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Hurricane Katrina Aftermath

Hurricane Katrina was one of the most catastrophic disasters in American history. Hurricane Katrina rapidly intensified after entering the Gulf of Mexico. The hurricane quickly intensified into a category five because the hurricane was in favorable conditions due to unusually warm sea waters in the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans, Louisiana on August 29, 2005. The hurricane left a trail of destruction across the gulf coast states. Hurricane Katrina left about 1 million displaced and killed nearly 2,000 people. The hurricane caused at least 125 billion dollars in damages. However, our government was criticized by the country for the way the hurricane was handled and for poor emergency preparedness and response. Therefore, what was the impact of the government's response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina?

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was described as a warzone with corpses lying in the streets and looters by an eyewitness named Ihsan Mahdi who lived in New Orleans, Louisiana at the time of Hurricane Katrina. The government and its agencies failed the people on all levels with its poor disaster preparedness before, during, and after Hurricane Katrina. The government's preparedness and response systems failed miserly. The city of New Orleans was not prepared for this type of storm. The government and the Army Corps of Engineers knew that the levee was not going to withstand a major hurricane. As a matter fact, the government agencies were criticized because a year prior to Katrina, the government agencies executed a

simulation exercise of a fake hurricane named Pam that had similar strength as it made landfall in New Orleans. Apparently, the government and its supporting agencies failed to learn valuable information from this test. The government's agencies such as FEMA had little impact because the emergency supplies were not enough for everyone. FEMA also blocked the delivery of much needed, life-saving medical supplies that were ordered by major hospitals in New Orleans such as Methodist Hospital. Thus, FEMA was criticized for their poor handling of the situation in New Orleans and its surrounding cities. Despite FEMA's poor response and support to the victims, The Red Cross was still denied access to the Superdome in New Orleans. The Superdome was a designated shelter for those displaced, yet basic necessities such as food and water were lacking or took days to arrive. In fact, this created an uproar because victims, news journalists, and even politicians thought that the poor response was racially motivated as this area is predominantly African American and poverty stricken. Additionally, the government was under water for the way the housing market was fraught with scams, fraud, and abuse the had a high price tag for taxpayers.

In conclusion, not only was there a massive loss of life and property, but there was a significant loss of trust in our U.S. Government and their ability to adequately provide aid during a natural disaster of this magnitude. If anything positive can come from Hurricane Katrina, it would be that our government and its agencies (i.e., FEMA, Red Cross) need to improve their emergency preparedness and response systems. With the impacts of continued global warming, natural disasters are increasing in frequency and strength. As a nation, we need to be prepared.

Works Cited

Primary Sources

“Hurricane Katrina: Readers Experience.” *BCC News*. 1 Sept. 2005.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4200608.stm>. Accessed 12 Oct. 2018.

This source was a credible primary source because the source included critical information by multiple eyewitness who lived through Hurricane Katrina. Thus, the information can be somewhat opinionated. This primary source was mainly used in my paper to describe the scenery of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and how it looked like a warzone.

The New York Times “Hurricane Katrina Aftermath: In the shadow | Retro Report | *New York Times*.” Online video clips. YouTube. YouTube 28 Oct, 2013.

<https://youtu.be/hlLh9WoZxfk>. Accessed 12 Oct. 2018.

This source is an important primary source because it is a 11-minute video that had the former government of Louisiana and other eyewitness that mentions the fraud and poor housing recover. This primary source was mainly used in my paper about the fraud of the housing recover. This source also showed live pictures about the flood and how much the levee broke that caused massive destruction to the city of New Orleans. This source also showed a lived Satellite imagery of the structure of the Hurricane.

Secondary Sources

Edwards, Chris. "Hurricane Katrina" Remembering the Federal Failures." *CATO INSTITUTE*. 27

Aug. 2018. <https://www.cato.org/blog/hurricane-katrina-remembering-federal-failures>.

Accessed 12 Oct. 2018.

This secondary source is a good source. This source mentions how the Federal failed for the preparedness and response to Hurricane Katrina. A significant portion of the source was mainly about the failures of the Federal Agencies and what failures they contributed too. Even though this is somewhat a blog source. This source was extremely helpful because it provided much needed information about the several key failures.

Fessler, Pam. "Fragmented Government Slowed Katrina Response." *National Public Radio*. 1

Fed. 2006. <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5183478>. Accessed 12

Oct. 2018.

This is a great secondary source. This source mentions the failure of the response by our government and how the government caused the most chaotic to the aftermath of Katrina. The whole source is mainly about the government's agencies such as FEMA and how the government handled the aftermath poorly. This source was helpful because it provided critical information how difficult Hurricane Katrina aftermath was and poorly we handled this natural disaster.