans, not only because of the danger of a house divided, but also because it cuts off the exchange of knowledge for best practices in disaster recovery that can be useful in any part of the United States.
AT: Obama’s Election Was a Turning Point

(___) Obama’s election does not mean race relations are improving

United Press International 09

The results of a recent national poll indicate a majority of black U.S. residents do not feel U.S. President Barack Obama has improved race relations. CNN said Thursday a CNN/Essence Magazine/Opinion Research Corp. poll found 55 percent of the 505 African-Americans surveyed felt racial discrimination remains a serious problem in the United States. The racial discrimination percentage was similar to figures from 2000 and marked a substantial increase from a poll during the 2008 presidential election. Last year’s poll found 38 percent of black respondents tabbed racial discrimination as a serious U.S. problem.
AT: Leadership/Primacy Causes Wars

(___)

(___): Soft-power and diplomacy are key to end current war and keep peace in the long-term.

Nye, 03 (Joseph, Dean of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, “US power and strategy after Iraq” Foreign Affairs July/August)

A diplomatic strategy is needed to give our military operations persuasive political purposes, to aggregate the power of allies to our cause, to transform our battlefield successes into peace - and to reconcile the defeated to their humiliation. Sadly, our neglect of these tasks, as in Iraq and Afghanistan, has served to demonstrate the limits of our military power, not its deterrent value. This is, however, far from the greatest irony of our current predicaments. If there is no diplomatic solution to the threats it confronts, then the conventional and strategic military power of the United States is what protects the country from such threats. Simply by declaring that the United States is going home, thus abandoning its commitments or making half pledges to defend its interests and allies, does not mean that others will respect its wishes to retreat. In fact, to make such a declaration implies weakness and emboldens aggression. In the anarchic world of the animal kingdom, predators prefer to eat the weak rather than confront the strong. The same is true in the anarchic realm of international politics. If the United States is not strong and does not actively protect and advance its interests, other countries will prey upon those interests, and even on the United States itself.
AT: Hegemony Causes Terrorism

Hegemony solves terrorism


Perhaps the most obvious reason why states seek primacy—and why the United States benefits from its current position—is that international politics is a dangerous business. Being wealthier and stronger than other states does not guarantee that a state will survive, of course, and it cannot insulate a state from all outside pressures. But the strongest state is more likely to escape serious harm than weaker ones are, and it will be better equipped to resist the pressures that arise. Because the United States is so powerful, and because its society is so wealthy, it has ample resources to devote to whatever problems it may face in the future. At the beginning of the Cold War, for example, its power enabled the United States to help rebuild Europe and Japan, to assist them in developing stable democratic orders, and to subsidize the emergence of an open international economic order. The United States was also able to deploy powerful armed forces in Europe and Asia as effective deterrents to Soviet expansion. When the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf increased in the late 1970s, the United States created its Rapid Deployment Force in order to deter threats to the West’s oil supplies; in 1990–91 it used these capabilities to liberate Kuwait. Also, when the United States was attacked by the Al-Qaeda terrorist network in September 2001, it had the wherewithal to oust the network’s Taliban hosts and to compel broad international support for its campaign to eradicate Al-Qaeda itself. It would have been much harder to do any of these things if the United States had been weaker. Today, U.S. primacy helps deter potential challenges to American interests in virtually every part of the world. Few countries or nonstate groups want to invite the “focused enmity” of the United States (to use William Wohlforth’s apt phrase), and countries and groups that have done so (such as Libya, Iraq, Serbia, or the Taliban) have paid a considerable price. As discussed below, U.S. dominance does provoke opposition in a number of places, but anti-American elements are forced to rely on covert or indirect strategies (such as terrorist bombings) that do not seriously threaten America’s dominant position. Were American power to decline significantly, however, groups opposed to U.S. interests would probably be emboldened and overt challenges would be more likely.
Katrina Affirmative
Solvency Extensions

AT: Local Policies are the Problem

(____)

(____) Katrina wasn’t about low-level bureaucratic incompetence, it was about the failure of upper level policy

Dreier, 06 (professor of politics, urban policy program, Occidental College) [Peter, Katrina and Power in America, Urban Affairs Review, March, p. 544]

Katrina also highlights the importance of having competent government run by well-trained people. There were plenty of competent public servants who, given the opportunity and resources, could have prevented the disaster and/or dramatically limited its consequences. Katrina was a failure of will by high-ranking government leaders, not incompetence by middle-level managers and front-line staff in the military, FEMA, and other agencies.
The government has a moral duty to provide the necessary services to those in poverty for relief

Weeden 08 (Professor of Law, Texas Southern University, Fall)
[L. Darnell, Capital University Law Review 37:93]

The poverty and inequality issues confronting America today have been highlighted by Hurricane Katrina. Katrina's aftermath revealed expanding economic segregation in America. I believe this segregation has renewed the Jim Crow attitude toward the poor and other survivors of economic inequality. America has not abandoned its belief in the racial inferiority of specific groups. It has instead expanded its group-based inferiority practice to include the poor and other survivors of economic inequality. The public is somewhat uninformed about the class-based implications of the Jim Crow factor. America has a moral and legal duty to avoid either the reality or the appearance that reasonable and necessary services for escape and survival are available only to those middle-class persons who can afford them during a disaster such as Katrina. This means that additional governmental action should have been taken for those who could not afford to own a car or did not have a reliable means to adhere to the city's order to leave New Orleans and the dangers created in the city by Hurricane Katrina.
Katrina Negative

JV

Inherency Answers  

Disposability Advantage Answers  

Leadership Advantage  

Solvency Answers  
Answers to Contention One: Inherency

(____)

(____)

(____) Lots of positive developments in New Orleans


In contrast to the nation, the greater New Orleans economy has grown, boosted by the large-scale rebuilding effort that is underway. In the last six months, two public housing redevelopments broke ground to make way for new mixed-income communities. Dozens of roads across the city are being repaved. Repairs are being made to fire stations, police stations, and other criminal justice facilities. No doubt, the housing market has cooled and the national credit crunch has stalled the financing of some multifamily housing developments. But on balance, as this Index points out, the New Orleans economy is adding jobs and relatively few homes have entered foreclosure.

(____) Affordable housing units increasing in New Orleans

New Orleans City Business 09 June

Affordable rental housing is on the upswing in New Orleans, and apartment developers hope they can find enough tenants who fill the new offerings. New construction since Hurricane Katrina will bring 2,000 units on line. Most of the projects are designated as mixed-income housing, which combines affordable and market rate units. Despite reports that the metropolitan area has lost 3,000 jobs since last April, apartment developers and managers are confident they will fill most of their vacancies.
Answers to Contention One: Inherency

(___) Obama has aggressively addressed needs in New Orleans


President Obama's aggressive approach to Gulf Coast recovery has allowed him to put a liberal policy stamp on the region and apply campaign promises to the areas hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina - from green construction and environmental protection to invigorating urban centers and stressing volunteerism. As the new administration rolls out more funding for New Orleans and shines a spotlight on bureaucratic backlogs delaying rebuilding, Gulf Coast residents note they are entering a new phase with different needs.

(___) Tourism and convention business growing in New Orleans


Tourism and convention business has shown continued growth, partly based on what locals call the "AIG effect": a rejection in corporate America of glitzy junkets in favor of "volun-tourism," where convention attendees can spend a day helping citizens rebuild the city. That sentiment has also spread to corporate investment in local businesses hoping to sell franchises, such as the all-organic Naked Pizza company. And aside from Mardi Gras and Jazz Fest - both of which have boomed in the past two years - the city counted 14 neighborhood festivals on a recent April weekend, as this late-night city seems determined to roulez through the recession.
Katrina Negative

Answers to Contention Two: Politics of Disposability

The Election of Barack Obama was a societal statement of the rejection of the racism of Katrina


Those who were left behind in New Orleans were vastly disproportionately black. As the images of racialized suffering poured into American living rooms, the country confronted the possibility that racial bias might have delayed the federal government's response. Many Americans were ashamed of what they were seeing on their televisions. The disaster allowed ordinary Americans to witness stark racial poverty and entrenched residential segregation, which normally remain hidden. Even President Bush was forced to acknowledge the legacy of American racism during his speech in Jackson Square. A yearning to soothe this national shame and heal the gaping racial wound that was reopened by Katrina is partly responsible for America's enthusiastic embrace of Barack Obama. American willingness to confront racial injustice dissipated as quickly as Bush's promises to rebuild the city, but Katrina had awakened a deep desire to prove that America is not a nation marred by racism. Barack Obama's personal narrative of interracial understanding and ascension from the working class to the White House was a balm for America's aching racial scar. Though he was a relative newcomer to national politics, his biography and political commitments to racial healing were appealing to a country still reeling in the aftermath of Katrina. Obama did not need to directly propose race-based policies; he could embody American hopes for racial healing in his very person.
Katrina Negative

**Answers to Contention Two: Politics of Disposability**

(____) **Blaming individuals like Bush instead of historical racism risks missing the big picture and alienating important allies who could help**

**Patterson 08** professor sociology, Harvard  
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/10/books/review/Patterson-t.html]

The first is the phenomenon of racism without racists — that is, much of the racial injury suffered today by blacks, especially the black poor, is the consequence of past racist action by actors long dead. Katrina is the most telling case in point. The fact that blacks lived in the most vulnerable areas of New Orleans resulted from the apartheid racism of the city’s earlier history, a situation exacerbated by the government’s inept response to the crisis. But to accuse President Bush and the Federal Emergency Management Agency of racism, Ford suggests, is to play the race card and is counterproductive, alienating those in a position to help while blinding us to the true nature of these racial injustices and the policies needed to redress them.

(____) **It was racist policies before Katrina that was to blame - not Bush. Blaming Bush is playing the race card**

**Ford 08** (Richard, Thompson, a law professor at Stanford  

Racism didn’t flood the black neighborhoods of New Orleans, but racism established and enforced the residential patterns that made those neighborhoods black. Residential segregation took hold of our nation’s cities generations ago, when no one denies that overt racism was the norm. But is there a group of living racists who are directly responsible for the injuries suffered by the Katrina victims? Contrary to Kanye West’s assertion, there is little evidence that George Bush cares less about poor black people than about poor whites. The conservative Bush administration was ideologically predisposed to be contemptuous of social programs and the agencies that administered them. That included FEMA, which the administration staffed with political hacks rather than experienced professionals and placed under the Department of Homeland Security, where its disaster relief mandate was diluted by the counterterrorism agenda. These were, in retrospect, very bad decisions, but they weren’t racist. FEMA mismanagement could as easily have left white San Franciscans huddled in inadequate shelters for days after a major earthquake.
Katrina Negative

Answers to Contention Two: Politics of Disposability

(____) Katrina was about FEMA incompetence, not racism


The truth is that FEMA, in its disarray, would have had trouble handling a water-main break in Hoboken, much less a hurricane in New Orleans. I find it entirely plausible that if a hurricane had hit Newport, R.I., instead, FEMA would have been equally unequal to the rescue task. One would think that 9/11 would suffice as proof: Al-Qaeda had been waging war for a decade, but the federal government didn’t take it seriously enough until the day of disaster. But many black people, despite obsessively covered counterevidence such as this, are utterly unable to imagine that the Bush administration could be inattentive to middle-class whites as well. They can see Katrina only in personal, racial terms. Early this year The Journal of Black Psychology published a study showing that black people who perceive racism as a significant problem in their lives tend also to exhibit signs of paranoia. People given to seeing Katrina as “all about” racism are examples of the legacy that slavery and Jim Crow left to the black American psyche — a gnawing sense of inadequacy, which seeks compensation in the status of the noble victim. Another secret Katrina reveals, then, is that behind the rhetorical gusto in charges that Katrina was about racism lies profound insecurity.
**Answers to Contention Two: Politics of Disposability**

(*) Turn- Social services are racist too – no solvency.


The complex interplay of race and class in the United States ensures that certain areas of domestic policy are suffused and tainted with racial bias, bear the imprint of a more frankly racist past, are particularly prone to political manipulation on behalf of the preservation of racial privilege, and serve as touchstones for galvanizing key elements of a racist consensus. U.S. social welfare policy is one such area. The 1996 passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), commonly known as “welfare reform,” underscored how deeply embedded are racial bias and xenophobia in U.S. domestic policy. But, of course, it is not racism alone that characterizes welfare reform. Researchers and advocates have carefully explored the profound gender bias of the welfare system, as well. (Abramowitz 1988; Mink 1998). The majority of people now receiving welfare benefits are poor women of color who face the “triple jeopardy” of belonging to a disempowered class, marginalized racial and ethnic groups, and a subordinated gender. Welfare reform does not affect all women or all racial groups equally; women of marginalized racial groups are disproportionately represented among those now receiving welfare. These women, along with their families and communities, bear a disproportionate share of the burden of welfare reform’s negative effects simply by virtue of their over-representation on the rolls. And, among women receiving welfare, some bear the brunt of the racially discriminatory implementation of regulations and sanctions, while others do not. To more fully understand the particular vulnerabilities of women of color and communities of color to the negative effects of welfare reform requires an exploration of the structures and operations of racism within welfare policy.
**Answers to Contention Two: Politics of Disposability**

(____) **Can’t solve racism- don’t address root causes**

**Robinson 06** (BB, PhD “Responding to Root Causes – Not Symptoms: White Supremacy as the Root Cause of Racism”

Getting down to brass tacks, most Americans will tell you that racism persists, and that racism contributes to the adverse outcomes that Black Americans experience. Moreover, if they are true to themselves, most Americans will identify the root cause of racism as “white Supremacy.” That is, racism exists because of the unfounded notion that Whites are superior to Blacks. Given that most Americans conclude that White Supremacy is the root cause of the problems that Black Americans face, why are so many efforts [are] initiated to solve Black American problems without addressing this root cause?

(____) **Racism – it will still persist because of people’s prejudice. Social services don’t solve that internal link.**

**Tran 09** (Can, Student, http://www.helium.com/items/209583-causes-of-racism,)

Frustration, fear, ignorance, and distrust are four leading factors of racism. However, the correct term should be "prejudicial." Racism means different races. There happens to be no genetic difference between Black, White, Asian, Latino, Native American, Arab, etc. While those are three strong factors of prejudice, it can be fought with tolerance, learning, and understanding. We just have to put in the time and effort. It takes time to understand things. Think of this as taking a school course. It’s like investing an in endeavor with great returns. Keep in mind that prejudice is just about everywhere. The United States is the great melting pot of cultures with prejudice playing the role as a very harsh and hurtful counter-balance. Keep in mind that prejudice is a very complex subject and a conversation revolving around prejudice can go on for numerous hours
Answers to Contention Two: U.S. Leadership

(___) The world loves us now because of Obama

Savage 09 (Luiza, “THE DREAM JOB FROM HELL,” Maclean’s, 2/16, lexis)

Obama himself has wasted no time demonstrating his seriousness about changing the image and role of America abroad. On his second day in office, he issued directives to shut the detention center at Cuba’s Guantanamo Bay within a year, ordered secret CIA prisons shut down, renounced torture, and invalidated all Bush administration legal opinions authorizing aggressive interrogation techniques. On Jan. 26, he gave his first televised interview as president not to a major U.S. network but to Dubai-based Al Arabiya, in which he followed up on his inauguration speech promise of friendship to any regime that "unclenched" its fist, and spoke directly to the people of Muslim nations.

"Now, my job is to communicate the fact that the United States has a stake in the well-being of the Muslim world, that the language we use has to be a language of respect," Obama said, noting that he has Muslim family members and has lived in the most populous Muslim country, Indonesia. "My job to the Muslim world is to communicate that the Americans are not your enemy."

It was a startling performance that was alternately hailed as game-changing diplomacy or dismissed as naive blather. But whether Obama's outstretched hand and other elements of Clinton's "smart power" mantra will add up to more than rhetoric or a bumper sticker slogan remains to be seen. Smart power adherents in the Washington foreign policy establishment say it signals a major shift in U.S. foreign policy. The concept dates back to a 2004 article in Foreign Policy by Suzanne Nossel, now the chief operating officer of Human Rights Watch. It was picked up in 2006, when the Center for Strategic & International Studies convened a commission of prominent figures to rethink American's approach to the world. That was chaired by Harvard professor Joseph Nye, the champion of "soft power," and Richard Armitage, a former deputy secretary of state under George W. Bush. They looked at how the U.S. could reverse the negative trend of its declining image and influence around the world, and "smart power" was their solution that they then tried to sell to all the leading presidential candidates. "It's meant to suggest that the U.S. needs to be more thoughtful in a strategic way and not always rely on hard power first but look at other tools--diplomacy, aid, economics," says Carola McGiffert, director of the commission. "Protecting U.S. interests will always be our first priority--but also promoting the global public good."
Answers to Contention Two: U.S. Leadership

(____) Anti-American resentment doesn’t translate into policy changes because other countries understand the advantages US leadership brings them.

Mandelbaum 06 (Michael, professor of Foreign Policy at Johns Hopkins, Foreign Policy Jan/Feb, lexis)

Inevitable Ingratitude
Nor is the world likely to express much gratitude to the United States any time soon. Even if they privately value what the United States does for the world, other countries, especially democratic ones, will continue to express anti-American sentiments. That is neither surprising nor undesirable. Within democracies, spirited criticism of the government is normal, indeed vital for its effective performance. The practice is no different between and among democracies. Anti-Americanism has many domestic political uses. In many parts of the world, the United States serves as a convenient scapegoat for governments, a kind of political lightning rod to draw away from themselves the popular discontent that their shortcomings have helped to produce. That is particularly the case in the Middle East, but not only there. Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder achieved an electoral victory in 2002 by denouncing the war in Iraq. Similarly, it is convenient, even comforting, to blame the United States for the inevitable dislocations caused by the great, impersonal forces of globalization. But neither the failure to acknowledge America’s global role nor the barrage of criticism of it means that the officials of other countries are entirely unaware of the advantages that it brings them. If a global plebiscite concerning America’s role in the world were held by secret ballot, most foreign-policy officials in other countries would vote in favor of continuing it. Though the Chinese object to the U.S. military role as Taiwan’s protector, they value the effect that American military deployments in East Asia have in preventing Japan from pursuing more robust military policies. But others will not declare their support for America’s global role. Acknowledging it would risk raising the question of why those who take advantage of the services America provides do not pay more for them. It would risk, that is, other countries’ capacities to continue as free riders, which is an arrangement no government will lightly abandon.
Answers to Contention Two: U.S. Leadership

(____) Turn- The pursuit of primacy causes global savage wars for peace – it makes conflict inevitable.

Layne 07 – Associate Professor in the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University and Research Fellow with the Center on Peace and Liberty at The Independent Institute, (Christopher, "The Case Against the American Empire," American Empire: A Debate, Published by Routledge, ISBN 0415952034, p. 54-55)

In this chapter, I argue that primacy and empire is a strategy that will lead to bad consequences for the United States. Rather than bringing the United States peace and security, the pursuit of primacy and empire will result in a geopolitical backlash against the United States. It already has. The 9/11 attacks were a violent reaction against America’s primacy—and specifically against its imperial ambitions in the Middle East. Similarly, the quagmire in Iraq also is a direct consequence of U.S. imperial aspirations. And it will not end there. Because it is premised on the belief that the United States must embark on assertive policies to bring about regime change by imposing democracy abroad, the pursuit of primacy and empire will drag the United States into otherwise avoidable wars—what one proponent of the strategy has termed "savage wars for peace."

Looking ahead, if the United States continues to follow its current strategy of primacy and empire, it almost certainly will find itself on a collision course with Iran (and possibly North Korea and Syria) and—more importantly—China.
(____) Turn- Hegemony causes terrorism

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(Christopher "The Peace of Illusions" (p. 190-191)

The events of 9/11 are another example of how hegemony makes the United States less secure than it would be if it followed an offshore balancing strategy. Terrorism, the RAND Corporation terrorism expert Bruce Hoffman says, is "about power: the pursuit of power, the acquisition of power, and use of power to achieve political change."86 If we step back for a moment from our horror and revulsion at the events of September 11, we can see that the attack was in keeping with the Clausewitzian paradigm of war: force was used against the United States by its adversaries to advance their political objectives. As Clausewitz observed, "War is not an act of senseless passion but is controlled by its political object." September 11 represented a violent counter reaction to America's geopolitical-and cultural-hegemony. As the strategy expert Richard K. Betts presciently observed in a 1998 Foreign Affairs article: It is 'hardly likely that Middle Eastern radicals would be hatching schemes like the destruction of the World Trade Center if the United States had not been identified so long as the mainstay of Israel, the shah of Iran, and conservative Arab regimes and the source of a cultural assault on Islam. U.S. hegemony fuels terrorist groups like al Qaeda and fans Islamic fundamentalism, which is a form of "blowback" against America's preponderance and its world role. As long as the United States maintains its global hegemony-and its concomitant preeminence in regions like the Persian Gulf-it will be the target of politically motivated terrorist groups like al Qaeda. After 9/11, many foreign policy analysts and pundits asked the question, "Why do they hate us?" This question missed the key point. No doubt, there are Islamic fundamentalists who do "hate" the United States for cultural, religious, and ideological reasons. And even leaving aside American neoconservatives' obvious relish for making it so, to some extent the war on terror inescapably has overtones of a "clash of civilizations:' Still, this isn't-and should not be allowed to become-a replay of the Crusades. Fundamentally 9/11 was about geopolitics, specifically about U.S. hegemony. The United States may be greatly reviled in some quarters of the Islamic world, but were the United States not so intimately involved in the affairs of the Middle East, it's hardly likely that this detestation would have manifested itself in something like 9/11. As Michael Scheurer, who headed the CIA analytical team monitoring Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, puts it, "One of the greatest dangers for Americans in deciding how to confront the Islamist threat lies in continuing to believe-at the urging of senior U.S. leaders-that Muslims hate and attack us for what we are and think, rather than for what we do." It is American policies-to be precise, American hegemony-that make the United States a lightning rod for Muslim anger.
Answers to Contention Three: Solvency

(____)

(____)

(____) For effective crises response we must de-emphasize exclusive federal responsibility

**Birklan, 08** North Carolina State University,[Thomas, Is Federalism the Reason for Policy Failure in Hurricane Katrina?, Publius: The Journal of Federalism vol. 38 p. 710]

In the end, we cannot have much faith that another catastrophic disaster like Hurricane Katrina will greatly influence federal tendencies to centralize the direction of emergency management policy in Washington. After all, Katrina should have taught the folly of that approach. Rather, it is likely that only change in administration in Washington, akin to the change in 1992 that led to FEMA’s reform, is likely to result in change. As long as emergency management is valued by the president and the executive branch primarily as a facet of “homeland security” or “national security,” it is unlikely that the federal government will relinquish its domination of this domain, regardless of this stance’s actual influence on governmental performance.

(____) Local policies will prevent effective housing solutions

**Ratner 08** (free lance reporter, The Nation)

[Lizzy, Reconstruction After Katrina, AlterNet, 8.30.2008 http://www.alternet.org/katrina/96990/reconstruction_after_katrina:_brazen_housing_discrimination_continues/]

Such are the stories drifting out of New Orleans and its environs these days, dispatches from a rebuilding effort that often bears an alarming resemblance to a segregation re-enactment. Throughout the region, historically white suburbs, as well as one African-American neighborhood, have been tightening the housing noose by passing laws that restrict, limit or simply ban the building -- and even renting -- of homes that traditionally benefit poor and working-class people of color. Couched in the banal language of zoning and tax credits, density and permissive-use permits, these efforts often pass for legal and rarely raise eyebrows outside the small community of fair-housing monitors. But taken together -- and accompanied, as they so often are, by individual acts of flagrant racism -- they represent one of the most brazen and sweeping cases of housing discrimination in recent history.
Answers to Contention Three: Solvency

Private Assistance Turn

A. Government spending on social services crowds out private donations to charities, which solve better.


But relative poverty can never be fully resolved without implementing an incentive-destroying policy of equal income regardless of effort or talent. History provides little evidence that forced income redistribution through taxation can alleviate mass poverty. And so it is that despite massive amounts of spending by governments, poverty remains at a high rate in the United States. Or perhaps it is better said that public-sector welfare and other aid programs are causing poverty since the poor become dependent on handouts instead of looking for work or starting a business. (See Charles Johnson’s article on page 12 to understand why the poor have trouble starting businesses.) Government officials who spend so much of other people’s money have weak incentives to see that it is spent well. Indeed, the so-called war on poverty has been no more effective than the war on drugs and probably less so than the war in Iraq. Perhaps a better response to poverty would be to reduce the reliance on governments. The slack could be made up by elements of civil society, such as private charities, that are more effective than welfare programs in serving the poor. As it is, 8.5 million American households give a total of $250 billion to charities each year. Interestingly, private Americans gave more to the victims of the Asian tsunami than the federal government did. Giving is not limited to the very rich. The working poor give as large a percentage of their incomes as do the rich and a lot more than does the American middle class. Were it not for so many public policies that undermine private giving, this amount would almost certainly be larger. For example, private foundations face punitive regulation, and government subsidies to nonprofits crowd out charity. On the one hand, subsidies reduce the incentive for those groups to seek voluntary contributions, and on the other they reduce the incentive for individuals to donate since they already “gave at the office” when taxes were withheld from their paychecks. Moreover, many policies reduce disposable incomes of major donors. It is important to know what lies behind the data on the extent of poverty and giving in America. It is wrong to think that Americans are shirking their obligations to needy neighbors or that the U.S. government should do more.
Answers to Contention Three: Solvency

B. This is specifically true in New Orleans- Leadership by volunteer and non-governmental groups is necessary for an effective recovery

Henkel 06 University of Connecticut

In summary, the events in New Orleans related to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath illustrate the importance of understanding how historical race relations and subtle and institutional racial bias can significantly influence what types of efforts and policies can be effective for providing people the assistance they need. Without a foundation of trust, formal government assistance programs may be met with suspicion and resistance, compromising their effectiveness. As Nadler noted, low power groups may resist offers of help, even if it provides valuable material benefit, if it is perceived as reinforcing the control of the high power group. Thus, volunteer groups and other nongovernmental agencies are particularly important in the rebuilding of New Orleans.